




South
Lanarkshire
College

East Kilbride

CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN 2023/2024

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

Since 2009, the College has actively reduced its carbon emissions (tco2) from 3306 tCo2, to 904 tCo2 by installing a range of sustainable technologies. All three College buildings have solar panels, ground and air source heat pumps, and rainwater harvesting systems installed, with a fabric first approach including insulation and air tightness. In partnership with Dawn Homes, Scotland's first affordable, low-energy, low-carbon house suitable for mass production was built within the College campus. The learning from this innovative approach to building, informed the project team when constructing the Building Research Establishment Environment Assessment Methodology (BREEAM) "outstanding" teaching block. The College is 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 students, staff, and stakeholders.

The College is ambitious and fully supports achieving net zero by 2040 or earlier as set out by the Scottish Colleges' Statement of Commitment to the Climate Emergency. From the baseline date of 2009, the college has reduced its carbon emissions by 2900tco2. It is envisaged that the College will continue to reduce year on year by 60tco2. South Lanarkshire College centres its Climate Emergency Action Plan around the five elements of the "Climate Action Roadmap for UK FE Colleges."

Implementing and overseeing this plan will inspire the College to continuously invest and allocate resources, using the savings from the year-on year decreased energy usage to create new curriculum, generate additional partnerships and ensure the sustained the longevity of the buildings. The result of which will be a college that serves its local and regional communities and makes a positive contribution to a greener, cleaner, and brighter Scotland for all.

Section 2: Executive Summary

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 on achieving net-zero.

This Climate Change Emergency Plan (CCEAP) details South Lanarkshire College's commitment to achieving net-zero emissions by 2040 or earlier, 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 Leads. Since the 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.

The graphs below show that the College has taken the necessary steps to reduce its Electricity, Gas and Water consumption, and the charts below demonstrate the progress the College has made over a three-year period, 2021-2023 as the snapshot of the last 2 years demonstrates.

Chart 1: Electricity Usage

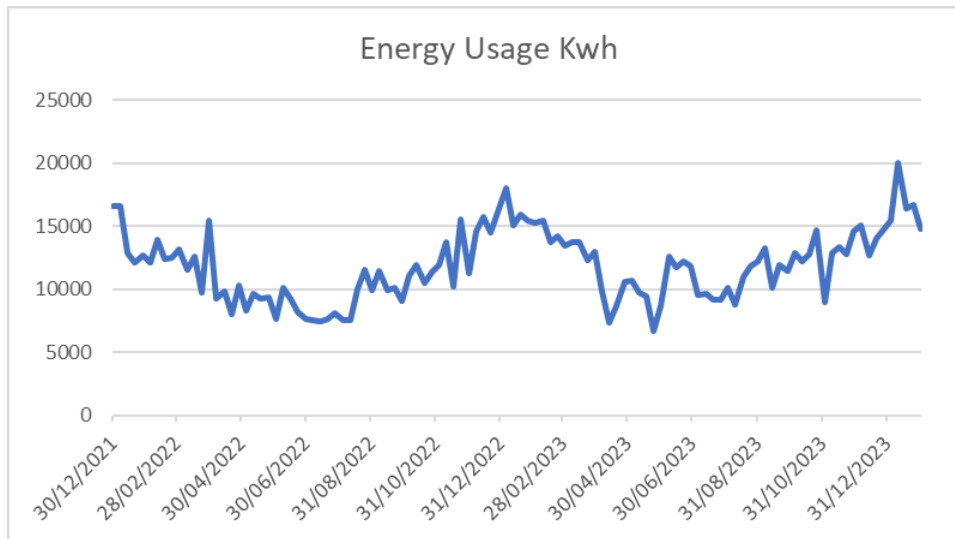


Chart 2: Gas Usage

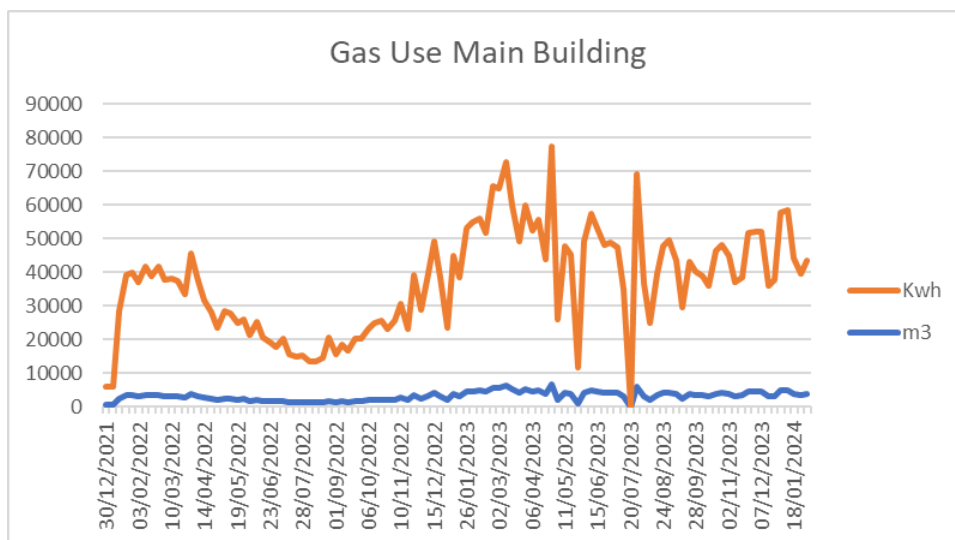


Chart 3: Water Usage

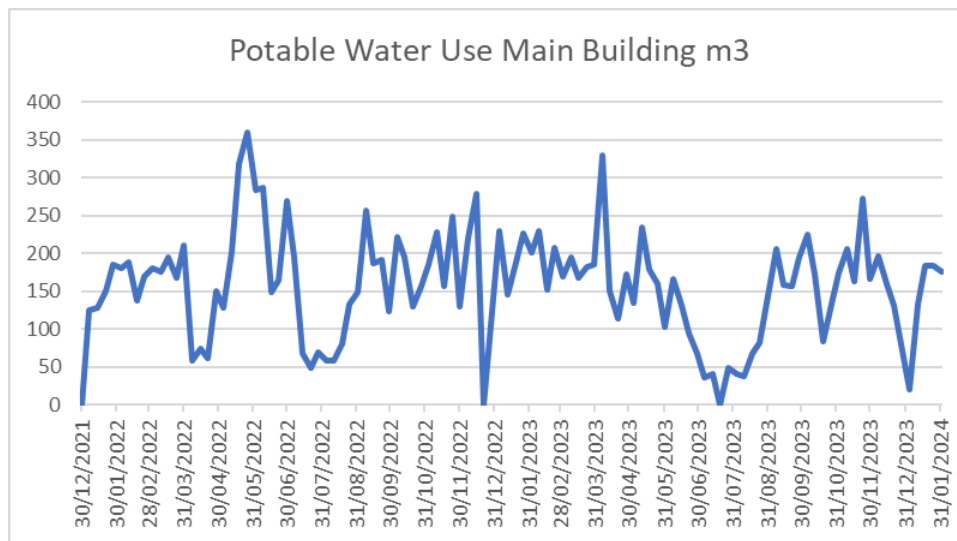
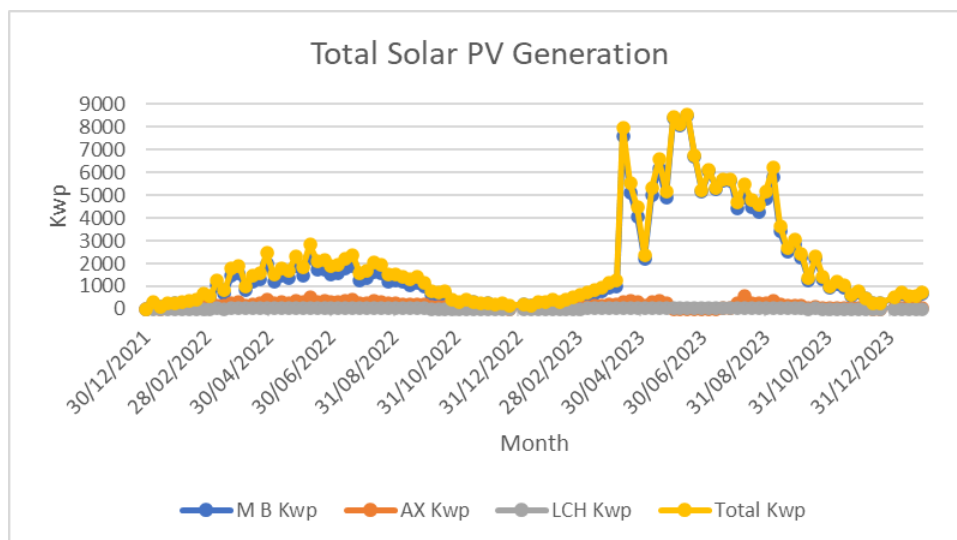


Chart 4: Electrical Generation Solar PV



Section 3: The Further and Higher Education Roadmap

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 its current standing and to assist in the development of a strategy to net-zero.

- 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

South Lanarkshire College will use the five elements of the Climate Action Roadmap for UK FE Colleges to develop the objectives and targets outlined in this Climate Change Emergency Action Plan (CCEAP). The detail of these elements is set out below.

- **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 term partnerships to share the challenges and opportunities associated with achieving 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 its journey to net zero.

The table below sets out the College’s assessment against the five elements of the roadmap and it is the ambition of the College to be “leading” in all five elements within five years.

Table 1: South Lanarkshire College Assessment

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

Where are we now?

A system for climate change governance exists within the College, and the strategic priorities, approved by the South Lanarkshire Board of Management, set out “Sustainable Behaviours” as a key ambition. A cohesive approach to sustainability is delivered through The Sustainability Group which consists of representatives from college management, the 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 Leads of the Sustainability Group reports on the progress of outcomes to the College Senior Leadership Team, and this progress is reported to Board of Management level through the Finance and Resources Committee.

Where do we want to be?

Table 2 sets out South Lanarkshire College's targets and progress to date against these targets.

Table 2: Leadership and Governance Roadmap/Organisational Targets

Target	Completed By	Progress
Develop a Climate Change Emergency Action Plan.	March 2023	Complete
The Board of Management to set out the strategic priorities.	June 2024	
CCEAP to be presented to the BOM for approval and reviewed annually. Sustainability Lead to present CCEAP to SLT and BoM. Agree with relevant Committee what the reporting format should be and when, for example annual update or quarterly.	February 2024 March 2024	
Finance and Resources Committee to be updated on the progress of the CCEAP.	June 2024	
Replace the current Sustainability Group with a Climate Change Action Team (CCAT) to enhance the focus of climate change within the College.	March 2024	
Embed climate change actions within the College community by ensuring it is a key performance indicator across all curriculum and department teams.	June 2024	
Achieve Carbon Literate Organisation Standard	August 2024 May 2024	
Sign up to the Sustainable Development Goals Accord	June 2024	
Target	Completed By	Progress

Investigate alternative sources of income and funding opportunities through establishing which funding streams would support the College's sustainability developments.	July 2024	SG grant awarded for additional 150 Kwp Solar photovoltaic panels. Grant received from Lanarkshire Climate Change Action to delivery Community Garden workshops and Climate Change Ambassadors programme
Embed sustainable behaviours in staff induction and development.	June 2024	Discussions taking place with HR
Identify Sustainability Champions to take forward CCEAP Actions	August 2024. Review annually	Sustainability champions renewed annually
Climate Change to be added to curriculum and departmental progress reviews	May 2024	Climate Change included in curriculum reviews.
Establish a Student Sustainability Group	September 2024. Review annually	Student Association President to be included in the College CCAT.
Embed climate change actions across curriculum through schemes of work and developing teaching staff to exploit opportunities for learning.	August 2023- June 2024 reviewed annually	Students across all curriculum areas are engaged in a range of activities that provide opportunities to contribute to addressing climate change.

Section 6 Teaching and Learning

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 the College who are aware of the impact of climate change and the need to improve sustainable behaviours.

The college has been at the forefront of changes within the curriculum to embed qualifications that prepare learners for the future skills required to meet key Government targets, in line with The Climate Emergency Skills Action Plan (CESAP)

The College realises it has a responsibility to capture this enthusiasm and provide teaching and learning opportunities to students, and stakeholders, whilst providing development opportunities for staff.

Where do we want to be?

Table 3: Teaching and Learning Roadmap/Organisational Targets

Target	Complete By	Progress
Deliver carbon literacy training to staff and students	June 2024	Climate Change Lead to attend training 21 and 28 March.
Work collaboratively with teaching staff to contextualise sustainable behaviours within the curriculum through embedding into schemes of work.	June 2024	
Develop Sustainability Champions to model embedding sustainability into the curriculum	June 2024 Review annually	CCAT will include colleagues from across all curriculum areas Sustainability champions to be identified to engage with curriculum teams
Undertake a mapping exercise to identify where Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are embedded into the curriculum	June 2024	
Enhance sustainable behaviours within teaching and learning	June 2024	Climate change practices are integrated into course frameworks.
Showcase good practice throughout the college and wider community	July 2024	Sustainability - South Lanarkshire College (slc.ac.uk)

Section 7: Estates and Operations

Where are we now?

The College was constructed in 2008 and delivers a range further and higher education courses to approximately 4,000 students. The building has an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC)

In 2009 the College 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 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 has grown, and required more space, it embarked on a similar project on a commercial scale. In 2016 the College opened the first Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) outstanding build in the UK.

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.

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.

Where do we want to be?

Table 4: Estates and Operations Roadmap/Organisational Targets

Target	Completed By	Progress
Continue to explore additional funding opportunities to support the projects identified in this plan.	June 2024	Successful bid received. Solar panels installed in March 2023
Install Building Management System	June 2024	
Solar car ports incorporating battery storage. External battery wall.	June 2027	
Decarbonise building from gas to electric supplies	June 2026	
Waste recycling improvements	June 2026	

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

- Decarbonisation of Gas Boilers
- Removal of stored Hot Water
- 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
- Mechanical Ventilation with Heat Recovery
- Upgrade central building management system (BMS)

Section 8: Partnerships and Engagement

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. It is proud that this partnership engagement will ensure the most effective outcomes for students and the community which it serves. The Senior Leadership Team is committed to working collaboratively with 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 external partners which include:

- The Energy Skills Partnerships
- STEM
- Energy Saving Trust
- National House Building Conference (NHBC) Conference
- Heat Pump Mobile Training and Assessment Facility
- Cycling Scotland
- Whitelees Wind Farm
- EAUC
- Marine Conservation Society
- In addition, a number of curriculum areas work with industry and professional partners who are extremely valuable enriching the students' learning experience such as BE-ST

Table 5: Partnership and Engagement: Roadmap and Organisational Targets

Target	Completed By	Progress
Sign the University and Colleges Race to Zero pledge	November 2021	Signed December 2021
Further develop partnerships with key stakeholders	June 2024	

Section 9: Data Collection

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 Finance and Resources Committee on a quarterly basis to showcase the need for capital investment and savings and also included in the annual Public Body Climate Change Report (PBCCR) The following charts demonstrate the data presented.

Chart 4: Main Building Energy Generated v Used Update charts yearly

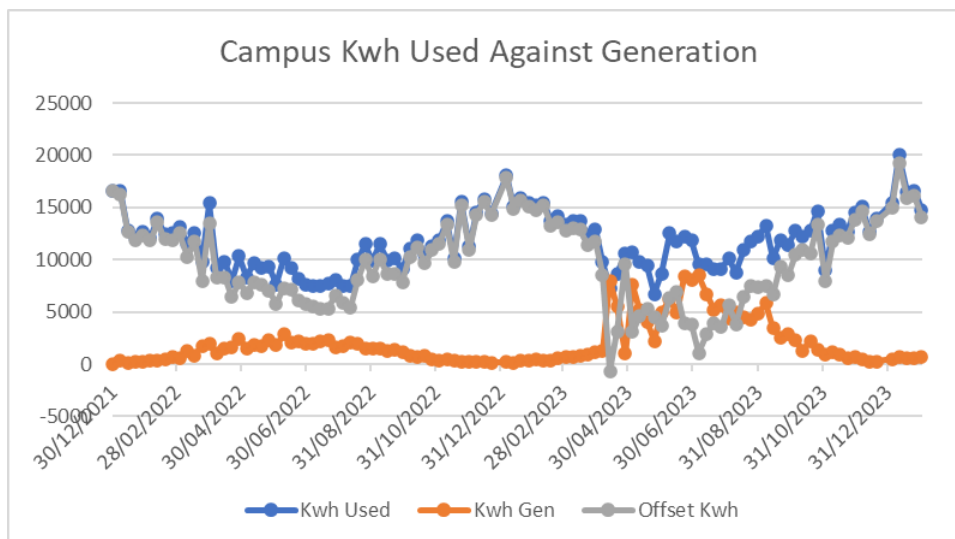


Table 5: Data Collection Roadmap and Organisational Targets

Target	Completed By	Progress
Develop Live data streams from generation sources to website	July 2024	
Data conversion uploaded to Power BI	June 2024	

Section 10: Equality and Diversity

There are no matters for people with protected characteristics which arises from this plan.

Section 11: Risks

The College is committed to implementing and achieving the targets outlined in this plan; however, potential risks have been identified within this document.

Table 7: Risks

Risk	Mitigation
Climate Change Actions within the College do not progress	Establish a College CCAT to review and monitor the actions contained within this plan
Funding applications are not successful	Submit robust funding applications
Climate change activities and behaviours are not embraced by the College community	Promote the benefits of climate change through the CCAT, Student Association, and partners
Failure to comply with planned and long-term strategies	Operational Leads meeting regularly to lead others to progress climate change within the College
If additional funding is required, the college is not able to support this due to future expected funding	Funding applications being put in place

Table 8: Activity Plan (February 2024 to July 2024)

Activity	Jan. 2024	Feb. 2024	March 2024	April 2024	May 2024	June 2024	July 2024
Leadership and Governance							
CEAP to be reviewed and updated annually							
Establish a college wide Climate Change Action Team							
Present and report to Board of Management							
Climate Change included in Departmental Reviews							
Achieve Carbon Literate Organisation Standard							
Sign up to the Sustainable Development Goals Award							
Include sustainable practice within staff inductions.							
Teaching and Learning							
Deliver carbon literacy training to staff and students.							
Undertake a mapping exercise to identify where Sustainable Goals are embedded in the curriculum							
Showcase good practice throughout the College and wider community.							

Activity	Jan. 2024	Feb. 2024	March 2024	April 2024	May 2024	June 2024	July 2024
Estates and Operations							
Continue to explore additional funding opportunities							
Instal Building Management System							
Review solar car ports incorporating battery storage and battery walls (external)							
Review the decarbonisation of building from gas to electric supplies							
Review waste recycling improvements							
Partnerships							
Further develop partnerships with key stakeholders							
Data Collection							
Develop live data streams from generation sources to website							
Data conversion uploaded to Power BI							



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