

Riverside College

Widnes & Runcorn

MEETING	Finance and Resources Committee
TITLE OF REPORT	Environmental and Sustainability Annual Report 2020/2021
1 INTRODUCTION	This report updates the Committee on the College's sustainability performance in 2020/21
2 MAIN ISSUES	<p>2.1 SECR (Streamlined Energy Carbon Reporting) – metric tonnes CO₂e per student for 2020/21 is 0.10 (0.14 in 19/20).</p> <p>2.2 The external catering operation is committed to reducing climate change.</p> <p>2.3 All curriculum areas are sharing good practice and embedding sustainable practices in curriculum delivery.</p> <p>2.4 The College is following the Climate Action Roadmap for FE Colleges and have graded itself as 'emerging'.</p> <p>2.5 The College has set a net zero target of 2030.</p>
3 ACTION REQUIRED	For information
4 AUTHOR	Julie Holland, Deputy Principal (Finance and Resources) and Simon Smith, Health, Safety & Facilities Officer
5 DATE	17 th November 2021

Finance and Resources Committee -

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY
ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021**

Report by Deputy-Principal (Finance and Resources)

1. Background and Context

It is the policy of the College to promote awareness and understanding of local, national and global environmental issues and, through its own practices, strive to conserve and improve the environment, as well as considering the various Economic and Social Impacts. The Environmental Policy requires that the College report annually on activity and performance.

2. SECR (Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting)

The 2018 Regulations brought in additional emissions disclosure requirements for quoted companies and introduced requirements for large unquoted companies and limited liability partnerships (LLPs) to disclose their annual energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, and related information.

The regulations require large unquoted companies that have consumed more than 40,000Kwh (kilowatt-hours) of energy in the reporting period. Large unquoted companies and large LLPs are now obliged to report their UK energy use and associated greenhouse gas emissions (as a minimum relating to gas, electricity and transport fuel), as well as an intensity ratio and information relating to energy efficiency action, through their annual reports.

The ESFA has confirmed with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) that Colleges are within the scope of the legislation. For Colleges, disclosures will be required for the first time in their 2019/20 accounts. In future years, the prior year equivalent figures are also required to be disclosed for comparison, but this does not apply on a mandatory basis in the first year.

The college is committed to reducing its carbon emissions and have put in measures that are detailed in section 3 of this report.

The college's greenhouse gas emissions and energy use for the period are set out below, it should be noted that the ongoing pandemic has led to college closures in both years:

UK Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data for the period	1 Sep 2020 to 31 Aug 2021	1 Sep 2019 to 31 Aug 2020
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)	2,554,737	2,903,499
<u>Scope 1 emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e</u>		
Gas consumption	222.21	284.79
Owned transport	1.25	5.47
Total	223.46	290.26
<u>Scope 2 emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e</u>		
Purchased electricity	284.85	315.81
<u>Scope 3 emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e</u>		
Business travel in employee-owned vehicles	2.23	7.88
Total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO₂e	510.54	613.95
<u>Intensity ratio</u>		
Metric tonnes CO ₂ e per student	0.10	0.14

Qualification and reporting methodology

We have followed the 2019 HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines. We have also used the GHG Reporting Protocol – Corporate Standard and have used the 2021 UK Government’s Conversion Factors for Company Reporting.

Intensity ratio

The chosen intensity measurement ration is metric tonnes of Carbon Dioxide equivalent per student.

Appendix A – SECR 2019/20

Appendix B – SECR 2020/21

3. The College Estate, Buildings and Building Materials

It is College policy to actively promote the use of sustainable practices in new build projects there are numerous projects that have effectively employed more sustainable technologies and a list of some examples is included below:

- More efficient LED lighting is continually being installed across the estate resulting in much lower running costs
- Promotion of green travel with a ‘cycle to work’ scheme
- The College’s waste provider has reported that the College has recycled or recovered 100% of its waste for the period August 2020 – September 2021
- New heating system completed on C and D floors, works are now complete with the A and B floor heating, along with fire wall works completed on D Floor, B Floor and C Floor.
- LED floodlights around the perimeter of both sites.
- The college is submitting a planning application for a new ‘green technology’ building to situated on the kingsway campus.
- Purchase of one full electric van and one hybrid vehicle for students to work on, enhancing our students learning experience in this new age of electric vehicles.

COVID-19

- The move onto online learning and online meetings has been a huge factor in our move to a more sustainable future.
- Paper usage has dropped throughout the college.
- Meetings are online, so the use of meeting agendas etc. are now shared using MS Teams or email.

4. External Catering Operation

Compass Plc (parent company of Chartwells) treat their environmental responsibilities with high priority, they work actively with the College on sustainability practice; the following measures have been implemented:

- Compass Group UK & Ireland announces commitment to reach Net Zero by 2030
- New 'healthier' meal and menu nutrition criteria developed
- 200 tonnes of surplus food donated to feed people in need
- 787,500 litres of used cooking oil recycled into biodiesel
- Signed up to The UK Plastics Pact (the first contract caterer to join)
- Plastic straws*, stirrers, cotton buds, carrier bags and oxo-biodegradable
- plastics removed from our supply chain (*except for medical use)
- Zero waste sent direct to landfill since 2019 (where we manage the waste)
- Biodegradable food containers being used on all campuses instead of polystyrene.
- Introduction of reusable cups to reduce reliance on plastics for hot drink sales
- 89% of fresh meat is sourced from UK & Ireland
- Working closely with College to use more cashless payments, by using student ID cards for payment.

5. Curriculum Areas Sharing Good Practice

5.1.1 Riverside College is showing its commitment to net zero by 2030 by designing a number of Test and Learn Innovation courses to plug gaps in the green skills set of LCR residents. Several substantial green projects are being built in the Liverpool area due to its unique geographical location but without changes to qualifications companies will struggle to find employees and skilled workers locally, we aimed to change this through our innovation project. Funding provided by the LCRCA has allowed us to create 3 courses as listed below.

- Renewable Principles and Installation
- Renewable Principles and Operational Maintenance
- Electric/Hybrid Vehicle Principles and Maintenance

The Test and Learn innovation project has allowed us to run three night classes and gauge the interest from adult learners from a range of backgrounds. We have been very pleased with the number of learners enrolling and the diverse background from which they have come. Our learners have told us "High quality green focussed qualifications are hard to find we have enjoyed seeing the range of green energy products available as well as learning how they work." Learners have reported to us that they have all learned new skills, some brand new to the area of engineering, and some have used these skills to gain employment, promotions, and new careers routes.

Cronton Fashion students were commissioned by IKEA Warrington to design and make a product upcycled from their famous blue bags. The products should celebrate the brand IKEA,

sustainability and activism within fashion. The final outcomes will be photographed, filmed, shared with IKEA in Warrington and will become part of sustainable fashion show held within the store which students will also help to organise. Using the blue bag as a starting point, they had to reimagine and recycle its purpose and function to create new artwork. Exploring manipulation of the material, pre-cycling, recycling, and reusing.

6 Climate Action Roadmap for FE Colleges

The college is following the 'Climate Action Roadmap for FE Colleges', and in a grading system goes from established to leading we have ourselves as 'Emerging', which is:

- Good understanding of the views of our students and staff on sustainability and their appetite for ambitious change.
A net zero target of 2030, and we plan to reduce our carbon emissions by half by 2025.
- Made a public statement recognising the climate emergency.
- Strategies in place to reduce energy.

An Environmental Action Group has been established which consists of staff and students from across the college, who then report into an overarching group 'SMT Strategy (Green)'. This group includes all SMT members and key managers from across college.

7 Forthcoming Activities to improve sustainability and reduce climate change

- Sharing good practice with other College networks
- Awareness campaigns for staff and students in saving energy
- Continuing to follow the FE Roadmap for Climate Change
- Including low carbon technologies into refurbished facilities.

8 Action Required

The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.