

The City of Liverpool College

A Sustainable Future

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Our Strategy to Achieve this

A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE THE CITY OF LIVERPOOL COLLEGE - OUR STRATEGY TO ACHIEVE THIS

Introduction on behalf of the Governing Body:

I am delighted to introduce our new Sustainability Policy, a crucial step in shaping a more responsible and environmentally conscious future for The City of Liverpool College.

The urgency of climate action is undeniable. As a leading further education college, we have a responsibility to not only equip our students with the skills and knowledge to succeed, but also to empower them to become responsible global citizens. In England, both the Government (COP26) and the Association of Colleges (AoC) have identified 'climate change' as one of the biggest challenges of our time and we have a responsibility to address this and to meet the Liverpool City Region's target to reach net-zero emissions.

As an educational institution, we have a responsibility to lead by example and equip our students with the knowledge and skills they need to create a more sustainable future. Our academic expertise in this area is already extensive, with a wide ranging curriculum and training in digital and green technologies such as Electric and Hybrid Vehicles and Sustainable Construction.

Our performance needs to be benchmarked against our peer institutions nationally. I call upon all members of the College to play their part in achieving the ambitions set out in this Sustainability Policy through open communication, shared ideas, and collaborative action, so we can build a thriving and sustainable future for The City of Liverpool College.

I fully support our environmental vision. The College is committed to continuous improvement, and this strategy represents our roadmap for the years ahead. This document outlines a comprehensive framework for integrating sustainability practices into the College encompassing areas like energy efficiency, waste reduction, responsible sourcing, and promoting sustainable behaviours across our entire community.

I hope you will join me in bringing the strategy to life.

Sian Taylor, Governor of The City of Liverpool College

Introduction on behalf of the Student Union:

The Student Union at The City of Liverpool College is founded on the principles of representing the rights of all students at the College and we recognise that we have a responsibility to defend the futures of not only our members, but the futures of all people around the world.

This new Sustainability Policy outlines the City of Liverpool's Colleges commitment to achieve Net zero and sets out a roadmap to how the College will achieve this. The Strategy also acts as a tool to educate our members about the threat of climate change and the need for urgent action to protect the environment, minimising our impact on the environment, and helping to educate and empower our students to understand their impact on the planet.

Mohammed Adam, President of the Students' Union

OUR AMBITIONS

This strategy sets out an ambitious plan that will encourage all aspects of our operations to become a sustainable organisation, where environmental, social and economic considerations inform all decision making and the delivery of our services. We will take a collaborative approach to this and will engage with staff, students and wider stakeholders to facilitate the transformation required to become a college where excellence and sustainability lie at the heart of the education we provide.

The strategy has been developed to align with Climate Action Roadmap for FE Colleges and informed by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The diagram below sets out our sustainability aspirations, each supported by targets that cover our priorities, driven by our sustainability steering group.

Aim

The College acknowledges that it has a key role to play in responding to challenges surrounding the global climate emergency. This strategy will provide the direction and actions required to meet these challenges, with the aim of becoming an exemplar provider of further education where sustainability lies at the core of the education we provide and the decisions that we take. The strategy also contributes to the College's EDI 'Decolonise and Decarbonate' strategy in which we rethink, reframe and reconstruct education and the learning environment. Thus, transforming how and what we learn so that education sufficiently addresses and prepares students and staff for the significant climate and ecological pressures the planet is facing.

Our approach

- Central to our ambitions will be sound and effective governance, where all decision making will be informed by the principles of sustainability.
- The education we provide will be rooted in the principles of sustainability and focused on helping future generations, who will bear the impacts of the climate crisis, to learn and develop the skills required to meet these challenges.
- We will ensure that our employees and students understand how their knowledge and expertise will be of relevance and essential to addressing the climate emergency.

Our action

- A Sustainability Steering Group (SSG) will oversee the strategic direction of sustainability at the College.
- We will develop and implement a sustainability and carbon reduction action plan, monitoring and managing performance.
- Sustainability will be embedded into curriculum delivery, teaching and learning.
- We will regularly communicate our achievements to employees, students, stakeholders and the wider public.
- We will calculate our carbon emissions utilising the Standardised Carbon Emissions Framework for Further and Higher Education (SCEF) developed by EUAC (The Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education) to ensure

transparency and comparability with our peers in the Education sector. https://www.eauc.org.uk/scef.

- We will report our progress annually and publish results on our Website/Intranet Site.

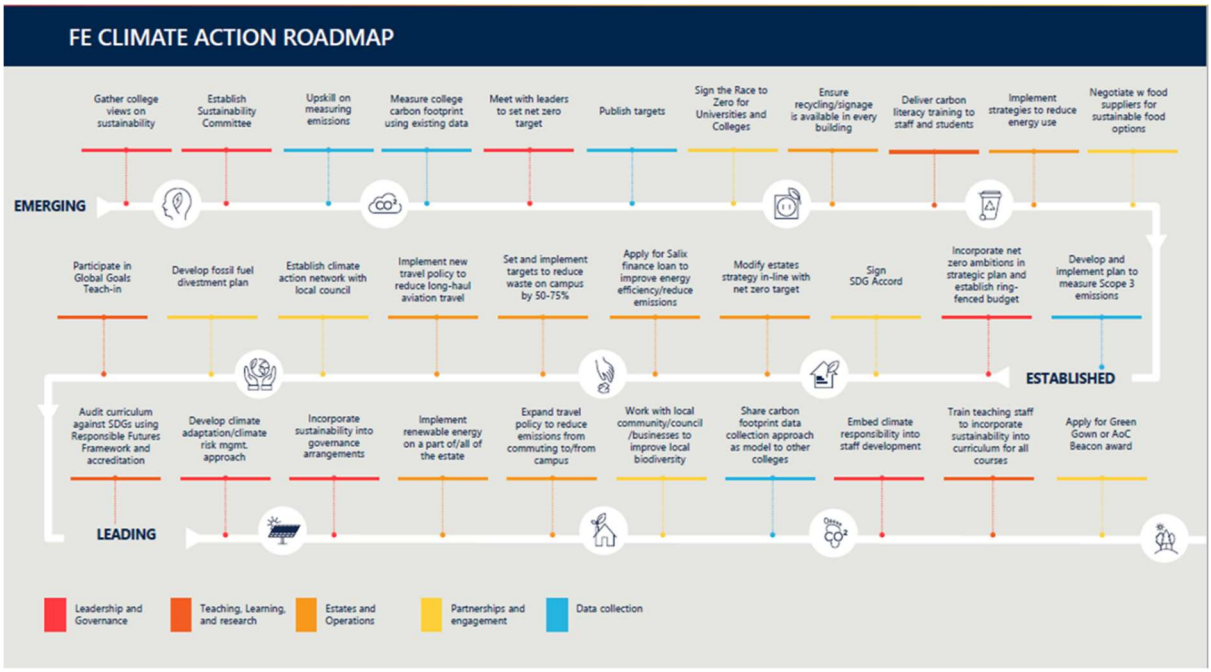
Our Ambitions

- To embed a culture of sustainability and to be a Leading College in positive climate action by developing capacity and awareness via social dialogue and campaigning (supported with our journey to Decolonising the Curriculum).
- To ensure sustainability is embedded in teaching and learning so that students can develop a broader awareness of climate justice and education for sustainable development and contribute to a sustainable future within their chosen career. Climate justice at heart is a global effort that prioritises the needs and rights of the most vulnerable, ensuring that as we tackle climate change, we do so in a way that's fair and just for everyone.
- To be a climate-resilient college and implement carbon reduction action to reach net zero by 2035
- To reduce our impact on the environment by adopting a whole life cycle approach to ensure the efficient use of natural resources.

Climate Action Roadmap for FE Colleges

The Climate Commission for UK Higher and Further Education developed a 'road map' for further education colleges to reach the net zero target. The College will utilise this roadmap as a guide to implement a series of aspirational initiatives to reach net zero emissions and improve our environmental impact. These initiatives will be categorized into the same workstreams as the EAUC's 'Sustainability Leadership Scorecard':

- **Leadership and Governance** - provide Leadership and Governance for a sustainability strategy and action plan, and implement immediate & longer-term action plans to support the work of the Sustainability Team, Energy Team and Working Groups
- **Learning, Teaching, and Engagement** - To educate, activate and enable students and staff to contribute to a sustainable future and implement an immediate & longer-term action plan for student and staff engagement.
- **Estates and Operations** - To be a climate-resilient college and implement immediate & longer-term action plans for the identification of the current footprint for carbon emissions and reduction strategies.
- **Procurement and Waste** - To adopt a whole life cycle approach to ensure the efficient use of natural resources and implement immediate & longer-term action plans for reduction of waste and the procurement of more sustainable materials.
- **Partnerships and Community** - To foster a culture of sustainability and implement an immediate & longer-term action plan for internal and external communications, marketing, and website material advertising.



How we will know we're achieving our ambitions

This work takes time, and until then we will continue to monitor, review and report on our progress in achieving our ambitions. We'll know we're on track to achieving our ambitions when:

- We are considered to be an Established College on the FE Climate Action Roadmap – Target 2024
- We have established a whole institution approach (formal, informal and subliminal learning) across all aspects of institutional practice including funding, library, IT services, and students' union – Target 2025
- At least 70% of our student cohort has sustainability embedded into their teaching and learning – Target 2025
- We will have removed single use plastics from general use and adopt a no general waste to landfill approach – Target 2024
- We will establish our current level of biodiversity across the Estate and introduce a rolling programme to create a minimum of one new biodiversity scheme per year – Target 2030
- We reduce our carbon emissions by 50% - Target 2030
- Sustainability is incorporated into all our purchasing and contracts – Target 2025

Until then

- We will embed the ambitions of the UN SDGs in work plans through debate, discussion, and awareness raising of this activity
- Create a working policy for implementing ESD's across all of the curriculum by 2030 with a view to embedding democratic and participatory learning approaches across all disciplines at all levels
- We will continue to push the boundaries of environmental sustainability in all our building work using our expertise, assets, and relationships, to lead the way in the sector
- We will agree a mechanism for tracking carbon reduction performance and publish our targets and progress on an annual basis
- We will research and innovate to deliver positive impact, showcasing our sustainable solutions, and inspiring visitors and our community.
- We will partner with our local community to solve social challenges.

WHAT DRIVES US

Strategic Plan

Our sustainability strategy is motivated by and complements the wider ambitions of the College as set out in our Strategic Plan 2021-2025. The Strategic Plan pledges us as an anchor institution in the city to 'build back better' – driving sustainable improvements in economic growth, health and wellbeing and issues of disadvantage and inequality. We are committed to preparing our students beyond qualification. Every student that comes through our door should be supported to achieve and progress with the skills and expertise they need for that crucial next step whether that's into education or employment, and with the aspiration and confidence to lead in their own right.

The City of Liverpool College embraces UNESCO's Education for Sustainable Development[1] (ESD) 2030 agenda which seeks to empower learners to take informed decisions and responsible actions for environmental integrity, economic viability and a just society, for present and future generations, while respecting cultural diversity. This is an integral part of quality transformational education which addresses learning, teaching and engagement.

Mission

The City of Liverpool College has an overarching mission 'To provide high quality skills and education by delivering opportunities for growth to all people and businesses of the Liverpool City Region'.

In response to our strategic enabler 'turning disadvantage to advantage' the College is also committed in ensuring that efforts to address environmental and climate action must also deliver on issues of justice.

[1] UNESCO (2013) Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in the UK – Current status, best practice and opportunities for the future. https://unesco.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/UKNC-ESD-Policy-Brief.pdf

Our Goals

Our goals are to deliver world class skills in business, provide an outstanding learning and student experience, and develop the talent for sustainable employment. We are committed in embedding ESD in all our college activities and decision-making processes and acknowledge that ESD is an integral component of SDG 4 (Quality Education) as well as being a key enabler for all other SDGs. To combat and counter greenwashing and green hushing, The City of Liverpool College aims to identify actions, functions and processes that undermines the credibility of meaningful climate action through transparent communications.

Our Values

- Quality – Providing the highest standards of teaching and learning.
- Inspire – Inspiring you to reach your full potential.
- Ambition – Striving to be the best you can be
- Partnership – Working together to create sustainable improvement for you.
- Passion – Determination to make a difference for you.
- Innovate – Always looking for new ideas and solutions to help you grow.
- Diversity – Embracing inclusivity, equality and diversity.

Supporting the Sustainable Development Goals

The College strategy has been developed to align with and be informed by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)[2]. The seventeen goals are interlinked components that have been designed as a ''blueprint to achieve a sustainable future'' (SDGS.UN.ORG 2015) and lie at the heart of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which was adopted by all member states of the United Nations in 2015 (SDGS.UN.ORG 2015). Although most, if not all the 17 goals are relevant to the College, there are several goals that have a particular resonance with the Colleges' values and mission and include:



SDG 3: Good Health and Wellbeing - The College will promote healthy lives and wellbeing for all students and employees and will aim to develop initiatives aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of students and employees while supporting a healthy work/life balance for their employees.

SDG 4: Quality Education - As a provider of high-quality further education, the College will include the concepts of sustainability into all taught courses and be guided by the principles of Education for Sustainable Development (UNESCO 2022) ensuring an inclusive and equitable education with lifelong learning opportunities for all.





SDG 5: Gender Equality - The College will support and promote gender equality and will ensure that the provision of education will be inclusive, equitable and available for all regardless of gender and sexual orientation and will empower all women and those from the LBGT+ community.

SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth – The College will provide quality education that will provide future generations the skills and knowledge to achieve full and productive employment and provide them with the tools to develop and support a more sustainable economy.





SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities – The College will continue to work collaboratively with local stakeholders and develop relationships with businesses, local government, public sector authorities and the local community to help Liverpool become a more inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable place to live.

SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production – The College will promote responsible resource consumption and will review their procurement strategy to identify and eliminate areas of waste. Initiatives aimed at reducing consumption and waste will be developed and implemented.





SDG 13: Climate Action - The Colleges has undertaken a comprehensive audit of their CO_2e emissions and have set an ambitious target to achieve net zero emissions by 2035. The College has developed a CO_2e emissions report which will track progress towards this target and will be included in the Annual Report.

[2] UNESCO (2017) Education for Sustainable Development Goals: Learning Objectives. https://stairwaytosdg.eu/images/UNESCO_Education_for_Sustainable_Development_Goals_ENG.pdf

A GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE TO ACHIEVE OUR SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

Sustainability Steering Group

Delivering our ambitions will require a whole community effort and a governance structure that embeds sustainability, the College Strategic Plan and the UN SDGs at its heart. Sustainability requires committed leadership, clear strategic direction, and effective operational support, all working within a robust governance structure.

To achieve our sustainability goals, we have established five workstream sub-groups, that will report into the sustainability group. Each workstream sub-group has a lead, a manager with a good working knowledge of the workstream area, who is further supported by colleagues across the College.

Sub-groups

- Estates & Operations.
- Leadership and Governance.
- Learning Teaching and Engagement.
- Partnerships & Community
- Procurement & Waste

The membership of each sub-group, includes relevant academic and teaching expertise, students and support services staff, affords a mechanism for new ideas to bloom from the ground up, and puts the College's vibrant and diverse community at the heart of our governance structure. Each group has a set of targets informed by the FE Climate Action Roadmap and the UN SDGs, that in turn support delivery of the objectives linked to the College Strategic Plan. This means that our plan for sustainability and the work that will follow is embedded institution wide.

The role of the Sustainability team is to:

- Create the content and support the implementation of the sustainability strategy, sustainability policy and the governance structure.
- Provide specialist operational expertise in support of the Sustainability Steering Group, its sub-groups, and the action plan.
- Manage compliance of environmental legislation and other external reporting processes.
- Measure and manage the continuous improvement of environmental performance and priorities of the College.
- Measure and report on sustainability progress, including continuous improvement of environmental performance, delivery of the Sustainability Action Plan, and embedding of the SDG framework.
- To develop awareness raising events for staff, students and partners.
- To develop the annual sustainability report, and more broadly to measure progress and performance against the Action Plan and report these on an annual basis.
- To work with, influence and strengthen relations with external partners.

OVER TO YOU

This strategy is a living document to match the dynamic nature of our work. We know we have longstanding sustainability challenges, but we have to be ready to adapt to an ever-changing world. Here, our strategy represents a distillation of our ambition, our direction, and the ways we will make change. We are building a community of sustainability advocates and we want you to be a part of it.

If you are reading this as a staff member and you want to help make our College more sustainable; if you are a student with a desire to help us reach our goals; or, if you are one of our partners who shares our vision and wants to know more about our work, email us at sustainability@liv-coll.ac.uk. If you are a student don't forget that you can also get involved with the work of the Student Council.

This work is only made possible by our collective endeavours and together we will be leaders in building a more sustainable future.