

Climate and Sustainability Strategy


CHELMSFORD COLLEGE SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

All colleges can make an impactful contribution to the UK government's target of net zero emissions by 2050. Our Sustainability Strategy sets out the actions Chelmsford College is taking to reduce emissions and educate our community on climate change.

The strategy is mapped to the DfE's Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy and the AoC's Green College Commitment and Climate Action Roadmap.

EMISSIONS

In Autumn 2022 the College published its Streamlined Energy and Carbon Report 2021/22 which set out the following baselines against which to measure progress:

	
Gross emissions (Tonnes of CO ₂)	569
Tonnes CO ₂ per member of staff	1.71

KEY AIMS

Chelmsford College has a vision to be one of the leading colleges in sustainable practice and will be a pioneer in developing ways to reduce emissions with a view to be net zero by 2040

Net Zero by 2040

75% reduction in emissions by 2035

OBJECTIVES

Each of our high-level objectives will be realised through the achievement of 16 key aims clustered together under 6 of the following themes:



COMMUNITY

- (1) Sustainable supply chain
- (2) Community of practice active
- (3) Climate & Sustainability Transformation Group developed



CULTURE

- (4) Behaviour changes adopted
- (5) Sustainability embedded in College values



CURRICULUM

- (6) Carbon literacy training for all staff and students
- (7) Green skills courses delivered
- (8) Sustainability embedded into all courses



CAMPUS

- (9) Energy efficient buildings
- (10) 90% of waste recycled
- (11) Heat Decarbonisation Plan in place



CAREERS

- (13) Green Skills Careers programme fully developed
- (14) Course aligned to green jobs of the future



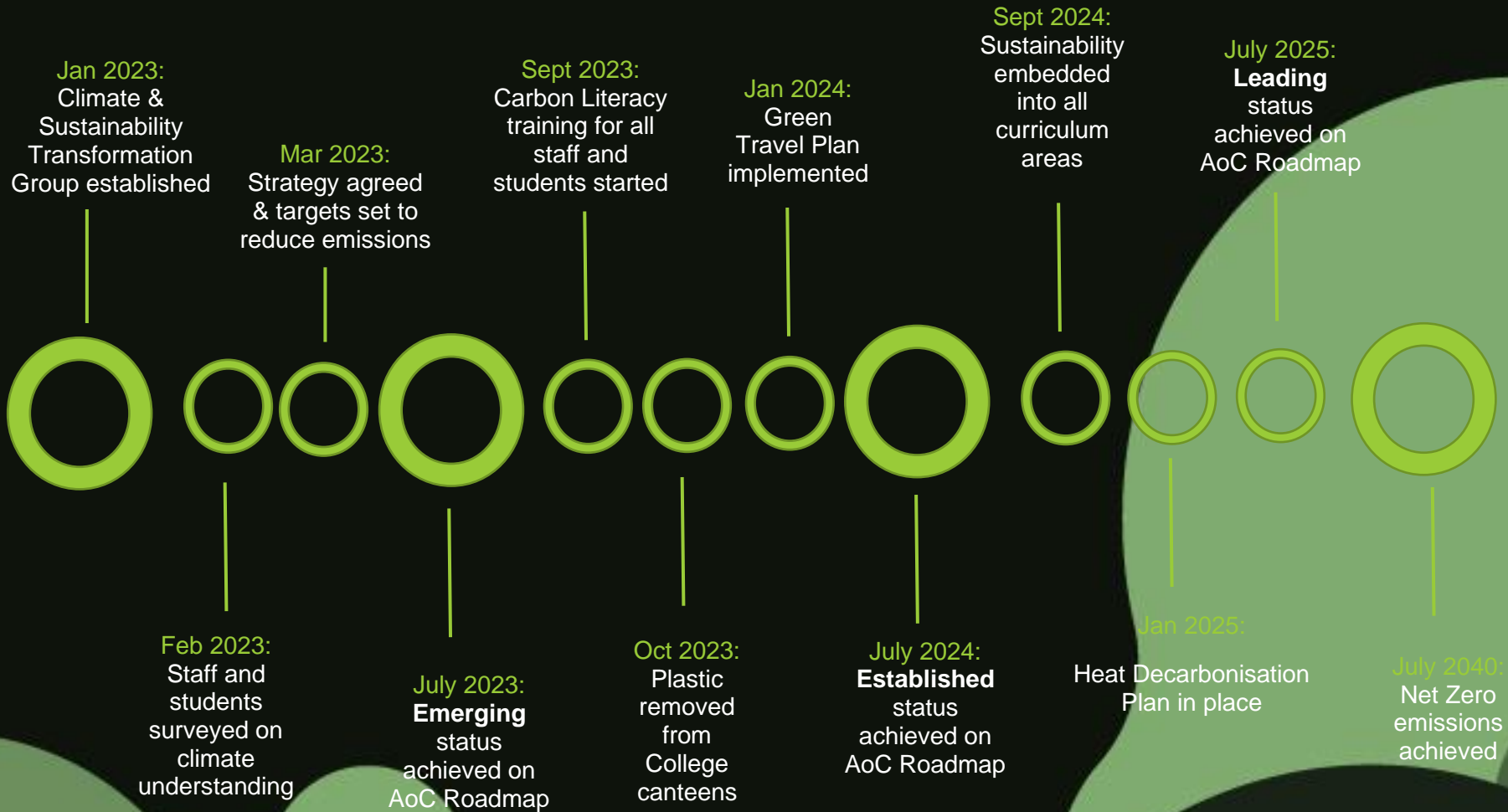
COLLABORATION

- (15) Partnership working to adopt best practice
- (16) Joint projects with external stakeholders

“The final chapter is ours to write. We know what we need to do. What happens next is up to us”

Sir David Attenborough

OUR ROADMAP



KEY PRINCIPLES

Environmental, Social Governance (ESG)

The strategy is aligned to a wider set of principles that ultimately inform the measures and goals that the College will work towards.

- **Environmental.** The impact that we have on the environment and on climate change, including its energy consumption, waste disposal practices, and carbon emission levels.
- **Social.** The promotion of inclusivity, diversity, and equality within the College, and the treatment and safety of employees. Social factors include the impact the College has on the communities around it or in which it does business, and include volunteer schemes, sponsorships, and partnerships.
- **Governance.** The manner in which the College governs itself, makes ethical decisions, deals with conflicts of interest, meets the needs of stakeholders, and complies with the laws of its jurisdiction.

Climate Action Roadmap

The Climate Commission for UK Higher and Further Education was established in November 2019. Its goal is to develop a strategic, sector-wide approach to tackle the climate emergency. The Commission went on to develop a 'road map' for further education colleges to reach the net zero target. The College will adopt the Climate Action Roadmap⁵ as a framework to drive this strategy. The roadmap includes three 'levels' to approach sustainability, organised by different levels of maturity:

- **Emerging:** colleges just beginning to address sustainability
- **Established:** colleges with an established approach to sustainability and structures in place to support it
- **Leading:** colleges which are models to others on sustainability



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Community

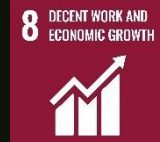
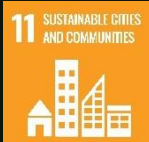
Culture

Curriculum

Campus

Careers

Collaboration



“There is no ‘Plan B’ because we do not have a ‘Planet B’; We have to work to galvanize our action”

UN Secretary-General

Colleges have an important role to play in working towards the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), introduced in 2015. Chelmsford College will seek to lead agendas that build social and economic sustainability through partnerships with local communities and beyond, aligning our 6 key objectives to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

ACTION PLAN

Across the UK and internationally, pioneering colleges are developing new organisational models to lead and implement their sustainability and net zero ambitions. Historically, activity communities and beyond

Key Areas	Our actions	Mapped to DfE Sustainability Strategy	Mapped to AoC Green College Commitment	Mapped to UN SDG	Achieved by	Responsible Dept
Community	Establish a Climate and Sustainability Transformation Group	✓	✓		Feb 23	College Executive Group
	Set up a Climate and Sustainability online Suggestion Box and report ideas to the Climate and Sustainability Transformation Group		✓		Feb 23	College Executive Group
	Set up a Race to Zero article in each Staff & Student Newsletters			✓	Mar 23	College Executive Group
	Work with Student Ambassadors to drive awareness raising and sustainability actions	✓		✓	May 23	Student Services
	Develop a Community of Practice and Climate Action Network with local stakeholders	✓	✓	✓	July 23	College Executive Group
	Update key staff on methodology of measuring emissions		✓	✓	July 23	Estates
	Include sustainability credentials into supply chain procurement		✓	✓	Sept 23	Essex Shared Services
	Work with local community groups to improve bio-diversity	✓	✓	✓	Jan 24	Senior Management Team
Culture	Commit to the Race to Zero Universities and Colleges pledge		✓		Jan 23	Senior Management Team
	Survey staff and students on climate awareness and behaviours		✓		Feb 23 / annually	Student Services

	All staff and students to make a pledge on reducing their carbon footprint (part of the CLP outcomes)	✓			July 23	HR
	Sign the Global Climate Change letter and SDG Accord	✓	✓	✓	July 23	Senior Management Team
	Investigate agile working options with a view to formalising 'work from home' arrangements			✓	Sept 23	HR
	Develop a Climate risk management approach		✓		Sept 23	College Executive Group
	Incorporate sustainability into Governance arrangements		✓		Sept 23	Director of Governance
	Engage in the Big Green Week, including short films, exhibitions, rewilding workshops, tree planting etc	✓			Oct 23 / annually	Student Services
	Apply for the Green Gown Award		✓		July 24	Senior Management Team
	Involve students in competitions (eg poster design, £10 challenge) and behaviour change initiatives, with incentive and reward schemes		✓		July 23	Student Services / Teachers
Curriculum	Embed climate change and sustainability into the PDP programme	✓	✓	✓	Mar 23	Curriculum
	Participate in the AoC Planet Earth Games		✓		Sept 23	Curriculum (SaPS)
	All staff and students to engage with the Carbon Literacy Project	✓	✓	✓	Sept 23	Curriculum
	Develop Light, mid and dark green skills courses in the curriculum	✓			Sept 23	Curriculum (Construction)

	Consider L1/2 Award in Environmental Sustainability for Study Programme students	✓			Jan 24	Curriculum
	Introduce a Climate Leaders Award	✓			Jan 24	Curriculum / Student Services
	Audit curriculum against SDG		✓	✓	July 24	Curriculum
	Train teaching staff to embed sustainability into all curriculum courses	✓	✓	✓	Sept 24	Curriculum
Campus	Modify Estates Strategy in line with net-zero targets		✓		July 23	College Executive Team
	Set and publish targets for energy reduction	✓	✓	✓	Jan 23 / annually	College Executive Team
	Measure emissions on an annual basis		✓		Annually	Estates
	Replace College Van with electric alternatives	✓	✓	✓	Oct 23	Estates
	Implement strategies to reduce energy use and change behaviours		✓		Feb 23	Senior Leadership Team
	Implement a Green Travel Plan & measure Scope 3 emissions		✓		Sept 23	Senior Leadership Team
	Investigate/install electric charging points for cars at each campus	✓		✓	Sept 23	Estates
	Promote Cycle to Work Scheme	✓		✓	Sept 23	HR
	Promote sustainable food options – meat free days	✓	✓	✓	Jan 23	Refectory

Reduce single use plastic in all college canteens & source options for reusable/ recyclable catering packing	✓	✓	✓	Oct 23	Refectory
Internal audit schedule to include an audit of environmental reporting	✓	✓	✓	Nov 23	College Executive Team
Set and implement targets to reduce waste on campus		✓		April 23	Estates
Terracycle (crisp packet recycling project) to be undertaken by Extended Learning students			✓	March 23	Curriculum (Extended Learning)
Install clothes swap rail at both campuses			✓	Termly	Curriculum (Creative Design)
Install bug houses made by students			✓	July 23	Curriculum (Extended Learning)
Ensure signage for recycling and % sent to landfill are prominent			✓	Sept 23	Estates
Recycle old furniture/give to charities			✓	As required	Estates
Remove some stand-alone printers and raise awareness of paper consumption (through PaperCut) and consumable costs, and reduce photocopying			✓	May 23	Reprographics
Remove stand-alone plug in heaters			✓	May 23	IT Support
Implement full hardware and peripheral recycling – returning all equipment, bags and additional peripherals to IT for re-distribution			✓	May 23	IT Support
Reduce the amount of paper used within HR			✓	Sept 23	HR
Replace plastic bottles with water jugs at all college meetings and events			✓	April 23	Estates / Admin

	Reduce sale of plastic bottles in Refectory, Bistro and vending machines; promote cans, water fountains and bamboo reusable bottles			✓	Nov 23	Refectory
Careers	Develop a Green Skills Careers Fair	✓		✓	July 23	Student Services
	Include a Green Skills careers page on the website			✓	July 23	Student Services
	Include a Sustainability section in the prospectus	✓		✓	Oct 23	Student Services
	Include a Green Skills and Sustainability stand at the showcases	✓		✓	Nov 23	Student Services
Collaboration	Liaise with Technicians to reduce consumables, e.g. construction	✓		✓	Sept 23	Curriculum
	More sustainable purchasing and working with local companies who support our environmental value	✓	✓	✓	Jan 24	Senior Management Team
	Engage with environmental groups to adopt best practice	✓		✓	Jan 24	Senior Management Team
	Negotiate with food suppliers sustainable food options	✓	✓	✓	July 24	College Executive Team
	Share carbon footprint data and collection approach with other stakeholders		✓		July 24	Estates