

Riverside College

Widnes & Runcorn

MEETING	Finance and Resources Committee – 22 nd November 2023
TITLE OF REPORT	Environmental and Sustainability Annual Report 2022/23
1 INTRODUCTION	This report updates the Committee on the College's sustainability performance in 2022/23
2 MAIN ISSUES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 The College has adopted the Climate Action Roadmap as the basis of its environmental strategy and has set targets that will enable the College to become a Leading College by December 2025 2 The College has contracted in sustainability consultants (Hillside Environmental) to guide the college in its Net Zero programme. The intensity ratio of tonnes of CO₂e per pupil was 0.091 (22/23), 0.11 (21/22) and 0.14 (20/21). 3 The College has spent over £2m in 2022/23 on refurbishment and maintenance plans, all which address sustainability, and the drive for Net Zero. These include a new air sourced heat pump hot water system and installation of led light sources. 4 The College has made good progress towards the goals and has reached the 'Emerging College' target by the Dec 2022 deadline. Progress is also being made on the established targets.
3 ACTION REQUIRED	For information
4 AUTHOR	Julie Holland, Deputy Principal (Finance and Resources) and Simon Smith, Health, Safety & Facilities Officer
5 DATE	10 th November 2023

Finance and Resources Committee -

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY
ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23**

Report by Deputy-Principal (Finance and Resources)

1 Background and Context

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 The College has adopted the Climate Action Roadmap as the basis of it's environmental strategy and has set targets that will enable the College to become a Leading College by December 2025. This report will update on progress towards these targets (last year's progress is in italics).

2 Leadership and Governance

2.1 Leadership and Governance Goals:

	Update	By When
Emerging Activity		Dec 2022
Gather views on sustainability	<i>Meeting took place between Riverside College, Halton Housing and Halton Borough Council. 22//09/22 named Climate Alliance Halton. Four outcomes a) Awareness raising, b) Purchase Power c) Sustainability Project =Biodiversity Possible Plan. d) Mapping of existing sustainability plans across the borough.</i>	<i>Complete</i>
Establish a sustainability group	<i>Group established however curriculum teams meet in splinter groups to take the "green" agenda further.</i>	<i>Complete</i>
Hold a workshop with leaders to establish net-zero targets	<i>Hillside have provided the Scope 3 emissions 2121TCO2e and a plan for net zero.</i>	<i>Complete</i>

Publish targets	<i>Targets published on website</i>	<i>Complete</i>
Established Activity		Dec 2023
Establish ring fenced budget	<p><i>Budget to be developed following Hillside's report and included in future financial plans.</i></p> <p>The financial plan agreed in July '23 includes £26m of capital investment over the next 5 years. This investment will establish a Green Technology build at KW, a new Music Hub and Teaching Block at Cronton and overclad and better insulate the KW building. All of these projects will help to reduce the carbon footprint as they improve on the current facilities.</p>	<p><i>On-going</i></p> <p>On-going</p>
Develop reporting schedule against net-zero target	<p><i>At each meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee governors receive an update on environmental and sustainability actions since the last meeting</i></p> <p><i>At each Board meeting, governors are advised of progress and consider any changes to strategic direction</i></p> <p>Throughout 22/23 the SMT Green Strategy Group met regularly and updated on progress</p>	<p><i>On-going</i></p> <p>Complete</p>
Leading Activity		Dec 2025
Incorporate sustainability in all governance arrangements	Flexible modes of working have been introduced so that Governor's meetings (and attendance) can be held virtually. On-line written resolutions have also been agreed.	On-going

3 Data Collection

3.1 Data Collection Goals:

	Update	By When
Emerging Activity		Dec 2022
Upskill on measuring emissions	<i>The college has contracted in sustainability consultants (Hillside Enviromental) to guide the college in its Net Zero programme.</i>	<i>Complete</i>

Measure college carbon footprint using all available data	<p><i>For 21/22 the college has a total of 2,852 TC02e (tonnes (t) of carbon dioxide (CO2) equivalent (e).</i></p> <p>Scope 1 & 2 - 732 TC02e Scope 3 - 2,121 TC02e For 22/23 – see attached report</p>	Complete
Established Activity		Dec 2023
Develop and implement plan to measure scope 3 emissions	<p>Scope 3 - 2,121 TC02e</p> <p>For 22/23 – see attached report The intensity ratio of tonnes of CO2e per pupil was 0.091 (22/23), 0.11 (21/22) and 0.14 (20/21).</p>	On-going
Leading Activity		Dec 2025
Share best practice in data collection	The SECR is published on our website, as more colleges follow this practice it will be easier to benchmark. However, the college attends Staffs University sustainability meetings, which include all their stakeholders, and, in discussion, appear to benchmark well against this group.	On-going

4 Teaching and Learning

4.1 Teaching and Learning Goals:

	Comment	By When
Emerging Activity		Dec 2022
Deliver carbon literacy training to staff and students	<p><i>Design and delivery 1-day carbon literacy training to all staff and students with support from the Carbon Literacy Project.</i></p> <p><i>Deliver in tutorials, 'green citizens'</i></p> <p><i>Carbon Literacy training to be developed into 22/23 link to Halton Council and Halton Housing to increase impact across the borough</i></p> <p><i>The Painting and decorating team have designed and painted two murals at both campuses, one in the reception area at Kingsway and the other in conservatory at Cronton.</i></p>	Complete

	<p><i>The college is to hold a Q&A session for students with college leaders on sustainability</i></p> <p>Student Green conference held in 22/23 and 200 seed bombs were produced and planted.</p>	
Established Activity		Dec 2023
Audit college curriculum against the SDGs	<p><i>Sustainability elements in all schemes of work.</i></p> <p>Plan for Learning audit identified elements of sustainability in all schemes of work and walk-through identified good practice.</p>	<p><i>On-going</i></p> <p>On-going</p>
Leading Activity		Dec 2025
Train and support teaching staff in designing curriculum which incorporates SDGs		

6 Estates and Operations

5.1 Estates and Operations Goals:

	Comment	By When
Emerging Activity		Dec 2022
Implement strategies to reduce energy use	<p><i>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:</i></p> <p><i>More efficient LED lighting is continually being installed across the estate resulting in much lower running costs</i></p> <p><i>Promotion of green travel with a 'cycle to work' scheme and Electric Car Scheme (Awaiting sign off)</i></p> <p><i>The College's waste provider has reported that the College has recycled or</i></p>	<i>Complete/On-going</i>

	<p><i>recovered 100% of its waste for the period August 2021 – September 2022</i></p> <p><i>The college has been given planning approval for a new 'green technology' building to be situated on the kingsway campus. The college is now working towards the project and has a full design team on board.</i></p> <p>The College has spent over £2m in 2022/23 on refurbishment and maintenance plans, all which address sustainability, and the drive for Net Zero. These include a new air sourced heat pump hot water system and installation of led light sources.</p>	
Ensure recycling/signage is available in every building	<i>Signage in every building – bins for food wastage need further investigation</i>	<i>Complete</i>
Established Activity		Dec 2023
Set and implement target to reduce waste in the college by 50%	<p><i>Reduction of waste is tied in with food waste collection and other recycling measures.</i></p> <p>Much work has been done in reducing the amount of printing, energy, and plastic usage across college</p>	<p><i>On-going</i></p> <p>On-going</p>
Modify property strategy in line with net-zero targets	<p><i>Property plans to incorporate Hillside's net zero plan when fully established</i></p> <p>The financial plan agreed in July '23 includes £26m of capital investment over the next 5 years. This investment will establish a Green Technology build at KW, a new Music Hub and Teaching Block at Cronton and overclad and better insulate the KW building. All of these projects will help to reduce the carbon footprint as they improve on the current facilities.</p>	<p><i>On-going</i></p> <p>On-going</p>
Implement new travel policy to reduce emissions from long-haul travel	A travel policy has been produced for both sites, which includes how students and staff can be encouraged to be more sustainable in their travel options. Cycle storage has been greatly improved and	On-going

	the current bus supplier will be fully electric by October 2024.	
Leading Activity		Dec 2025
Implement renewable energy on a part of/all the estate	The college is planning a green energy building which will have a small wind turbine on the roof with some solar panels. The IDEA centre already has solar installed.	On-going
Expand travel policy to reduce emissions from commuting	A travel policy has been produced for both sites, which includes how students and staff can be encouraged to be more sustainable in their travel options. Cycle storage has been greatly improved and the current bus supplier will be fully electric by October 2024.	On-going

6 Partnerships and Engagement

6.1 Partnerships and Engagement Goals:

	Comment	By When
Emerging Activity		Dec 2022
Negotiate with food suppliers to supply sustainable food options	<p><i>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</i></p> <p><i>Low Carbon Menus – using plant based ingredients</i></p> <p><i>Carbon footprint 1.2m tCO₂e</i></p> <p><i>Engaged with over 500 farmers with Dairy representing 10% of their emissions.</i></p> <p><i>Car scheme to reach 100% electric.</i></p> <p><i>Banned air freight for all fruit and veg.</i></p> <p><i>Signed up to The UK Plastics Pact (the first contract caterer to join)</i></p>	<i>Complete</i>

	<p><i>Plastic straws*, stirrers, cotton buds, carrier bags and oxo-biodegradable plastics removed from our supply chain (*except for medical use)</i></p> <p><i>Zero waste sent direct to landfill since 2019 (where we manage the waste)</i></p> <p><i>Working closely with College to use more cashless payments, by using student ID cards for payment.</i></p> <p>At the beginning of 2023, Compass Group UK & Ireland published its first in-depth climate impact report, reporting a 36% reduction in emissions from animal proteins following 18 months of targeted climate action. This achievement contributed to a significant 187,084 tCO2e absolute reduction in emissions (-20.37%) reported in its food and drink emissions alone (Scope 3, Category 1) between FY19 (its baseline year) and FY22</p>	
Sign the Global Climate Letter	<p><i>Signed</i></p> <p>The LCRCA's objective of Net Zero by 2040 has been signed alongside all other LCR colleges</p>	<i>Complete</i>
Established Activity		Dec 2023
Sign the SDG Accord	<i>Signed</i>	<i>Complete</i>
Establish climate action network with local council	<p><i>Meeting took place between Riverside College, Halton Housing and Halton Borough Council. 22//09/22 named Climate Alliance Halton. Four outcomes a) Awareness raising, b) Purchase Power c) Sustainability Project =Biodiversity Possible Plan. d) Mapping of existing sustainability plans across the borough.</i></p>	<i>Complete</i>
Develop fossil fuel divestment plan	<p><i>Hillside plan is now in place with the college looking at Plan A (PV) following a longer conversation on whether ground source heat or hydrogen should follow for phase B.</i></p>	<i>On-going</i>
Leading Activity		Dec 2025

Partner with local community/council/businesses to improve local biodiversity	<i>Meeting took place between Riverside College, Halton Housing and Halton Borough Council. 22//09/22 named Climate Alliance Halton. Four outcomes a) Awareness raising, b) Purchase Power c) Sustainability Project =Biodiversity Possible Plan. d) Mapping of existing sustainability plans across the borough.</i> Meeting to be held to establish best way forward.	<i>On-going</i>
Apply for a Green Crown or AoC Beacon Award		

7 Overall Summary

- 7.1 The College has made good progress towards the goals and has reached the 'Emerging College' target by the Dec 2022 deadline. Progress is now being made on the established targets.
- 7.2 Attached to this report is the Streamlined Energy and Carbon Report (SECR for 22/23). The College will now update both property and financial plans to include Hillside's recommendations going forward and use current capital grants as a source of funding.

8 Action Required

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