

Climate Change Emergency Action Plan (CCEAP) 2025-2026

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Quick Links

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Section 1: Foreword

South Lanarkshire College's commitment to responding to climate change has been evident for more than fifteen years. Through remodelling the campus, embedding sustainability into the curriculum, and developing our staff, we can clearly illustrate that climate change is at the forefront of all we do.

Since 2009, the College has actively reduced its carbon emissions (tco₂) from 3306 tCo₂, to 788.72 tCo₂ by installing a range of sustainable technologies. All three College buildings have solar panels, ground and air source heat pumps, and rainwater harvesting systems installed, with a fabric first approach including insulation and air tightness. In partnership with Dawn Homes, Scotland's first affordable, low-energy, low-carbon house suitable for mass production was built within the College campus. The learning from this innovative approach to building, informed the project team when constructing the Building Research Establishment Environment Assessment Methodology (BREEAM) "outstanding" teaching block. The College is proud that these two buildings are not only utilised as a teaching space, but also as a teaching resource to demonstrate sustainable behaviours which inspire and inform students, staff, and stakeholders.

The College is ambitious and fully supports achieving net zero by 2040 or earlier as set out by the Scottish Colleges' Statement of Commitment to the Climate Emergency. From the baseline date of 2009, the college has reduced its carbon emissions by 2402tco₂. It is envisaged that the College will continue to reduce year on year by 60tco₂. South Lanarkshire College centres its Climate Emergency Action Plan around the five elements of the "Climate Action Roadmap for UK FE Colleges."

Implementing and overseeing this plan will inspire the College to continuously invest and allocate resources, using the savings from the year-on year decreased energy usage to create new curriculum, generate additional partnerships and ensure the sustained the longevity of the buildings. The result of which will be a college that serves its local and regional communities and makes a positive contribution to a greener, cleaner, and brighter Scotland for all.

Section 2: Executive Summary

Targets have been set by The Scottish Government to reduce Scotland's emissions of all greenhouse gasses by 2040. These plans and targets are set out in the Climate Change: Net Zero Nation. [About Net Zero | Net Zero Nation](#). The Public Sector Leadership on the Global Climate Emergency document, [Public sector leadership on the global climate emergency: guidance - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#) published by the Scottish Government provides guidance to assist Public Sector Leaders on achieving net-zero.

This Climate Change Emergency Action Plan (CCEAP) details South Lanarkshire College's commitment to achieving net-zero emissions by 2040 and reducing its carbon emissions by 100 tCO₂ year on year to achieve an interim target of 242 tCO₂ by 2030 by addressing the implications of climate change, promoting sustainable behaviours within the College community as well as to industry partners and stakeholders. The planned actions to achieve net-zero contained within the document will be updated annually by the Sustainability Leads. Since the baseline year of 2009/2010 South Lanarkshire College has been highly successful and consistent in reducing its emissions despite the growth of the College footprint.

The graphs below show that the College has taken the necessary steps to reduce its Electricity, Gas and Water consumption, and the charts below demonstrate the progress the College has made over a three-year period, 2022-2025 as the snapshot of the last 3 years demonstrates.

Chart 1: Electricity Usage

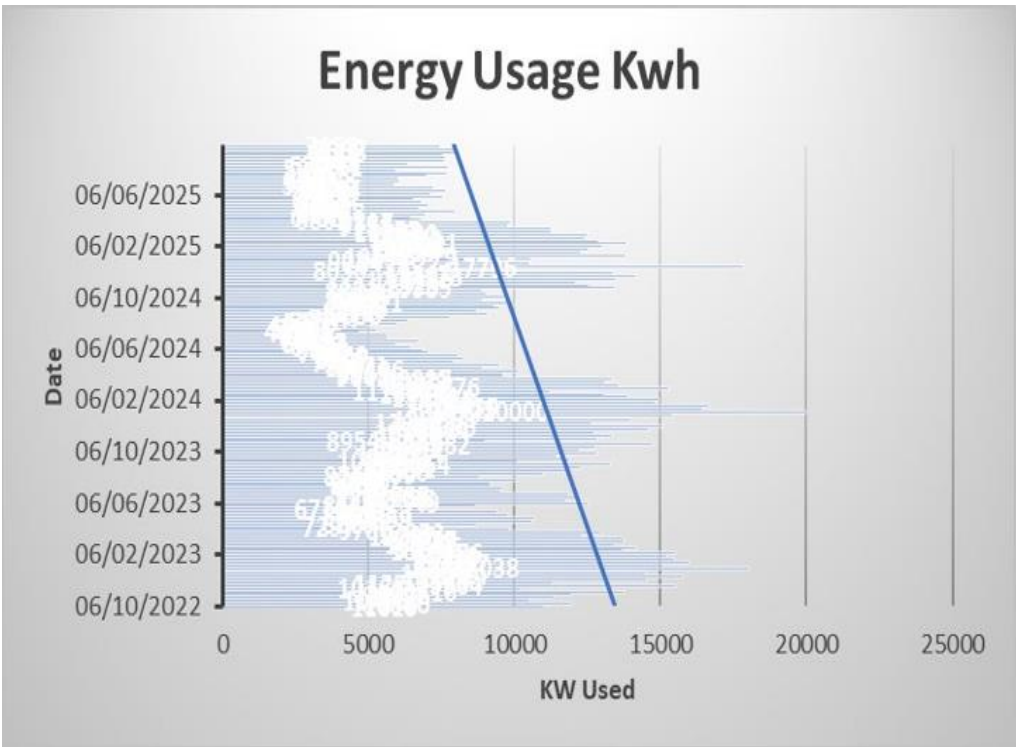


Chart 2: Gas Usage

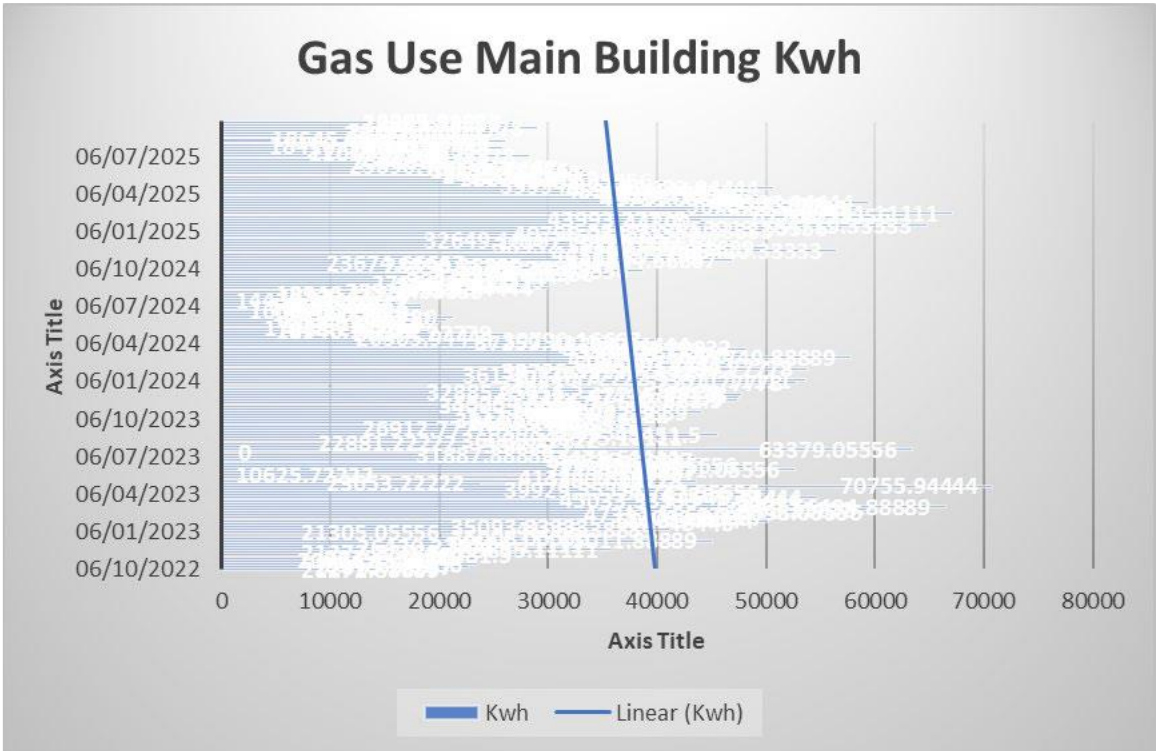


Chart 3: Water Usage

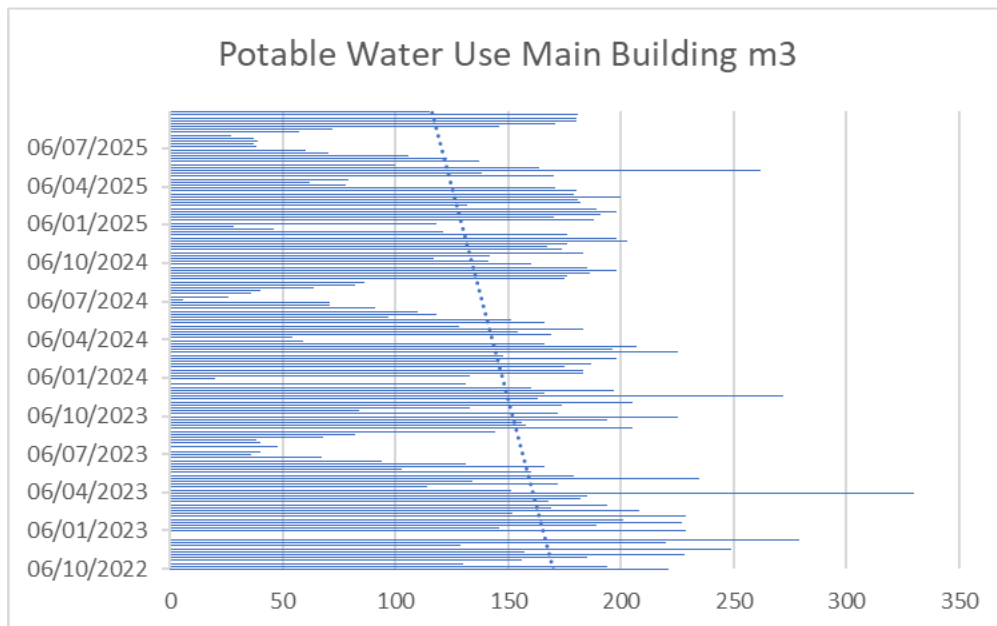
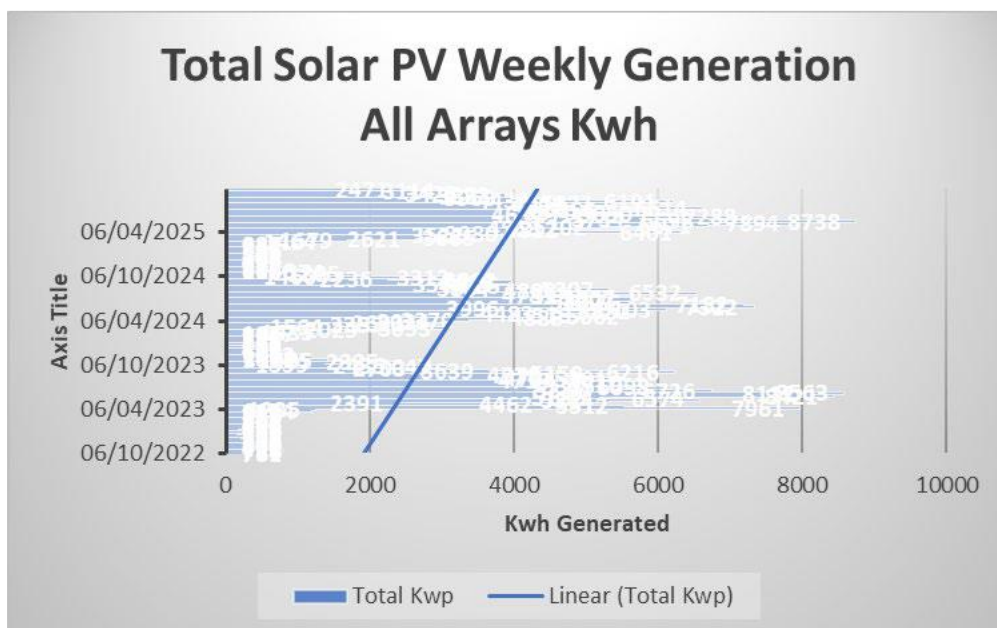


Chart 4: Electrical Generation Solar PV



Section 3: The Further and Higher Education Roadmap

In collaboration with The Climate Commission and the management consultancy Nous Group, a Climate Action of UK FE Colleges Roadmap has been developed. This Roadmap provides clear actions and guidance on how colleges can promote sustainability and respond to the climate emergency. South Lanarkshire College has used this Roadmap to assess its current standing and to assist in the development of a strategy to net-zero.

The five elements of this Roadmap are:

- Leadership and Governance
- Teaching and Learning
- Estates and Operations
- Partnership and Engagement
- Data Collection

Section 4: The Journey to Net-Zero

South Lanarkshire College will use the five elements of the Climate Action Roadmap for UK FE Colleges to develop the objectives and targets outlined in this CCEAP. The detail of these elements is set out below.

- Leadership and Governance: To provide a leadership and governance framework to ensure that the strategic aims and objectives of the college are implemented.
- Teaching and Learning: To promote and raise awareness that teaching and learning provides students and staff with the knowledge and understanding to achieve sustainable future.
- Estates and Operations: To establish base lines, against which targets can be set and measure the impact of the college's estate-based activities.
- Partnerships and Engagements: To develop long term partnerships to share the challenges and opportunities associated with achieving the net-zero targets.
- Data Collection: To gain and have a clearer understanding of the carbon outputs of the college. This will allow the College to utilise the information to make changes on its journey to net zero.

The table below sets out the College's assessment against the five elements of the roadmap, and it is the ambition of the College to be "leading" in all five elements within five years.

Table 1: South Lanarkshire College Assessment

Element	Emerging Colleges which are just beginning to address sustainability.	Established Colleges with an established approach to sustainability.	Leading Colleges which are models to others on sustainability.
Leadership and Governance		√	
Teaching and Learning			√
Estates and Operations		√	
Partnership and Engagement			√
Data Collection		√	

Section 5: Leadership and Governance

Where are we now?

A system for climate change governance exists within the College, and the strategic priorities, approved by the South Lanarkshire Board of Management (BOM), set out "Sustainable Behaviours" as a key ambition. A cohesive approach to sustainability is delivered through The Climate Change Action Team (CCAT) which consists of representatives from college management, the Student Association, college departments, and curriculum areas. This group meets monthly to monitor progress, implement initiatives and promote climate change behaviours throughout the college. The Climate Change Operational Leads report on the progress of outcomes quarterly to the College Senior Leadership Team, and this progress is reported

quarterly to the Board of Management through the Finance and Resources Committee.

Where do we want to be?

Table 2 sets out South Lanarkshire College's targets and progress to date against these targets.

Table 2: Leadership and Governance Roadmap/Organisational Targets

Action	Target Date	Progress
CCEAP to be updated and agreed annually with the BOM		
Once agreed SLT and Finance and Resource Committee to be updated twice per year on the progress of the CCEAP and CCAT		
Review and update the College Sustainability Policy		
Continue to explore alternative sources of income and funding opportunities through establishing which funding streams would support the College's climate change ambitions		
Showcase good practice throughout the college and wider community		
Embed climate change actions within the College community ensuring it is a key performance indicator and discussed at curriculum and departmental progress reviews		
Achieve Carbon Literate Organisation Standard		
Complete Leaders Climate Emergency Checklist		
Embed sustainable behaviours in staff induction and development.		
Review membership of CCAT annually		
Integrate actions across curriculum and departmental teams to promote climate change awareness and sustainability.		
Complete Climate Change Risk Assessment		

Section 6 Teaching and Learning

Where are we now?

The College recognises that it has a valuable role to play in fostering awareness of climate change and sustainable behaviours to the College community, the wider local community, stakeholders, and partners. The College has identified that there is an increasing number of students enrolling in the College who are aware of the impact of climate change and the need to improve sustainable behaviours.

The college has been at the forefront of changes within the curriculum to embed qualifications that prepare learners for the future skills required to meet key Government targets, in line with The Climate Emergency Skills Action Plan (CESAP)

The College not only realises it has a responsibility to capture this enthusiasm and to provide teaching and learning opportunities to students, and stakeholders, but proactively provides this together with development opportunities for staff.

Where do we want to be?

Table 3: Teaching and Learning Roadmap/Organisational Targets

Action	Target Date	Progress
Carbon literacy training to be available to staff and students		
CCAT to include colleagues from across all curriculum areas to engage and enhance sustainable behaviours within learning and teaching.		
Undertake a mapping exercise to identify where Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are embedded into the curriculum		

Section 7: Estates and Operations

Where are we now?

The College was constructed in 2008 and delivers a range further and higher education courses to approximately 4,000 students. The building has an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC).

In 2009, the College launched a low carbon house project with over 53 partner companies to construct the first affordable low-energy low-carbon house for the mass market. The house would also help combat fuel poverty. This property achieved an A+ EPC with all technologies including solar photovoltaics (PV), solar thermal, ground source heat pump, rainwater harvesting and much more. Fabric was the key ingredient within the build to minimise heat loss and maximise heat input. This work received accolades and was the subject of Scottish parliamentary motions. It catalysed change in the construction curriculum and is now embedded in other parts of the curriculum too.

As the College has grown, and required more space, it embarked on a similar project on a commercial scale. In 2016 the College opened the first Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) outstanding build in the UK.

Both projects received the Green Gown Award from the Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education (EAUC). The two additional standalone builds generate power through solar PV and heat by ground source heat pumps, exporting any additional energy to the national grid.

Over the last eight years, the main building of the college has been adapted to incorporate 220Kwp solar PV systems, air source and ground source heat pumps within the construction wing.

Where do we want to be?

Table 4: Estates and Operations Roadmap/Organisational Targets

Action	Target Date	Progress
Install Building Management System		
Complete and submit Heatworks: Building Assessment Report to Local Authority.		
Publish a revised estates strategy		
Complete the SFC Baseline survey for the sector wide estates/infrastructure policy		
Install solar car ports incorporating battery storage and battery walls.		
Decarbonise the building from gas to electric supplies		
Install system to improve waste management and recycling.		

The College will benefit from technology adoptions to help meet the proposed net zero timeframe. These include:

- Decarbonisation of Gas Boilers
- Removal of stored Hot Water
- Solar car ports with battery storage
- Additional heat pumps to take over 100% heat provision
- Battery wall storage
- Water conservation via taps, cisterns and so on
- Airtightness of building

- Mechanical Ventilation with Heat Recovery
- Upgrade central building management system (BMS)

Section 8: Partnerships and Engagement

Where are we now?

The College recognises that collaborative working with industry and professional partners and key stakeholders is essential to achieving net-zero targets. It is proud that this partnership engagement will ensure the most effective outcomes for students and the community which it serves. The Senior Leadership Team is committed to working collaboratively with current partners whilst seeking opportunities to develop further partnerships which promote sustainability activities, raise awareness of the impact of climate change and share the benefits of the circular green economy. The College benefits from hosting key events with external partners which include:

- The Energy Skills Partnerships (ESP)
- STEM
- Scottish and Northern Ireland Plumbing Employers Federation (SNIPEF)
- Energy Saving Trust (EST)
- National House Building Conference (NHBC) Conference
- Mobile Heat Pump Training and Assessment Facility
- Cycling Scotland
- Whitelees Wind Farm
- (EAUC)
- Marine Conservation Society
- CLIC

In addition, several curriculum areas work with industry and professional partners who are extremely valuable enriching the students' learning experience such as Built Environment Smarter Transition (BE-ST)

Table 5: Partnership and Engagement: Roadmap and Organisational Targets

Action	Target Date	Progress
Further develop partnerships with industry and other key stakeholders to promote and develop the climate change ambitions of the College		

Section 9: Data Collection

Where are we now?

College staff collect weekly data from various sources to paint a picture of utilities used against consumption. This information is passed to the Principalship to present to the Finance and Resources Committee on a quarterly basis to showcase the need for capital investment and savings and included in the annual Public Body Climate Change Report (PBCCR) The following charts demonstrate the data presented.

Chart 4: Main Building Energy Generated v Used Update charts yearly

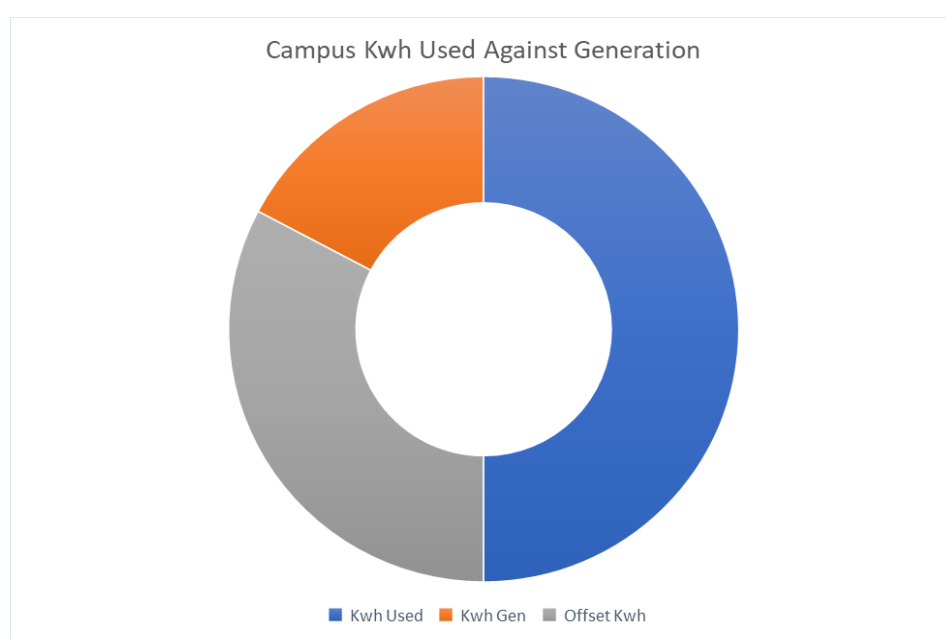


Table 5: Data Collection Roadmap and Organisational Targets

Action	Target Date	Progress
Develop Live data streams from generation sources to website		
Data conversion uploaded to Power BI		

Section 10: Equality and Diversity

There are no matters for people with protected characteristics which arises from this plan.

Section 11: Risks

The College is committed to implementing and achieving the targets outlined in this plan; however, potential risks have been identified within this document.

Table 7: Risks

Risk	Mitigation
Climate Change Actions within the College do not progress	A college wide CCAT has been established to monitor the actions contained within this plan
Climate change activities and behaviours are not embraced by the college community	Promote the benefits of climate change through the CCAT, Student Association, and partners
Failure to comply with planned and long-term strategies	Operational Climate Change Leads meet regularly to lead others to progress climate change within the College
The College may not be able to support projects if additional funding cannot be sourced or available.	Funding applications are submitted.
Failure to comply with climate change regulations could lead to fines, legal actions and operational restrictions.	Climate change data and statistics are included in financial statements and the annual Public Body Climate Change Report (PBCCR).
Failure to meet climate change targets could result in reputational damage with both suppliers and students	Procurement is carried out with a strong focus on sustainability, and the Student Association actively supports climate change initiatives.

Table 8: Action Plan September 2025 to August 2026

Activity	Aug. 2025	Sept. 2025	Oct. 2025	Nov. 2025	Dec. 2025	Jan. 2026	Feb. 2026	March 2026	April 2026	May 2026	June 2026	Aug. 2026
Leadership and Governance												
CEAP to be updated and agreed annually with the BOM												
SLT and Finance and Resource Committee to be updated three times per year												
Review and update Sustainability Policy												
Complete Climate Change Risk Assessment												
Continue to explore alternative sources of income and funding												
Showcase good practice throughout the College community												
Embed climate change actions within the College community ensuring it is a key performance indicator and discussed at progress reviews												

Activity	Aug. 2025	Sept. 2025	Oct. 2025	Nov. 2025	Dec. 2025	Jan. 2026	Feb. 2026	March 2026	April 2026	Ma6 2025	June 2026	Aug. 2026
Achieve Carbon Literate Organisation Standard												
Complete Leaders Climate Emergency Checklist												
Embed sustainable behaviours throughout staff induction and development												
Review membership Climate Change Action Team												
Integrate actions across curriculum and departmental teams to promote climate change awareness and sustainable behaviours												
Carbon literacy training to be available to staff and students.												

Activity	Aug. 2025	Sept. 2025	Oct. 2025	Nov. 2025	Dec. 2025	Jan. 2026	Feb. 2026	March 2026	April 2026	May 2026	June 2026	Aug. 2026
Teaching and Learning												
CCAT to include colleagues from across all curriculum areas to engage and enhance sustainable behaviours within learning and teaching.												
Undertake a mapping exercise to identify where Sustainable Goals are embedded in the curriculum												
Estates and Operations												
Instal Building Management System												
Complete and submit Heatworks: Building Assessment Report to Local Authority												
Review solar car ports incorporating battery storage and battery walls (external)												

Activity	Aug. 2025	Sept. 2025	Oct. 2025	Nov. 2025	Dec. 2025	Jan. 2026	Feb. 2026	March 2026	April 2026	May 2026	June 2026	Aug. 2026
Decarbonise the building from gas to electricity												
Review system to improve waste management and recycling												
Publish a revised estates strategy												
Complete the SFC Baseline Survey for the sector wide estates/infrastructure policy												
Partnerships												
Renew University and Colleges Race to Net Zero Pledge												
Further develop partnerships with key stakeholders.												
Data Collection												
Develop live data streams from generation sources to website												
Data conversion uploaded to Power BI												

