

LEICESTER COLLEGE

SUSTAINABILITY ANNUAL REVIEW 2023/24

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. This paper provides an update on the College's activities to promote sustainability during 2023/24.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **The Sustainability Annual Review 2023/24 provides a comprehensive update on the College's sustainability activities over the past year.**
- **Objectives and Progress:** The review outlines several objectives set for 2023/24, including the completion of the Aeronautical Development to BREEAM Very Good Standards, reducing CO2 emissions, and exploring the installation of PV cells on roofs. Notably, there was a 13% reduction in emissions due to better management of the Building Management Systems.
- **Utility Consumption:** The College has seen significant reductions in both gas and electricity consumption since the baseline year of 2013/14, with a 54% reduction in gas and a 28% reduction in electricity.
- **Waste Management:** The College has successfully diverted 100% of its waste from landfill, with an average of 50% being recycled.
- **Green Travel and Food Initiatives:** Initiatives such as free bicycle MOTs for staff and students, installation of new bike shelters, and various sustainable food practices in the College refectories have been implemented.
- **Curriculum Integration:** The College has integrated sustainability into its curriculum through various projects and activities, including the involvement of Sustainability Ambassadors and a range of activities within curriculum areas.
- **Financial and Risk Implications:** Achieving Net Zero by 2030 poses a significant financial challenge, with an estimated cost of around £7 million. The College is actively seeking external funding to meet this goal.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1. An annual review of sustainability is provided to the Finance and General Purposes Committee, ELT and the Sustainability Committee. This reviews College performance in terms of Scope 1 and 2 emissions as well as other activities across the College, with objectives set and reviewed.

4. REVIEW OF OBJECTIVES

4.1. The following table below highlights the objectives that were set for 2023/24 and the progress against these.

OBJECTIVE	PROGRESSS
Continuing progress with the AoC sustainability roadmap	A new roadmap has been launched by AoC due to goals which are hard to reach for FE providers and more suited to HE providers.
Ensure Aeronautical Development completed to BREEAM Very Good Standards	Building is on target for completion to BREEAM Very Good standard.
Work with Aquafund UK to reduce water consumption	This action has yet to commence.
Driving through CO2 emission reductions through careful management of the Building Management Systems across College.	Electricity within the Campuses is harder to manage centrally and relies on culture changes. Gas usage, in terms of temperature set point and occupancy times, can be adjusted. All of the above has led to a year on year 13% reduction in emissions.
Explore PPA agreement involving the installation of PV Cells on roofs of Freehold buildings.	An initial proposal was presented to F&GP, where the long term suggested (25 years) was agreed to be too lengthy. The contractor involved is unfortunately not interested in schemes below this length. Instead we are now looking into whether the College should purchase the PV cells itself.
Participate in external audit on Sustainability	Complete
Explore SALIX grant funding opportunities	Working with an external consultancy to submit a SALIX bid in December 2025. This relates to installing LED panels within St Margarets Campus, replacing the fluorescent lights.
Producing an annual streamlined carbon usage report and ensure visibility.	Complete
Obtaining annual Display Energy Certificates (DECs) for buildings and acting on any findings.	Complete
Reducing waste tonnage produced by College and increasing the amount of this diverted from landfill	Data has only recently become available. The College will be able to examine the data in the next financial year.

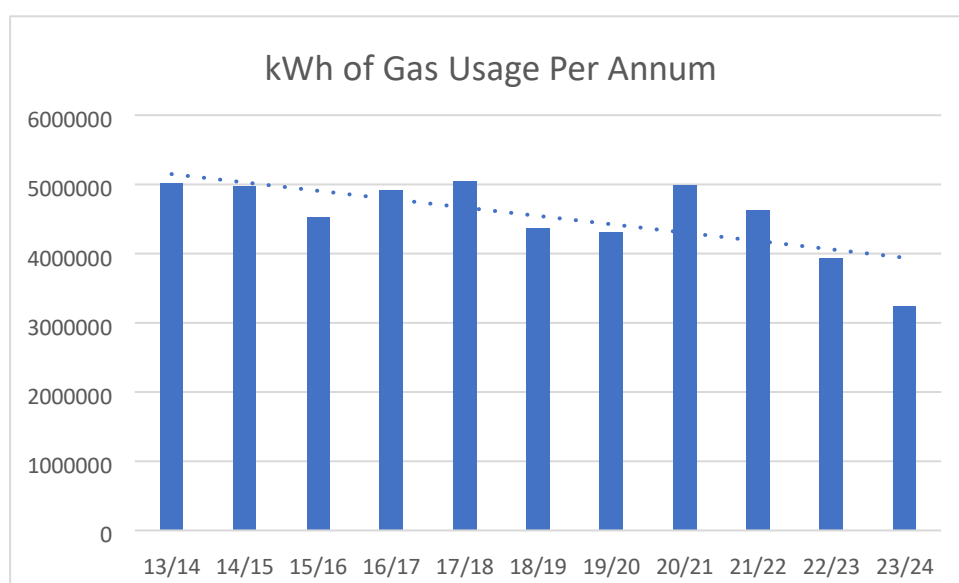
Working with local partners on delivering the Net Zero agenda. Lead Sub-Group on Sustainable Food Procurement	College continues to be an active member of Leicester Climate Partnership.
Continue to increase the amount of meat free alternatives available in College refectories.	Meat free options are available daily in Refectories.
OBJECTIVE	PROGRESSS
Helping to in bed Sustainable Development Goals within curriculum delivery	This point was part of AoC action plan and had been reconfigured within the new action plan. This is an ongoing action.
Completion of out of hours energy audits	This has not been completed and will be moved to 2024/25.
Work with Lena Kloos to develop staff training in Sustainability.	Staff training developed and launched. This is a mandatory module for staff.

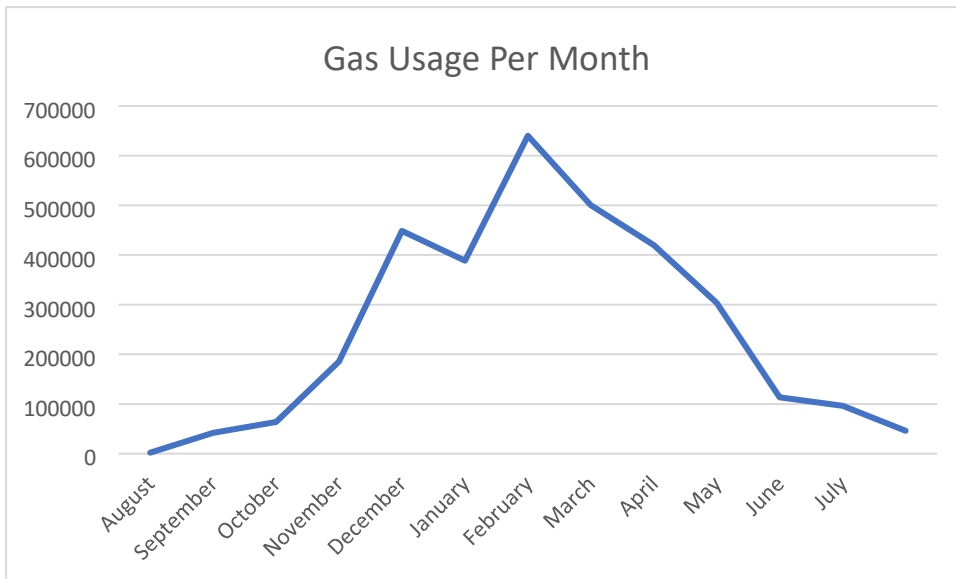
5. UTILITY CONSUMPTION

5.1. Gas

5.1.1. The College's main campuses and outreach centres (minus the Sue Townsend Theatre and City Skills Centre) are all served by gas. This contract was renewed March 2023 for a period of 36 months.

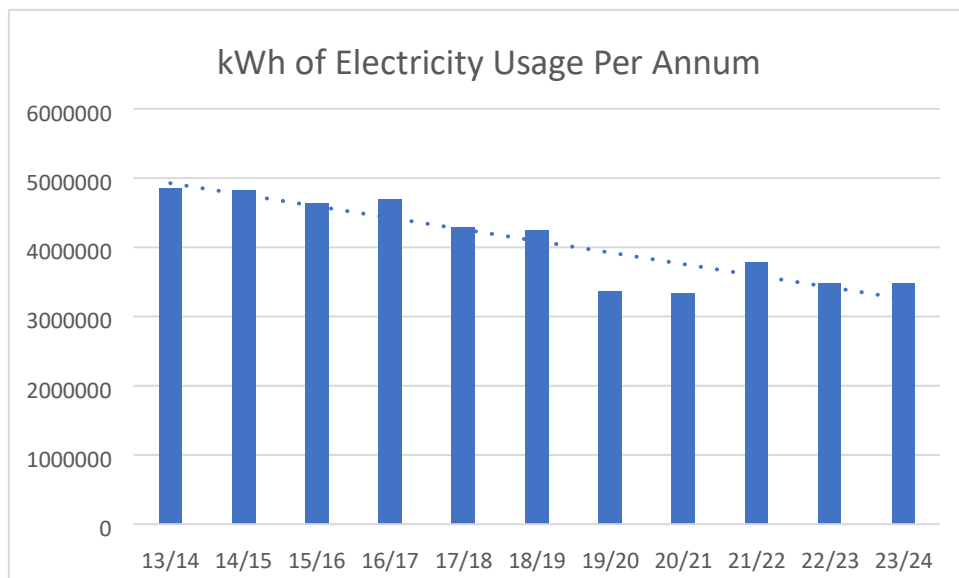
5.1.2. The chart below shows historic performance, with 2013/14 being the baseline year. Including 2023/24 this has resulted in a 54% reduction in consumption.

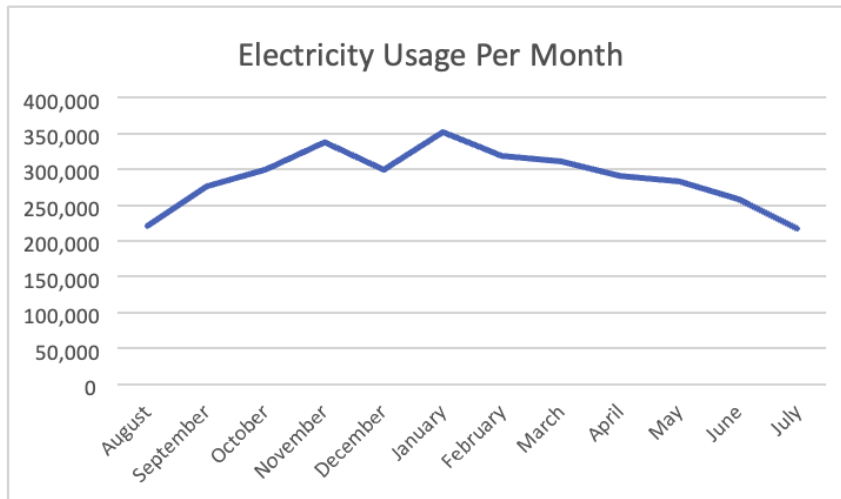




5.2. Electricity

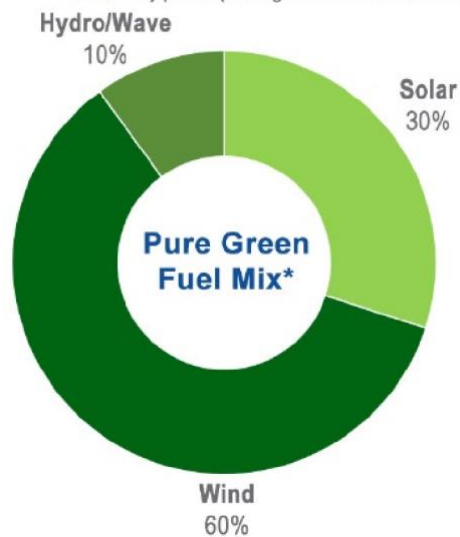
5.2.1. Over the past 9 years the overall trend of electrical usage has been one of reduction. As highlighted under Gas, the baseline year is 2013/14 and up until this year this has resulted in a 28% reduction in consumption.





5.2.2. The College's current energy provider, West Mercia Energy, provides electricity on a Pure Green basis backed by Region of Origin Certification. The make-up of electricity is as follows:

* The actual generation mix cannot be guaranteed until after the delivery period (when generation is confirmed)



5.2.3. For the year 2024/25 this option has been opted out of due to the rising cost (a £35,000 differential). The scheme is such that it can be quickly opted back into if desired.

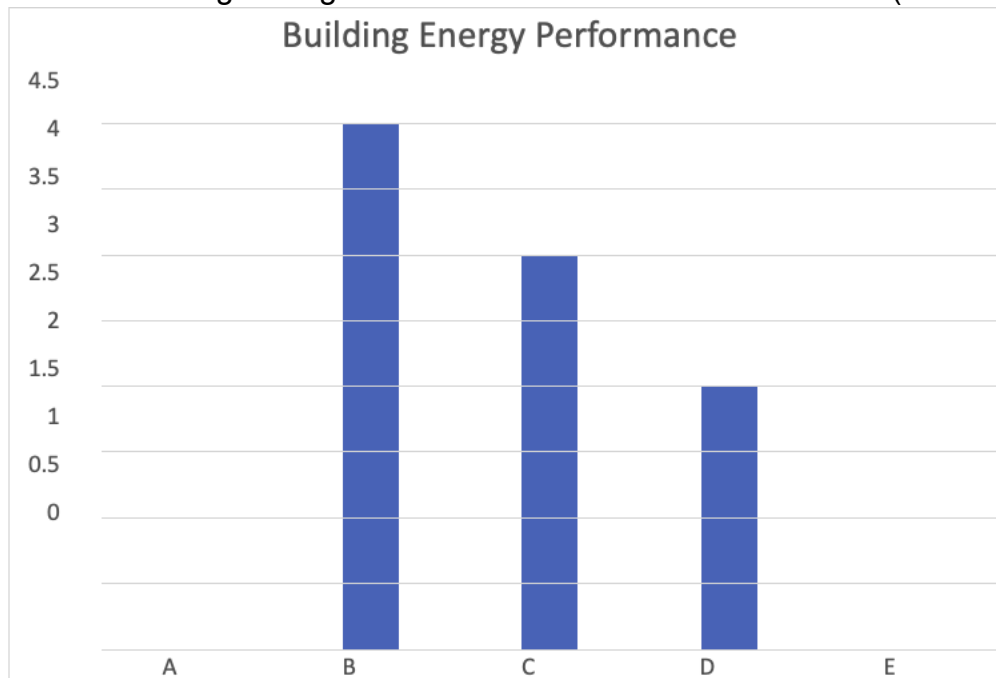
KPI SCOPE 1 & 2 EMISSIONS

- Reduce total Scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions arising from energy consumption by 70% by 2025-26 against the baseline year 2013-14.
- Up to the end of 2022/23 total Scope 1 and 2 emissions arising from energy consumption have reduced by 32% against the baseline year 2013/14. This has increased from the 25% rate reported the previous year.

6. DISPLAY ENERGY CERTIFICATES

6.1. The Display Energy Certificates (DECs) and Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) are the main parameters that we currently use to benchmark and monitor the performance of our buildings.

6.2. As a whole buildings within the portfolio are performing well, with the most inefficient buildings being Freeman's Park A Block and C Blocks (Rated D).



7. GREEN TRAVEL

7.1. Sustainable travel of both students and staff represents a large body of work and an important area in helping the College continue to offset its carbon emissions. In terms of work carried out during this academic year:

7.1.1. Dr Bike – free bicycle MOTs for staff and students, which occurs times a year at all campuses with circa 30-45 bikes being repaired each session.

7.1.2. New bike shelters have been installed at APC B Block and FPC A Block.

8. FOOD INC REFECTORIES

8.1. The College currently operates from three refectories within the main campuses. As part of these numerous sustainable initiatives have been completed including:

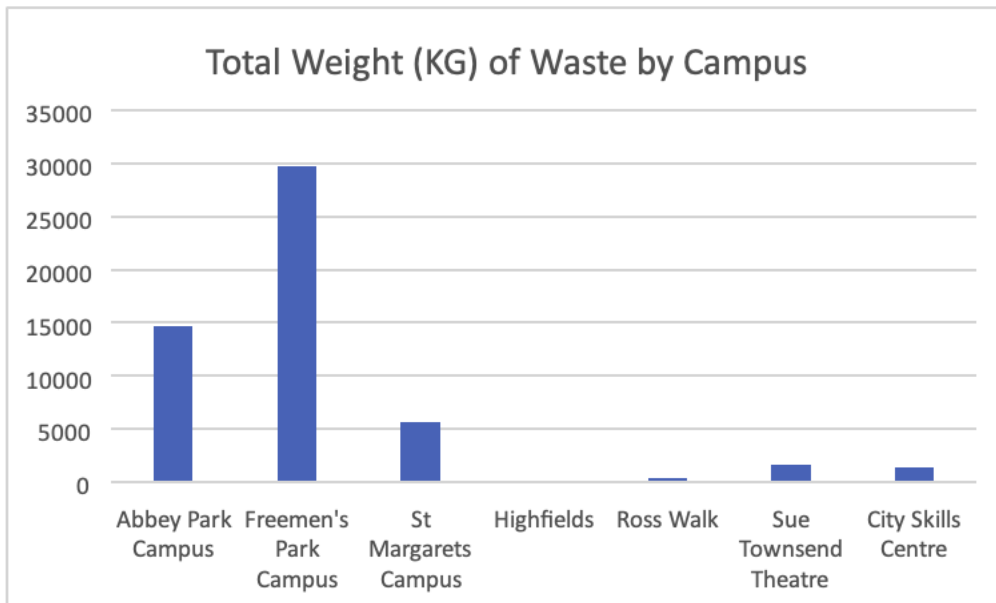
- Sale of Fairtrade teas, coffee, and chocolate. Sale of Rainforest Alliance with 100% sustainably sourced cocoa chocolate bars.
- Recycling of used cooking oil, glassware and disposable containers, along with PTET1 plastic water bottles fully recyclable, including label and cap.
- Removing polystyrene from take away containers along with removing plastic cutlery. Now only recyclable/compostable containers and cutlery are used
- Food waste goes to an anaerobic digester plant - bio generator
- Using local suppliers to reduce food miles. - LIFE (local, independent, fair, ethical) with a 50-mile radius where possible
- Offering 'use your own cup' incentives.
- Buying in season food and vegetables, where possible.
- Enacting Food Waste Action Week.
- All Campuses have an increased range of non-meat foods on their menus.
- Bought in sandwich/rolls are in 100% plastic free packaging.
- Food Inc.'s monitor food waste to keep to a minimum.
- Delivery packaging is reused/returned or recycled.
- Food Inc. dishwashers have built in heat recovery units which reduces energy used on heating water.
- Bottled/can chiller display units have LED lights and have sleep modes when not in use, reducing energy consumption.
- Both St. Margaret's and Abbey Park Campus Food Inc.'s are 100% electric, burring no natural gas.

9. WASTE

9.1. The College commenced a contract with a new waste provider in October 2022 and the reporting streams have increased greatly allowing better data analysis. To date, 100% of waste has been diverted from landfill with an average of 50% of waste being recycled with 53,000Kg of waste collected in this reporting cycle.

Campus	Block	Recycling (%)	Diversion (%)	Total Weight (KG)
Abbey Park Campus	A	42.03	100	13288
	B	49.19	100	1,413
Freemen's Park Campus		56.28	100	29,804
St Margaret's Campus		39.98	100	5,663
Highfields		44.12	100	34
Ross Walk		73.03	100	356
Sue Townsend Theatre		62.75	100	1,643

City Skills Centre		Unknown	100	13,42
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KPI SCOPE WASTE

- Reduce waste to landfill to 5% from current level of 7%
- 100% of waste now diverted from Landfill

10. SUSTAINABILITY AUDIT

10.1. In March 2024, RSM audited the College's Environment and Sustainability initiatives, with a particular emphasis on measuring performance against AoC Climate Action Roadmap and benchmarking this against similar Colleges, namely Nottingham College and Sheffield College.

10.2. A maximum score of 64 could have been achieved with Sheffield scoring 38, Leicester College 33 and Nottingham College 22.

10.3. An action plan is currently being produced to take into account the remedial recommendations.

11. AOC ROADMAP

11.1. The College continues to progress along the AoC Roadmap, but like many Colleges there are certain points where it has been impossible to progress beyond. This has been recognised by the AoC and a new Roadmap was launched on 14 November 2024.

12. LEICESTER CLIMATE PARTNERSHIP

12.1. Alongside 17 other City based organisations the College is a founding member of Leicester Climate Partnership. To date nine meetings have occurred and the outline of work programme has been established with the following work themes:

1. Sharing knowledge on decarbonisation
2. Skills workforce training
3. Procurement – focusing on food procurement
4. Energy networks and grid capacity
5. Communications and engagement
6. Education and research
7. Adaptation and nature recovery

13. CURRICULUM DELIVERY

13.1. The Sustainability Curriculum working group supports the whole organisational approach to sustainability, one of the College's core values. The College is committed to improving the environmental and sustainable performance of the organisation in all areas, raising awareness, and ensuring best practice. The working group drives the sustainability work within the curriculum and reports to the College Sustainability strategy group. A team of Sustainability Ambassadors have been in place during 2023/24 to promote practical sustainability awareness within the curriculum.

13.2. The Sustainability Ambassadors oversaw a raft of sustainable activities across most curriculum areas during the academic year 2023/24.

13.3. The following sustainable activities within curriculum are underway this academic year

13.3.1. **ESOL** EPYP students are working on an Enterprise Challenge with Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, community work at Saffron Acres Aylestone Allotment, maintaining green spaces and parks with Leicester City Council Environmental Rangers and have a plan to grow plants from seed, focussing on flowers or herbs, to develop environmental awareness.

13.3.2. Three **Votes4Colleges** topics to date this academic year have been delivered around global citizenship and sustainability. Best practice resources to promote awareness of green issues and principles will be shared with staff over the coming months.

13.3.3. **Launch Pad** students are involved in a social action sustainability project.

13.3.4. **Engineering** students are engaged in a sustainability personal development trial.

- 13.3.5. Level 2 **Engineering and Motor Vehicle** students are engaged in a sustainable 'green' vehicle challenge project that aims to foster creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills while encouraging students to address real-world sustainability challenges in the automotive industry. The objective of this project is to design a sustainable and environmentally friendly vehicle specifically tailored to meet the demands and regulations of the UK market.
- 13.3.6. Level 1 **Business** students have had guest talks from Friends of the Earth, Climate Action, Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust and The Conservation Volunteers, and are completing a project to introduce more wildlife spaces onto the College campuses.
- 13.3.7. **Work experience** sustainability employer encounters include employer-led projects and events to cultivate awareness of sustainability issues, exemplify eco-friendly practices and encourage environmental consciousness among students and staff and, where possible, the wider community.
- 13.3.8. Level 1 **Computing and Travel and Tourism** students are being supported by Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust to take part in the Wildlife Challenge, which involves students learning about different bird species, their behaviours, habitats, and ecological roles through interactive activities, including a nature/scoping walk of the surrounding area at APC identify areas for development etc. Students also create a bird feeder as part of a project to encourage wildlife on campus. The Eco-Challenge involves students decorating plant pots and planting bulbs and plants such as Peace Lillies and Aloe Vera to promote health and wellbeing. Plants will be positioned in designated classrooms and staffrooms.
- 13.3.9. In **Construction**, planning is underway to implement level 1 2 award in Environmental Sustainability in the 2024/25 academic year across all Construction On-Site and BSE programmes. The local skills improvement fund (LSIF) will support investment in new facilities and equipment for delivery of smart green construction including development of a Solutions and Renewable Technology Hub, fund the development and delivery of relevant programmes to upskill students and industry in green technology and support excellence in green leadership, particularly at levels 3 to 5, through the development of Green Leadership Skills programmes. Other programmes are being developed in as Climate Change and Green House Gas Emissions, Individual Business and Corporate Commitment and Requirements, Sustainability, Pollution and Waste Management; Understanding Organisational Requirements, Understanding Impacts of Industry and Organisations on the Natural Environment, How to Encourage Biodiversity, Habitats and Eco-Systems, Energy Conservation and Efficient Buildings and Structures and Introduction to Renewable

Energy – Solutions in Moving Away from Traditional Fossil Fuel Technologies.

- 13.3.10. A 'pop up' shop in Highcross shopping centre was created to exhibit sustainability art and design projects from fashion, business and ESOL students, with live artists and workshops over the course of a weekend. 530 art submissions were made to the exhibition from 22 different countries, with an additional 150 pieces on an online gallery and 40 pieces on the wall at Highcross.
 - 13.3.11. **Creative Arts and Media** students took part in an upcycling enterprise challenge to make items out of old clothes and materials to sell at a charity event raising money for the NHS Trust. Items were displayed at the Haymarket shopping centre.
 - 13.3.12. In **Access** programmes, the area is transitioning to online portfolios and work storage and submission. All staff have received digital sustainability training and green topics have been included in the delivery model.
 - 13.3.13. **Performing Arts** level 2 students took part in an upcycling project to support dementia awareness, making props out of recycled materials for a performance, and supported The Bridge homeless charity by selling pre-loved clothing.
 - 13.3.14. **Business, ESOL and Travel** students made bird feeders that have been allocated around Abbey Park campus as part of a challenge to attract more bird types on to the campus.
 - 13.3.15. **Business and Travel** students are taking part in a Friends of the Earth campaign to promote pesticide awareness.
- 13.4. The College and the Students Union are also undertaking a joint 'Love Your Campus' campaign to renovate some neglected external green spaces at Freeman's Park Campus. Money for initial work was raised through the raffle of Easter eggs and the first space has been cleared ready for planting.
- 13.5. As part of the 'Love Your Campus' campaign, the College was successful in obtaining a grant of £2,000 from the Skills and Education Group Foundation's Resource and Facilities Fund to support the creation of an accessible garden space in front of the nursery at Freeman's Park Campus, which will support the Green Flag campaign, as well as improving the local environment. Staff and students from Construction and Supported Learning will carry out the transformation as part of a collaborative project.

14. GREEN FLAG AWARD

- 14.1. The College has created a Green Flag Committee, comprising Sustainability Ambassadors and a team of elected volunteer students from across the College, to undertake the responsibility of ensuring a successful submission for the Green Flag award. The committee meets regularly to allocate and monitor tasks for completion, with students taking the lead in decision making.
- 14.2. The main requirements for the submission are to undertake an environmental review of the organisation setting and curriculum and compilation of an action plan, to be used as a working document, adapting and evolving as opportunities for environmental improvements arise
- 14.3. A social media and marketing campaign is underway to highlight progress on the application.

15. OBJECTIVES FOR 2023/24

15.1. Objectives for the upcoming year are set out below:

- Begin working through the newly released AoC Roadmap
- Work with Aquafund UK to reduce water consumption
- Continue to drive through CO2 emission reductions through careful management of the Building Management Systems across College.
- Explore costs around installing PV Cells on roofs around main campuses
- Submit SALIX bid in December 2025. If successful then capital to be spent by 2028.
- Producing an annual streamlined carbon usage report and ensure visibility.
- Obtaining annual Display Energy Certificates (DECs) for buildings and acting on any findings.
- Reducing waste tonnage produced by College and increasing the amount of this diverted from landfill
- Working with local partners on delivering the Net Zero agenda. Lead SubGroup on Sustainable Food Procurement
- Continue to increase the amount of meat free alternatives available in College refectories.
- Helping to embed Sustainable Development Goals within curriculum delivery
- Completion of out of hours energy audits
- Produce College Sustainability Roadmap following on from Audit action points.

