Climate Commission for UK Higher and Further Education Students and Leaders

The following document is a collection of resources on college responses to the climate crisis and sustainability. These resources offer a wider understanding of ongoing work to address the climate crisis in UK colleges and have been used to inform the Climate Action Roadmap for FE Colleges. Links to resources are embedded in the document.

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1. SORTED: Guide to Sustainability in Further Education

This resource, developed by EAUC, offers guidance to further education institutions on implementing and advancing sustainability. The resource is structured around priorities areas where colleges can embed sustainability. Priority areas include:

- Leadership and Governance
- Teaching, Learning and Curriculum
- Student Engagement
- Estates and Operations
- Partnerships and Engagement

The guide includes an introduction to the priority, why it is important, useful resources on that priority and examples of best practice in UK colleges.

2. Green Gown Award College Finalists:

The Green Gown Awards is an annual event recognising sustainability excellence in universities and colleges. Below is a list identifying finalists and winners from colleges between 2018-2019.

2019

Category	Finalist

Benefitting Society	• West Lothian College
	   ○ Men into childcare/forest classroom
	
	• Ayrshire College (Winner)
	   ○ #PassingPositivity, Mental Health United (Sport and emotional wellbeing)
	
	• Askham Bryan College
	   ○ "In sight of the minister" – show garden

Next Generation Learning and Skills	• West College Scotland
	   ○ Eco Skills Academy
	• City of Glasgow College
	   ○ Sustainable jewellery making "Jewellery with a conscious"

Campus Health, Food and Drink	• Schumacher College
	   ○ Sustainable food growing for campus dining services
	• Dundee and Angus College
	   ○ "Putting Planet before Profit"
	   ○ Work to change disposable culture on campus

Enterprise	• Wiltshire College and University Centre
	   o Apple Project
	   o Using apples from a local orchard to make apple juice and learn more about sustainable food

Student Engagement	• Dundee and Angus College
	   o "Putting Planet before Profit" working to change disposable culture
	• City of Glasgow College
	   o "Plant your Plastics" – engage students in sustainability
	• Ayrshire College
	   o "The Jo Love Soccer School" to improve the wellbeing of young women in Ayrshire

Tomorrow's Employee	• Coleg Gwent o Cash4Change – students can bid money to make sustainable changes on campus

2018

Category	Finalist
Campus of the Future	• City of Glasgow College o Buildings and facilities that support sustainability

Next Generation Learning and Skills	• Sutton College
	   o Work placements for students in care homes
	• Ayrshire College
	   o "Green Teachers" – training for teachers taking place within the natural environment

Student Engagement	• Glasgow Kelvin College
	   o White Ribbon Campaign to engage men in tackling Violence Against Women
	• Glasgow Kelvin College
	   o Velocity Cycle Hub
	   o Project aimed at encouraging outdoor activity

3. SDG Accord

The SDG Accord is an international FHE commitment to advancing the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The following UK colleges have signed the commitment:

Bridgend College
Edinburgh College
Exeter College
Fircroft College of Adult Education
Glasgow Kelvin College
Gloucestershire College
North East Scotland College
Petroc
Scottish Borders College
Shipley College
South Devon College
South Lanarkshire College
The College of West Anglia

4. Sustainability Leadership Scorecard (SLS)

The SLS is a tool that captures data and performance from different sources to give universities and colleges an idea of how they are advancing sustainability. The 2019 SLS report states that to date, only 3 further education institutions have participated in the initiative. These institutions include:

1. South Devon College
2. Bridgend College
3. Royal Veterinary College

5. College Education for Sustainable Development Workbooks

EAUC-Scotland, in collaboration with Elaine Dumfries from Dumfries and Galloway College, have created College Education for Sustainable Development Workbooks. These workbooks offer guidance to staff and students on embedding sustainability in various college courses. Workbooks cover health and social studies, the beauty industry (ie. hairdressing courses), construction, staff development etc.

6. Sustainable Development Goals Case Studies from Scottish Universities and Colleges

In 2019, EAUC-Scotland published a report comprised of 49 case studies covering all 17 of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. The report features 16 Scottish colleges that are undertaking meaningful work to realise the Sustainable Development Goals. Colleges include:

Ayrshire College
Borders College
Dumfries and Galloway College
City of Glasgow College
Dundee and Angus College
Edinburgh College
Fife College
Forth Valley College
Glasgow Clyde College
Glasgow Kelvin College
New College Lanarkshire
Newbattle Abbey College
North East Scotland College
South Lanarkshire College
West College Scotland
West Lothian College

7. Scottish Government Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Reporting

Public Sector Bodies in Scotland, including colleges, are required to annually report and publish their greenhouse gas emissions and impact on climate change. EAUC-Scotland provides support to colleges in their reporting duties and offers guidance on improving reporting quality.

8. College Energy Efficiency Pathfinder Programme (CEEP)

The Scottish Funding Council and Scottish Government support the retrofitting of College Estates to become more energy efficient. Borders College was featured in the 2017/2018 Sustainable Scotland Network's Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Reporting Analysis Report as a case study on the scheme.

9. College Development Network Sustainability Award

The CDN Awards are an annual ceremony recognising talent, skills and achievements of Scottish colleges and their staff and students.

In 2019, Dundee and Angus College won the CDN Sustainability Award. Edinburgh College were 2018 winners.

10. Learning for Sustainability Champions

EAUC-Scotland and Learning for Sustainability Scotland developed the Learning For Sustainability Champions programme. With the free, 10-week programme, one "champion" from every department in a college undertakes training to learn how to embed sustainability in their work, then sharing their learnings with staff and students. The programme was successfully piloted at Dundee and Angus College from January to May 2019.

11. Teach the Future

Teach the Future is a student-led campaign ran by Students Organising for Sustainability – UK (SOS-UK) and UK Student Climate Network (UKSCN). The campaign builds on work done by the National Union for Students (NUS) on education for sustainable development and seeks to address problems in the education sector, including reskilling students in vocational colleges to deliver a transition to low carbon economy and ensuring the climate emergency is a learning entitlement.

12. Responsible Futures

Reponsible Futures is an accreditation system delivered by National Union for Students (NUS) supporting colleges and universities in embedding social responsibility and sustainability in teaching and learning. NUS highlights 30 colleges and universities that have participated in the scheme.

13. Global Goals Teach-In

Global Teach-In is an annual week-long campaign delivered by Students Organising for Sustainability (SOS). The campaign asks college and university lecturers to pledge to embed the Sustainable Development Goals in their teaching for a week in order to share knowledge about the Goals and the challenges they address.

14. Salix Finance

Salix Finance provides interest free loans to the public sector, including the further education sector, to improve energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and lower energy bills. Salix publishes case studies to communicate how their funding is used and has featured nearly ten colleges.

15. Procurement Compacts

The UK Government and the Prince of Wales' Corporate Leaders Group have brought together major public and private customers to form Procurement Compacts to demonstrate to suppliers

to demand for "low to zero" carbon goods and services. Beford College and Wiltshire College are signatories.

16. A Practical Approach to Engaging with Sustainable Development: a Governor's Guide

Association of Colleges published this guide for college governors to engage with sustainable development. The guide provides resources, examples of best practice and information on the wider context of sustainable development in the futher education sector.

17. Professor James Longhurst's Action Plan

Climate Commissioner Prof. James Longhurst has drafted a preliminary action plan for the Climate Commission on how colleges and universities can respond to the climate crisis.

18. Climate Emergency Framework

In the Climate Emergency Framework, EAUC have outlined areas to which institutions must develop a response to tackle the climate crisis. Resources to support these responses are included in the framework. Areas include:

- Leadership and Governance
- Student Outcomes
- Estates and Operations
- Partnerships and Engagements

19. FE News Article

FE News published an article on how colleges can adopt sustainable and low-carbon practices and operations following changes implemented amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

20. Sorting Through the Single-Use Problem

This report features initiatives in universities and colleges that tackle single-use plastics and disposable culture. Although information is primarily collected from interviews with universities, the initiaitves can be adapted to college circumstances. Dundee and Angus College's work to tackle disposable culture is featured in the report.

21. My World My Home

My World My Home is a leadership development programme for young people between the ages of 16-24. The programme teaches participants how to effect change for the environment. Various UK colleges are involved in the programme.

22. Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The 2015 Act requires public bodies to:

- Think about the longterm impact of their actions
- To work better with communities and one another
- Address persistant problems including poverty and the climate crisis

The Act has identified 7 goals that public bodies must realise, including "A resilient Wales" and "A globally responsible Wales." Coleg Cambria aligned their 2016-2020 strategic plan with goals.

23. Commission on the College of the Future

A commission comprised of journalists, further education leaders and government workers etc. that is creating a report answering two fundamental questions:

- What do we want and need from colleges in 10 years' time?
- What changes are needed in order to achieve this?

The report will be informed by an expert panel as well as roundtable and workshop events.

Due to COVID-19, the Commission is developing a new timeline for events and to publish their final report.