CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

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Quick Links

We are inclusive and diverse, and this is one of our values.

We are committed to the FREDIE principles of Fairness, Respect, Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Engagement.

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Section 1: Foreword

South Lanarkshire College commitment to responding to climate change has been evident for more than 15 years. Through remodelling the campus, embedding sustainability into the curriculum, and developing our staff, we can clearly illustrate that sustainability is at the forefront of all we do.

As an organisation, we believe in demonstrating our road to Net Zero in action and all three college buildings have solar panels ground/air source heat pumps and rainwater harvesting systems installed. In partnership with Dawn Homes Scotland's first affordable, low-energy, low-carbon house suitable for mass production has been built within the college campus. The learning from this innovative approach to building informed the project team when constructing our Building Research Establishment Environment Assessment Methodology (BREEAM) "outstanding" teaching block. We are proud that these two buildings are not only utilised as a teaching space but also as a teaching resource to demonstrate sustainable behaviours which inspire and inform our students, staff, and stakeholders.

In addition, we are an ambitious college and whilst the Scottish Government is working towards a target to achieve net-zero by 2045, the five elements of the Climate Action Roadmap for UK FE Colleges have been utilised within this Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) to lay out the college's aim to achieve this target by 2040 or earlier.
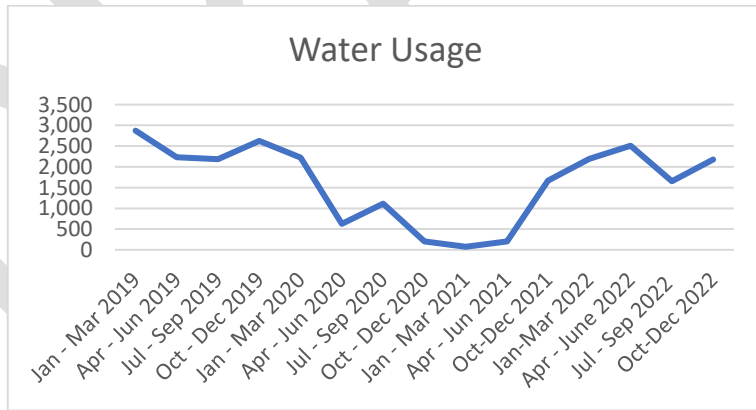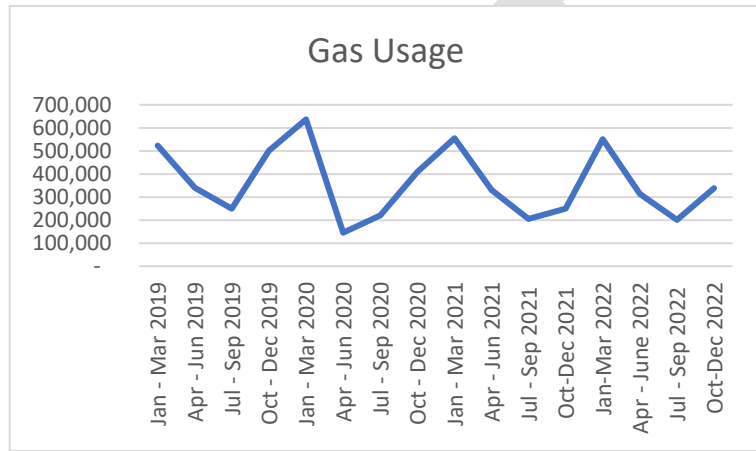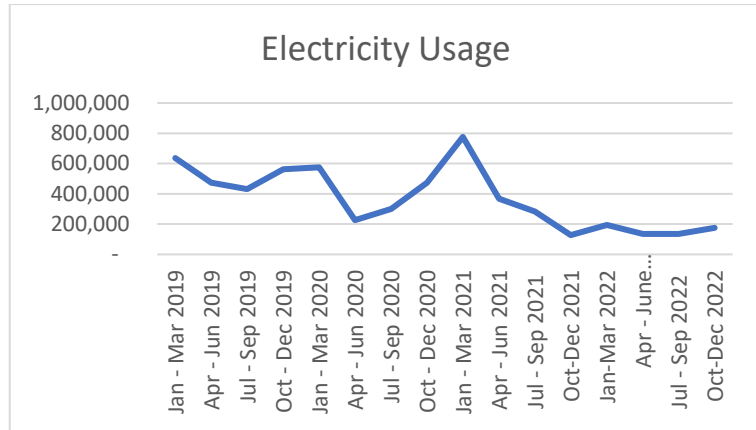
The implementation and monitoring of this plan will inspire us to explore new curriculum and generate additional partnerships. The result of which will be a college that serves its local and regional communities and also makes a positive contribution to a greener, cleaner, and brighter Scotland for all.

Section 2: Executive Summary

2.1   Targets have been set by The Scottish Government to reduce Scotland's emissions of all greenhouse gasses by 2045. These plans and targets are set out   in the Climate Change: Net Zero Nation. [About Net Zero | Net Zero Nation](). The Public Sector Leadership on the Global Climate Emergency document, [Public sector leadership on the global climate emergency: guidance - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)]() published by the Scottish Government provides guidance to assist Public Sector Leaders to achieve net-zero

This Climate Change Emergency Plan (CEAP) details South Lanarkshire College's commitment to achieve net-zero emissions by 2040 or earlier, in line with the Scottish Colleges' Statement of Commitment on the Climate Emergency by addressing the implications of climate change, promoting sustainable behaviours within the college community as well as to industry partners and stakeholders. The planned actions to achieve net-zero contained within the document will be updated annually by the Sustainability Lead. Since our baseline year of 2009/2010 South Lanarkshire College has been highly successful and consistent in reducing its emissions despite the growth of the college footprint.

2.2   The graphs below show that the college has taken the necessary steps to reduce its Electricity, Gas and Water consumption over the years and a snapshot of the last 3 years are demonstrated.

Electricity Usage

A line chart titled "Electricity Usage" with a y-axis ranging from - to 1,000,000 (in increments of 200,000) and an x-axis showing quarterly periods:
Jan - Mar 2019, Apr - Jun 2019, Jul - Sep 2019, Oct - Dec 2019, Jan - Mar 2020, Apr - Jun 2020, Jul - Sep 2020, Oct - Dec 2020, Jan - Mar 2021, Apr - Jun 2021, Jul - Sep 2021, Oct-Dec 2021, Jan-Mar 2022, Apr - June..., Jul - Sep 2022, Oct-Dec 2022

Gas Usage

A line chart titled "Gas Usage" with a y-axis ranging from - to 700,000 (in increments of 100,000) and an x-axis showing quarterly periods:
Jan - Mar 2019, Apr - Jun 2019, Jul - Sep 2019, Oct - Dec 2019, Jan - Mar 2020, Apr - Jun 2020, Jul - Sep 2020, Oct - Dec 2020, Jan - Mar 2021, Apr - Jun 2021, Jul - Sep 2021, Oct-Dec 2021, Jan-Mar 2022, Apr - June 2022, Jul - Sep 2022, Oct-Dec 2022

Water Usage

A line chart titled "Water Usage" with a y-axis ranging from 0 to 3,500 (in increments of 500) and an x-axis showing quarterly periods:
Jan - Mar 2019, Apr - Jun 2019, Jul - Sep 2019, Oct - Dec 2019, Jan - Mar 2020, Apr - Jun 2020, Jul - Sep 2020, Oct - Dec 2020, Jan - Mar 2021, Apr - Jun 2021, Oct-Dec 2021, Jan-Mar 2022, Apr - June 2022, Jul - Sep 2022, Oct-Dec 2022

Section 3: The HE/FE Roadmap

3.1   In collaboration with The Climate Commission and the management consultancy Nous Group a Climate Action of UK FE Colleges Roadmap has been developed. This Roadmap provides clear actions and guidance on how colleges can promote sustainability and respond to the climate emergency. South Lanarkshire College has used this Roadmap to assess our current standing and to assist in the development of our strategy to net-zero.

3.2   The five elements of this Roadmap are:

- Leadership and Governance
- Teaching and Learning
- Estates and Operations
- Partnership and Engagement
- Data Collection

Section 4: The Journey to Net-Zero

4.1   South Lanarkshire College will use the five elements of the Climate Action Roadmap for UK FE Colleges to develop the objectives and targets contained within this Climate Change Emergency Action Plan (CEAP)

- Leadership and Governance: To provide a leadership and governance framework to ensure that the strategic aims and objectives of the college are implemented.

- Teaching and Learning: To promote and raise awareness that teaching and learning provides students and staff with the knowledge and understanding to achieve sustainable future.

- Estates and Operations: To establish base lines, against which targets can be set and measure the impact of the college's estate-based activities.

- Partnerships and Engagements: To develop long tern partnerships to share the challenges to achieve the net-zero targets.

- Data Collection: To gain and have a clearer understanding of the carbon outputs of the college. This will allow the college to utilise the information to make changes on it's journey to net zero.

4.2   In the table below we have confidently assessed the five elements of the roadmap to our current carbon management activities and aspire to be leading in all five elements within 5 years.

Element	Emerging Colleges which are just beginning to address sustainability.	Established Colleges with an established approach to sustainability.	Leading Colleges which are models to others on sustainability.
Leadership and Governance		√	
Teaching and Learning		√	
Estates and Operations			√
Partnership and Engagement			√
Data Collection			√

Section 5: Leadership and Governance

5.1   Where are we now?

A system for climate change governance exists within the College and is integral to the College and Regional strategic priorities. These priorities are approved by the College Board of Management and the Lanarkshire Regional Board. A cohesive approach to sustainability is delivered through The Sustainability Group which consists of representatives from the college management, Student Association, all college departments, and curriculum areas. This group meets four times per year to monitor, implement and promote sustainable behaviours throughout the college. The Lead of the Sustainability Group reports on the progress of outcomes to the College Senior Leadership Team and Board of Management.

5.2   Where do we want to be?

Leadership and Governance Roadmap/Organisational Targets

Target	Complete By	Progress
Develop a Climate Change Emergency Action Plan	March 2023	Completed
Sustainability Lead to present CEAP to SLT and BOM	May 2023	
Embed sustainability practice in the college community	Review annually	Review at curriculum and departmental progress reviews.
Achieve Carbon Literate Organisation Standard	August 2024	
Sign up to the Sustainable Development Goals Accord	August 2023	
Investigate alternative sources of income to support the College's sustainability developments.	continuous	SG grant awarded for additional 150 Kwp Solar photovoltaic panels.
Embed sustainable behaviours through staff induction and development.	June 2023	Discussions taking place with HR to obtain sustainability resources
Identify Sustainability Champions to take forward CEAP Actions	August 2023. Review annually	Sustainability champions renewed annually
Sustainability to be added to curriculum and departmental progress reviews	June 2023	Presentations to take place in May 2023
Establish a Student Sustainability Group	September 2023. Review annually	Renewed annually after the election of SA President
Embed sustainable behaviours through induction and Teaching & Learning.	August 2023 reviewed annually	Discussions currently taking place to update student induction process

Section 6 Teaching and Learning

6.1   Where are we now?

The College recognises that it has a valuable role to play in fostering awareness of climate change and sustainable behaviours to the college community, the wider local community, stakeholders, and partners. The college has identified that there is an increasing number of students enrolling in college who are aware of the impact of climate change and the need to improve sustainable behaviours.   We realise that as a college we have a responsibility to capture this enthusiasm and provide teaching and learning opportunities to our students, and partners whilst providing development opportunities for our staff.

6.2   Where do we want to be?

Teaching and Learning Roadmap/Organisational Targets

Target	Complete By	Progress
Deliver carbon literacy training to staff and students	June 2024 Review annually	Discussions taking place with HR
Work collaboratively with teaching staff to contextualise sustainable behaviours within the curriculum	June 2024	Sustainability champions to be identified to engage with curriculum teams
Develop Sustainability Champions to model embedding sustainability into the curriculum	August 2023 Review annually	Sustainability champions to be identified to engage with curriculum teams
Undertaking a mapping exercise to identify where Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are embedded into the curriculum	June 2024	
Enhance sustainable behaviours within teaching and learning	August 2023 Review Annually	Sustainability champions to be identified to engage with curriculum teams
Showcase good practice throughout the college and wider communities	Ongoing	Sustainability - South Lanarkshire College (slc.ac.uk)

Section 7: Estates and Operations

7.1   Where are we now?

Our campus was built in 2008 for around 4,000 students of construction, business and care. The building achieved an energy performance certificate (EPC) of C.

In 2009 we launched a low carbon house project with over 53 partner companies to construct the first affordable low-energy low-carbon house for the mass market. The house would also help combat fuel poverty.

This property achieved an A+ EPC with all technologies including solar *photovoltaics* (PV), solar thermal, ground source heat pump, rainwater harvesting and much more. Fabric first was the key ingredient within the build to minimise heat loss and maximise heat input. This work received accolades and was the subject of Scottish parliamentary motions. It catalysed change in the construction curriculum and is now embedded in other parts of the curriculum too.

As the college grew, we needed more space, and embarked on a similar project on a commercial scale. In 2016 we opened the first Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) outstanding build in the UK.

Over the last eight years, the main building of the college has been adapted to incorporate 137Kwp solar PV systems, air source and ground source heat pumps within the construction wing.

7.2   Green gown awards

Both projects received the Green Gown Award from the Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education (EAUC). The two additional standalone builds generate power through solar PV and heat by ground source heat pumps, exporting any additional energy to the national grid.

7.3 Where do we want to be?

Estates and Operations Roadmap/Organisational Targets

Target	Complete By	Progress
Submit bids to Scottish Government to fund sustainability projects	Date to be added	Successful bid received. Solar panels installed in March 2023

The College will benefit from technology adaptions to help meet the proposed net zero timeframe. These include:

- solar car ports with battery storage

- additional heat pumps to take over 100% heat provision

- battery wall storage

- water conservation via taps, cisterns and so on

- airtightness of building

- central building management system (BMS)

Section 8: Partnerships and Engagement

8.1   Where are we now?

The college recognises that collaborative working with industry and professional partners and key stakeholders is essential to achieving net-zero targets. We are proud that this partnership engagement with the college will ensure the most effective outcomes for our students and college community. The Senior Leadership Team is committed to continue working collaboratively with our current partners whilst seeking opportunities to develop further partnerships which promote sustainability activities, raise awareness of the impact of climate change and share the benefits of the circular green economy.

The college benefits from hosting key events with our external partners. These include:

- Energy Skills Partnerships
- STEM
- Energy Saving Trust
- NHBC Conference
- SECC
- Heat Pump Mobile Training and Assessment Facility

In addition, a number of curriculum areas work with industry and professional partners who are extremely valuable enriching the students' learning experience.

- Cycling Scotland
- Whitelees Wind Farm
- EAUC
- Marine Conservation Society
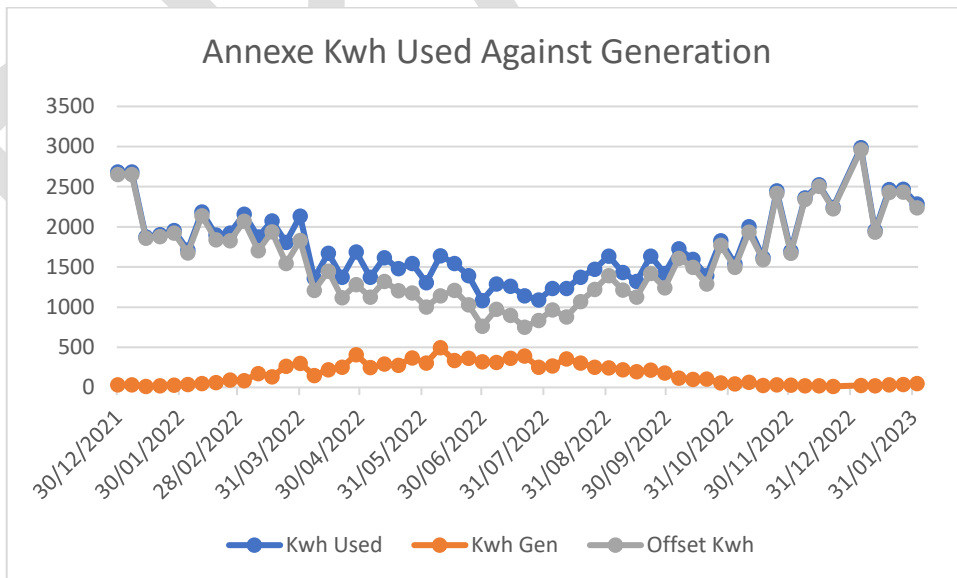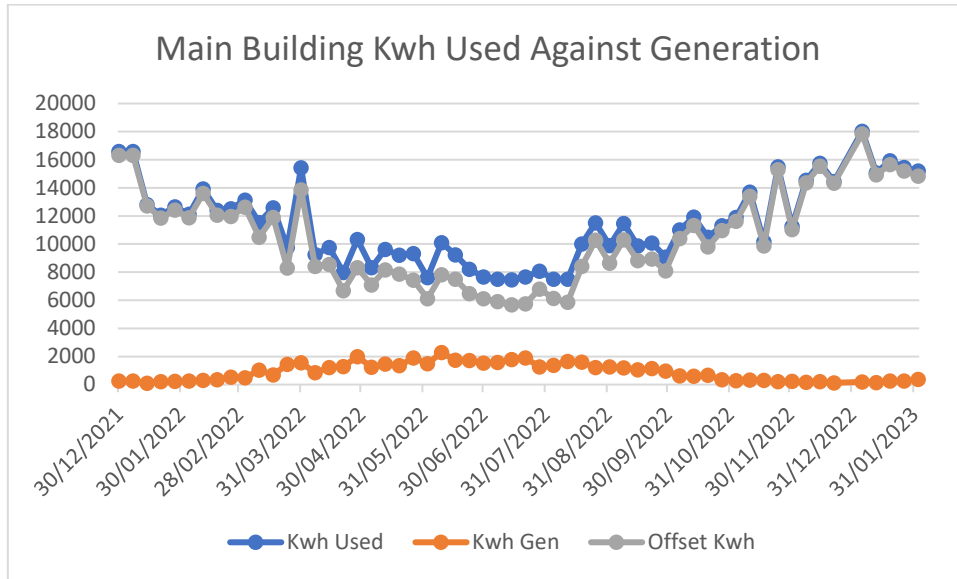
8.2 Roadmap and Organisational Targets

Partnership and Engagement

Target	Complete By	Progress
Sign the University and Colleges Race to Zero pledge	November 2021	Signed December 2021
Develop a Climate Change Emergency Action Plan	March 2023	Completed March 2023.
Further development partnerships with key stakeholders	June 2024	

Section 9: Data Collection

9.1   Where are we now?

College staff collect Weekly data from various sources to paint a picture of utilities used against consumption. This information is passed to the principalship to present to the BOM on a quarterly basis to showcase the need for capital investment and savings.

Main Building Kwh Used Against Generation

Annexe Kwh Used Against Generation

9.2   Roadmap and Organisational Targets
       Data Collection

Target	Complete By	Progress
Develop Live data streams from Generation sources to website	October 2023	
Data conversion to power BI	October 2023	
Building Management System install	June 2024	

Section 10: Governance

10.1   The college is committed to implement and achieve the targets contained within this document and acknowledges that to be effective clear roles and responsibilities are required.

10.2   The table below identifies the college leads responsible for the governance of this plan.

Governance	College Lead(s)
Chair and lead the Sustainability Group	Sustainability Lead
Implementation of the Climate Emergency Action Plan	Sustainability Group SLT
Monitor the progress of CEAP against roadmap targets.	Sustainability Group SLT
Report progress of CEAP key themes to Senior Leadership Team and BOM	Sustainability Lead SLT
Complete Mandatory PBCCR	Sustainability Lead SLT
Collaborative with curriculum areas and departments to achieve identified targets	Sustainability Lead Sustainability Group SLT