FE Governors Guide Launch Webinar

Chaired by Fiona Goodwin, Deputy CEO, EAUC

Ian Munro, Director for Sustainability and **Jeff Greenidge,** Director for Diversity and Governance, Association of Colleges

Sam Bromwich, Director of Corporate Governance, Risk and Compliance and

Olly Scholefield, Head of Sustainability, Solihull College

FE Governors Guide Launch

Developed in partnership with

Context

- Government Net-Zero target – 2050
- Student expectations
- Department for Education – Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy
- Green Jobs Taskforce
- Public sector reporting
- Net-zero plans need financing

Context

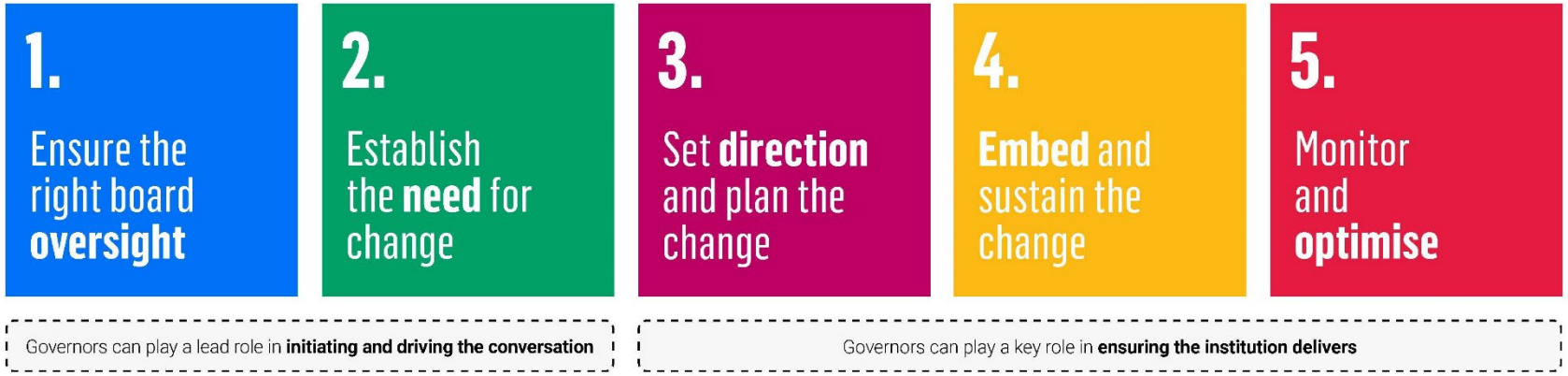
- Children born in 2020 will experience a **two to seven-fold increase** in extreme climate events, particularly heatwaves, compared to people born in 1960 (UNESCO)
- **75%** of young people say they are frightened about their future
- FE educate & train **1.6 million** students per year – 2.12% of England population (AoC)
- **35%** of large employers who train their staff do so through a college, compared with 30% who do so through a university (AoC)

Context

- The sector's carbon footprint is **18.1 Mt CO2e**, with HE institutions contributing approximately 86% and FE 12% - responsibility!
- More than **2.5 million** 7-17-year-olds want more climate education and **91%** students agree that their place of study should actively incorporate and promote sustainable development
- **74%** of international students (from outside the EU) say how seriously the university takes global development issues and environmental issues is most likely to influence their choice of institution
- **20%** of UK office workers would turn down a job if environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors were deemed lacking, with almost **half** of workers wanting their employers to demonstrate climate and social commitments

Toolkit

- Key drivers and policy setting for FE
- Sustainable Development Goals in FE
- Step 1 – Key questions to ask – preparing your board
- Step 2 – Board questionnaire
- Step 3 – Gap analysis and evidence
- Step 4 – Embed change
- Step 5 – Monitor progress - checklist



Initiatives driving change

eauc
The Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education

SUMS Consulting
in partnership with
eauc
The Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education

Sustainability Leadership Scorecard
Delivered by
eauc
The Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education
AUDE

Green Gown Awards

Carbon Coalition
Delivered by
eauc
The Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education

The cost of Net Zero
Outcomes from a project exploring the costs of Net Zero for Higher and Further Education in the United Kingdom
eauc
AUDE
Department for Education
bufdg

RACE TO Zero
UNIVERSITIES & COLLEGES

The SDG Accord
The University and College Sector's Collective Response to the Global Goals

STANDARDISED CARBON EMISSIONS FRAMEWORK
Delivered by
eauc
The Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education

ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES

Green Skills - Green Jobs

Ian Munro
AoC
Director Sustainability

Context

- In March 2023 Government published its updated net zero strategy, but was criticised for lacking significant new policies or extra investment.

- Independent climate advisers are now saying they are less confident that the UK will meet the 2050 target.

- The evidence for significant investment in skills and jobs is clear to achieve a net zero future and colleges are critical

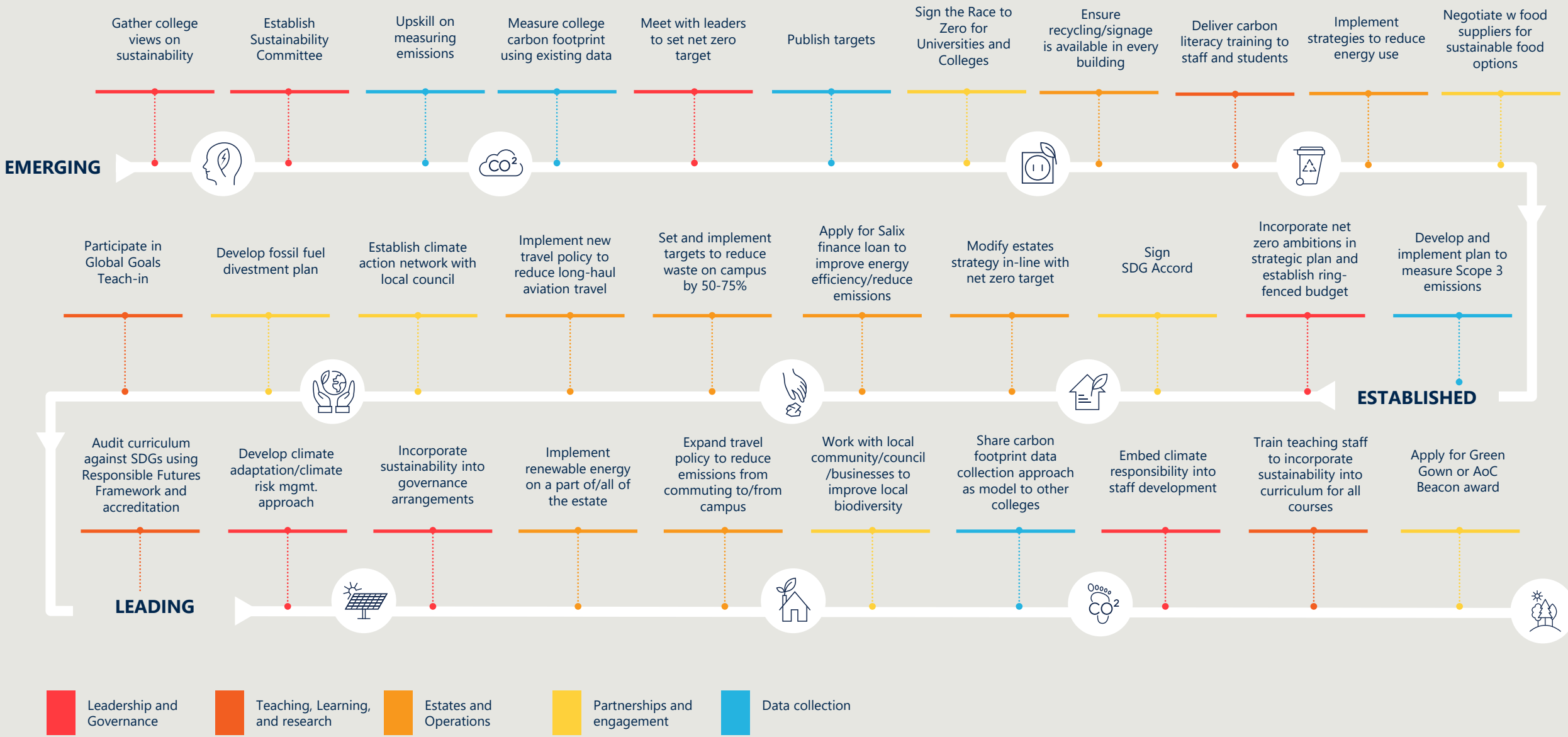
Headlines to consider

- UK Government vision is to create 2 Million green jobs by 2030 (Green Jobs Task Force)
- UK has an ambitious target reduce carbon emissions by 68% by 2030 (compared to 1990)
- UK is the only major economy to set a target to reduce carbon emissions by 77% by 2035
- UK energy target for renewable electricity is 95% by 2030
- UK is second most sustainable country in the world with an EPI (environmental Protection Index)score of 77.7 (May2023)

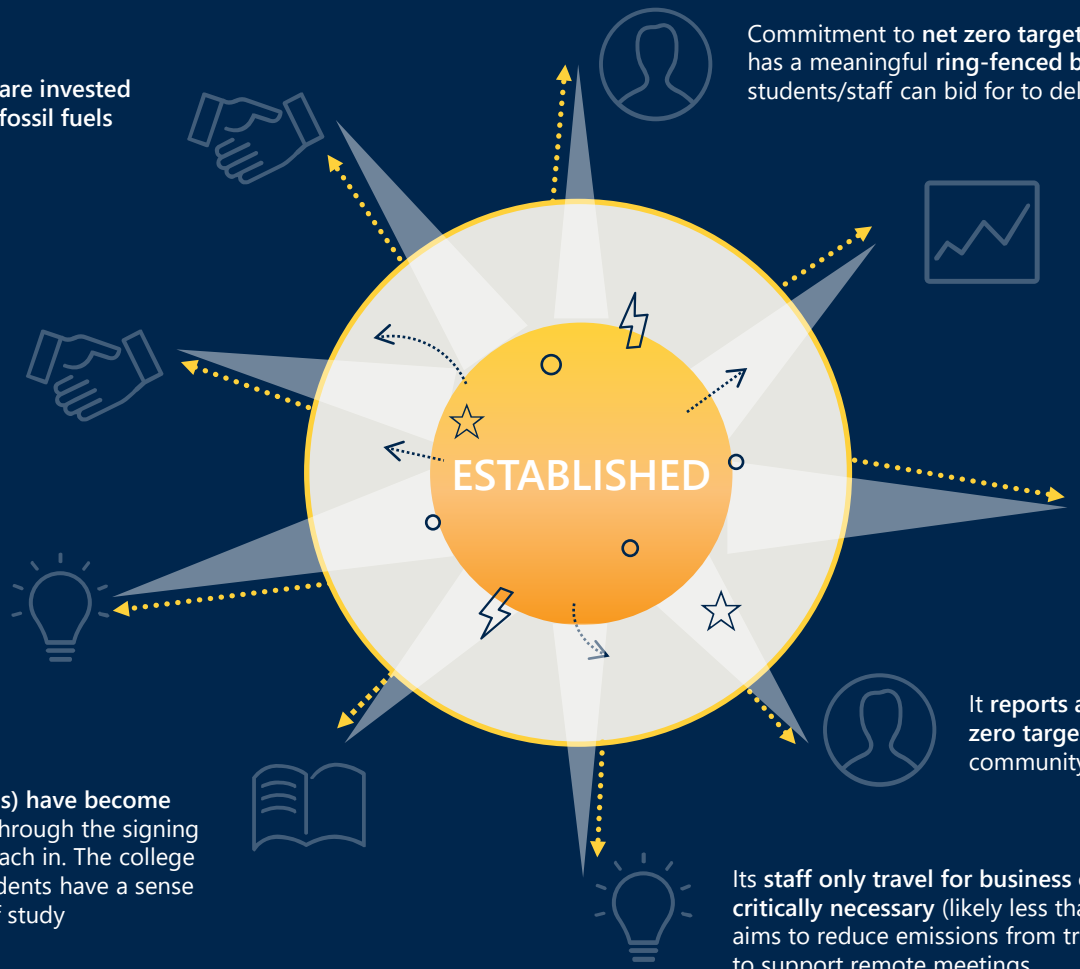
The Green College Commitment

- Delivering green skills and supporting green jobs
- Educating students and communities to build a more sustainable future
- Developing net zero campuses and building resilience to environmental change
- Colleges are on a journey…

FE CLIMATE ACTION ROADMAP



WHAT DOES AN ‘ESTABLISHED’ COLLEGE LOOK LIKE?



It **understands what parts of it investment portfolio are invested in fossil fuel companies**. It has a **plan to divest from fossil fuels** and achieve a green investment portfolio

Commitment to **net zero target/sustainability is reflected in strategic plan** and it has a meaningful **ring-fenced budget** to deliver on it (which includes funds students/staff can bid for to deliver sustainability projects)

Has a **strong and precise idea of its carbon footprint**, inclu**ding its Scope 3 emissions**, and ongoing mechanisms in place to collect the data to measure it

It has established relationships with the local community and council with a **shared aim to combat climate change locally**

It has undertaken/is currently undertaking an **ambitious project to reduce emissions from its buildings with the help of a Salix Finance loan**

Its **10-year estates strategy reflects its commitment to its net zero targets**, including an ambition to optimise the use of the estate (rather than build new buildings), refurbish buildings to improve their efficiency, and applying BREEAM standards to new buildings

It **reports annually on its progress on meeting its net zero targets** and interim targets, to the college community and the public

The **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have become ‘part of the conversation’ at the college**, through the signing of the SDG Accord and the Global Goals teach in. The college community are aware of the SDGs and students have a sense of how they might apply to their subject of study

Its **staff only travel for business on long-haul airplane flights when it is critically necessary** (likely less than once a year), under a travel policy that aims to reduce emissions from travel. It has **invested in video-conferencing** to support remote meetings

EDUCATION & TRAINING FOUNDATION

GOVERNANCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

GOVERNANCE TOOLKIT

A WHOLE COLLEGE APPROACH TO CLIMATE ACTION

“As we look to what the future holds and the ‘new normal’, action on climate change and creating an education system that embeds climate responsibility in everything it does needs to be a top priority.”

David Hughes, Chief Executive of the Association of Colleges

ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES

Governance Sustainability Conscious

Jeff Greenidge - Director for Diversity
Association of Colleges

The Sustainability Conscious Governor

Embedded in the new AoC code is :

“The board promotes corporate social responsibility and environmental sustainability.”

- Policy Development
- Strategic Planning
- Curriculum Design
- Community Engagement
- Resource Management
- Leadership and Advocacy