

NORTH EAST
SCOTLAND
COLLEGE



SUSTAINABLE *NESCOL*



OUR
PLEDGE

FOR THE FUTURE



HIGHLIGHTS & SUCCESSES

39%

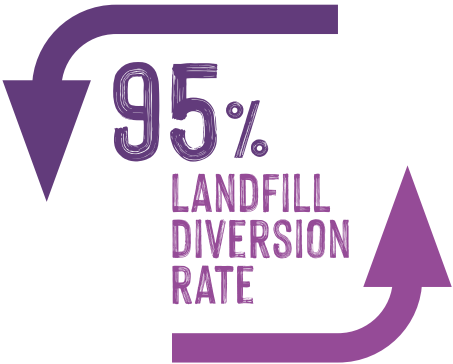
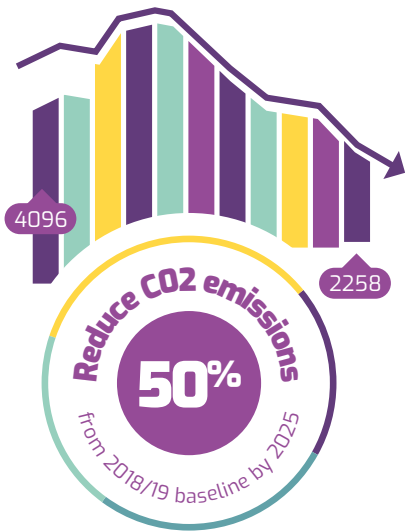
REDUCTION IN EMISSIONS
against public sector average of 28.5%
since reporting began in 2015.



**SuSTEMability helps
North East youngsters
turn the spotlight on
environmental issues**

2010 - 2021

Tonnes of CO² equivalent by scope



bsi.

The College holds the bsi ISO 14001 Standard for its Environmental Management System and will use this as a basis for continual improvement.

OUR PLEDGE



NORTH EAST SCOTLAND COLLEGE IS COMMITTED TO ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY, ENSURING THAT THE NEEDS OF THE PRESENT DO NOT COMPROMISE THE ABILITY OF FUTURE GENERATIONS TO MEET THEIR OWN NEEDS.

The College recognises the effect that its activities have on the environment and will incorporate best practice in sustainability management across its operations.

The College will embed the UN Sustainable Goals in its teaching, learning and business functions, and will promote the principle of responsible global citizenship across its activities, taking action on poverty, health and wellbeing and equalities.

The principles contained in this Strategy will drive decision-making across the College.

NESCol commits to achieving an emissions target of Net Zero by 2035.

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IN DEVELOPING A NEW SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY WE HAVE CHALLENGED OURSELVES TO THINK DIFFERENTLY AND TO CONSIDER THE ART OF THE POSSIBLE.”

Sustainability. A single word that envelopes our aspirations for North East Scotland College.

From daily operations and the focus on reducing the carbon footprint of the institution to the rapidly evolving role NESCol plays in driving a skills revolution to support energy transition, the College is committed to a green and vibrant future for the region and all those we serve.

In developing a new Sustainability Strategy we have challenged ourselves to think differently and to consider the art of the possible.

This Strategy and its supporting plans detail our approach to embedding environmental, social and economic sustainability in all of the College's activities. It recognises our global responsibilities and our national drivers and influence. It positions the College as a regional leader in supporting energy transition and as a key partner in delivering on the sustainability ambitions of the North East of Scotland.

The underpinning plans clearly link the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, global citizenship, the circular economy and carbon literacy. The College will ensure sustainability is at the heart of education, research, leadership, operations, administration and in our engagement with students, staff, partner organisations and communities.

The good practice developed over a number of years has provided firm foundations to build upon. The enthusiasm and determination of staff, students and stakeholders to make a real and lasting difference in response to the global climate emergency is the inspiration to guide us through the challenges we face and the opportunities our College community is embracing.

Neil Cowie,
Principal, North East Scotland College



CASE STUDY

STUDENTS EMBRACE SUSTAINABLE LIVING

Students at NESCol are leading the way in championing sustainable living, setting an example for the College community and being recognised nationally for their endeavours.

Learning Opportunities groups based at Fraserburgh Campus have been shining a light on what can be achieved through team work and shared goals.

The Learning Opportunities team leads a range of vocational, general education and employability focused courses to support learners in building confidence and skills.

Students at Fraserburgh have used The Shoppie as a hub for their efforts. The low-cost store has been developed as a sustainable enterprise and as well as serving as a foodbank drop-off point for the College's partners at the Trussell Trust it has also been the focal point for the work of students to sell locally sourced fruit and vegetable hampers to staff and students.

Proceeds from the initiative, in collaboration with the charity Cfine, have been used to provide fresh and healthy produce to students who may otherwise not have been able to access it.

The Shoppie also sells a range of pre-loved and homemade goods, ranging from clothes and jewellery to household items and is complemented by the RecyCol store operated by Learning Opportunities students at the City Campus. Both are putting the reuse, recycle and reduce ethos at the heart of College life.

Environmental issues are a passion for the Learning Opportunities groups, with other activities including beach clean-ups also undertaken.

The work of staff and students was recognised with the Social Enterprise prize in the Bridge 2 Business Enterprise Awards 2022.

"Students have worked really hard in setting up their own business and have also had the opportunity to collaborate with external and internal customers, in particular the Respect Group at NESCol which has had a focus on raising awareness of a more sustainable environment and ending hunger in the communities we serve."

**Gary Graham,
Lecturer**

2035

NORTH EAST
SCOTLAND
COLLEGE HAS NOW
COMMITTED TO
ACHIEVING NET ZERO
GREENHOUSE GAS
EMISSIONS BY 2035.

THE CLIMATE CRISIS AND OUR NET ZERO COMMITMENT

The world is facing a climate crisis. NESCol believes that every learning institution must be a leader in tackling this emergency, both in terms of its own direct actions but also in how it influences others. The College declared a Climate Emergency in May 2021.

For many years we have known that the principal driver in climate change is the emission of greenhouse gases in the industry, travel and lifestyles of the developed world. The College was an early adopter of carbon reduction measures, appointing a dedicated Environmental and Sustainability Manager in 2008, and being the first College in Scotland to achieve ISO 14001 Environmental Management accreditation in 2009, a standard which it has held ever since.

The College was an early signatory to the Universities and Colleges Climate Change Commitment for Scotland (UCCCCfS) and developed its first Carbon Management Plan which delivered a 33% reduction in Greenhouse Gas emissions over the period 2015-2020. NESCol's new Carbon Management Plan is designed to deliver a further 50% reduction in Greenhouse Gas emissions over the period 2020-2025.

Building on these measures, NESCol has now committed to achieving Net Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 2035.



NATIONAL AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

As the regional College for the North East of Scotland, NESCol is a key partner in delivering on the agenda for energy transition. Our curriculum will be designed to provide the skills necessary to ensure the region is successful in its ambition to be a global leader in renewable energy production and expertise.

Further, we will ensure that a context of global sustainability is included across all of our core learning programmes.

We will also engage with public and private sector partners nationally and regionally to play our part in delivering the ambitions of the UK and Scottish governments to be global leaders in sustainability.



THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND THE SDG ACCORD

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future.

At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognise that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

The SDG Accord is the University and College sector’s collective response to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It was launched in September 2017 and is administered by the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges.

As a signatory to the SDG Accord, in addition to other measures, NESCol is committed to delivering goals and reporting on progress to share the learning with other institutions both nationally and internationally.

The purpose of the SDG Accord is twofold: -

- To inspire, celebrate and advance the critical role that education has in delivering the SDGs and the value it brings to governments, business and wider society.
- To get institutions to commit to doing more to deliver the goals, to annually report on their progress, and to do so in ways which share the learning with each other both nationally and internationally.





**YOU
TOLD
US...**

REDUCE
**PLASTIC
WASTE**

**USE OF TECHNOLOGY TO
REDUCE REQUIREMENTS
TO TRAVEL TO AND FROM
CAMPUSES**

FOOD
WASTE BINS

REDUCE
**PRINTED
MATERIALS**

**BETTER PUBLIC
TRANSPORT LINKS TO
CAMPUSES**

**Help us shape your
sustainable NESCol**

sustainable@nescol.ac.uk

CASE STUDY

SUPPORT TEAMS FLY THE FLAG FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

At every turn across NESCol's campuses and learning centres there are teams delivering on the sustainability goals that underpin all aspects of the College's operations.

From facilities teams driving the focus on recycling and reducing waste to estates specialists installing and maintaining low emission solutions and energy generating technology. From IT experts working to reduce print and embrace digital alternatives to support teams managing the fleet of electric and hydrogen vehicles.

Food and refreshment provision, delivered by contractor Inspire Catering, is one service that impacts on all students and staff.

Recyclable material is prioritised, with food waste collection points prominent in all dining areas. The use of reusable cups is actively encouraged through discount schemes and locally sourced ingredients are prominent on menus. Reducing the carbon footprint of produce deliveries is a challenge that has been embraced.

Together with College teams, Inspire Catering are working towards Fairtrade status and the potential to introduce community fridges, to further reduce waste, is being explored.



"Taking local responsibility for the global environment is one of our core values and that is reflected in the way we deliver our services. Supporting farmers and growers is important to Inspire.

"We also take great pride in reflecting the culture of our customers and at NESCol the sustainable ethos runs right through the College. Our teams play an active role in the wider work that is being done and we're excited to be playing our part."

Grant Davidson,
Group Manager for
Inspire Catering



OUR STORY SO FAR...

As a sector leader and early adopters of sustainable practices, in 2008 we were one of the first Colleges in Scotland to appoint a dedicated Environmental and Sustainability Manager.



2009

BSI ISO 14001 ACCREDITED

Altens, City, Clinterty and Fraserburgh* campuses

*added in 2014



2020

GREEN GOWN AWARD

Winner in Next Generation Learning and Skills



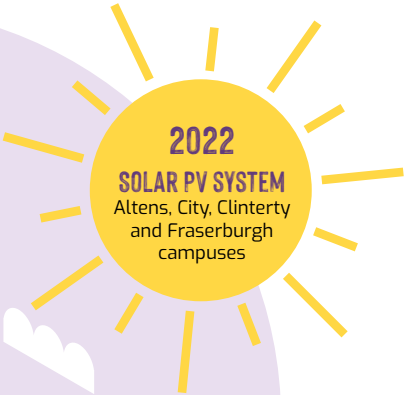
2022

NEW PRINT POLICY

Less print, replaced with digital systems



**REDUNDANT IT EQUIPMENT
REUSED AND RECYCLED**



2022

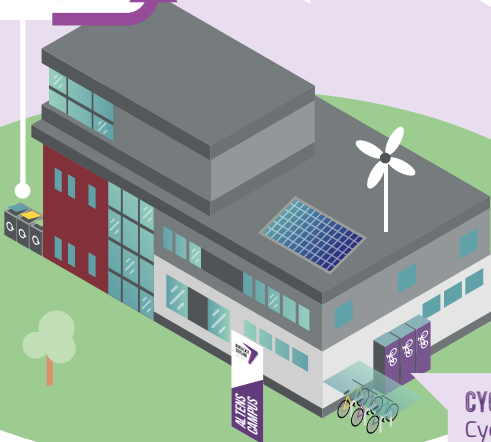
SOLAR PV SYSTEM

Altens, City, Clinterty and Fraserburgh campuses



**95%
LANDFILL
DIVERSION
RATE**

ALTENS CAMPUS



**MULTIPLE
OCCUPANCY
PARKING
SPACES**



CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Cycle lockers purchased and upgraded cycle shelter area

OCTOBER 2020

DISTRICT
HEATING
NETWORK

2013-2014

CLADDING &
GLAZING
PROJECT

TRAVEL PLAN PRODUCED

2020

H²

HYDROGEN
CARS

CITY CAMPUS

Energy
EFFICIENT

LED lighting
at all
campuses

OILS AND
LIQUIDS
clearly
labelled
and stored
internally

BREEAM®

All new builds and
refurbishments are
BREEAM accredited

FRASERBURGH CAMPUS



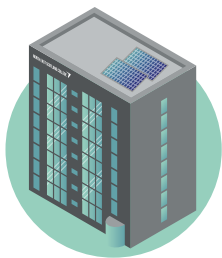
TREE PLANTING 2022

15 at Altens Campus
15 at Clinterty Campus
130 at Fraserburgh Campus

2019

ELECTRIC
CHARGING
POINTS AND
CARS

... THERE'S MORE!



SITE PLANS

Full site plans have been drawn up for all sites highlighting drainage routes, interceptor capacities and gases stored on site in line with legislation.



SPECIALIST WASTE UPLIFTS

Centralised Special Waste Uplifts arranged.



2021
FAIRTRADE
COLLEGE
SIGNATORY
North East Scotland College



SUSTAINABILITY
COMMITTEE



COMMITTED TO
SCIENCE BASED
TARGETS

CASE STUDY

BUILDING SKILLS TO CHANGE THE WORLD

Energy transition is at the heart of the ambitions for a vibrant future for the North East of Scotland.

NESCol, as one of the largest providers of vocational education and training in Scotland, has a crucial role in equipping the region's workforce with the skills and knowledge to embrace exciting opportunities now and in the future.

From hydrogen technology and electrical vehicle maintenance to photovoltaic expertise as well as ground and air source heat pump qualifications, the College curriculum is rapidly evolving to meet the changing needs of industry.

One of the key growth areas is in renewables.

NESCol's first bespoke Wind Technician training programme, designed for Vestas apprentices, is already seeing students perform to industry standards. The two year course is designed to ensure apprentices have the engineering skills and competence to work safely on both onshore and offshore wind farms.

In a separate initiative, the ECITB Energy Transfer Technician Scholarship was launched in May 2022 and received a £100,000 grant from Aberdeen's Energy Transition Zone.

Created by Government skills body the ECITB to address workforce shortages in key engineering roles, it is designed to provide engineering knowledge and skills as well as an understanding of the new technologies essential to the successful delivery of Net Zero.

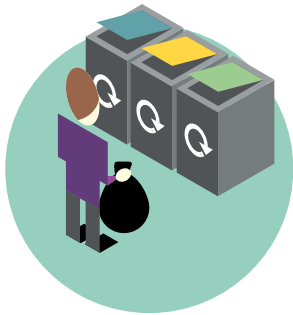


This investment in the workforce of the future is very welcome as part of the College's wider focus on green energy, working closely with industry partners to support the sector."

Susan Grant,
*NESCol Associate Vice
Principal Curriculum,
Planning and Partnerships*

DELIVERING ON OUR PLEDGE

Our pledge will be supported by eight key policy themes



Behaviour Change

Change behaviours of all staff, students and stakeholders by increasing their understanding of sustainability.



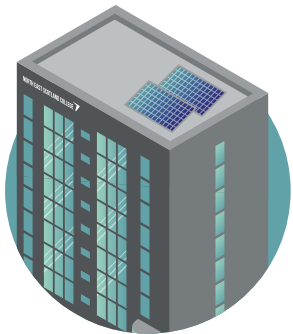
Curriculum Design

Design our curriculum to embed sustainable development practices across all of our programmes of learning.



Biodiversity

Generate greater awareness of biodiversity and create new habitats and wildlife opportunities on our campuses.



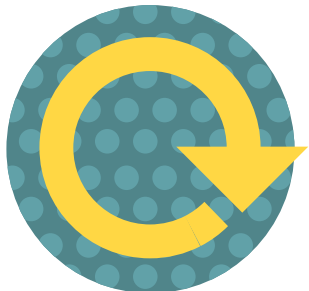
Carbon Reduction Plan

Reduce CO2 emissions, with the 2025 target of 50% reduction from a 2018-19 Baseline. Subsequent Plans will drive us towards our 2035 Net Zero commitment.



Travel/Transport

Reduce carbon emissions arising from transport and travel by building on our sustainable fleet and Travel Plan.



Waste Management

Reduce the quantity of waste going to landfill from our 95% diversion rate in 2022.



Procurement

Embed sustainable procurement practices into the environmental performance of suppliers and contractors.



Regional Economy

Support energy transition and sustainable development while continuing to meet broader regional skills needs and be seen to lead by example.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

[Carbon Management Plan](#)

[Procurement Policy](#)

[Environmental and Energy Policy](#)

[24 Environmental Management System Procedures](#)

[Register of Environmental Legislation and other Compliance](#)

[Fully established Aspects and Impacts Register](#)

[Risk Register](#)

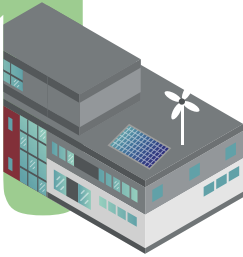
[Stakeholders Register](#)

[Estates Strategy](#)

[Curriculum Strategy](#)

Find out more on
nescol.ac.uk/sustainability

1



ON A PRACTICAL LEVEL, WE WILL

Reduce the use of fossil fuels, water and hazardous substances

through improved efficiency of resource utilisation and recycling.

2



Encourage the use of public transport, walking and cycling

video and audio conferencing to reduce harmful emissions and car usage.

3

Reduce the pollution of air, water and land

arising from the activities of the College.



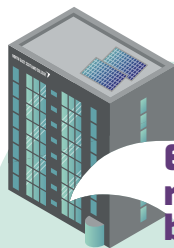
Protect biodiversity

through careful management of the College's estate.



5 Adopt a sustainable purchasing policy

giving preference where practicable, to those products and services that cause least harm to the environment and take into account the environmental performance of suppliers and contractors.



6 Ensure new and refurbished buildings

are sensitive to visual amenity and impact on the local community.



7 Collaborate

with appropriate external organisations and communities to improve the mutual understanding of environmental problems and their solutions.



8 Embed environmental and social sustainability

knowledge and training into academic and vocational courses to ensure learners are able to make informed judgements and decisions whilst transforming their thinking.



Provide Training

Provide environmental and social sustainability training and development opportunities for appropriate staff and promote general environmental awareness of all staff.



Communicate

Communicate the College's sustainability performance to appropriate stakeholders both internally and externally including students.



Align our goals

Align all major efforts with the Sustainable Development Goals, targets and indicators, including our education, research, leadership, operational and engagement activities. Share our learning and account to both local and global communities on our progress against the goals.

MEASURING SUCCESS

NESCol will measure the success of our sustainability strategy by using the following performance measures:



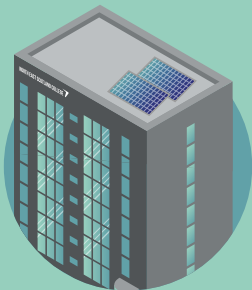
Achieve Fairtrade Status



Continue to be audited against the International Standard, Environmental Management System BSI ISO14001



Continue to stipulate an over 90% diversion rate for our waste



The College will continue to focus on increasing the energy efficiency of the estate by installing up-to-date technologies, including renewables where practicable, and engaging with staff and other stakeholders.



AIM TO BE **net zero**
BY 2035



Embed sustainable development into the curriculum whilst focusing on Sustainable Development Goals.

EAUC welcome NESCol's new Sustainability Strategy, as well as the College's commitment to being Net Zero by 2035 as demonstrated by their signing of the Race to Zero for Universities and Colleges. EAUC delivered Carbon Literacy Training to the NESCol Leadership team, and it is fantastic to see such commitment from senior leaders within the College's approach to sustainability. We look forward to watching and sharing NESCol's journey to Net Zero across the further and higher education sector."



BUT WE CAN'T DO IT ALONE...

The National Energy Skills Accelerator forms part of the Energy Transition Zone in Aberdeen and is a collaborative initiative between Robert Gordon University, the University of Aberdeen and NESCol, supported by partners Energy Transition Zone Ltd and Skills Development Scotland.

With a long and proud track record of supporting the industry and preparing the next generation of industry professionals, NESCol will be critical to the success of NESA and its partners. NESCol will also be instrumental in supporting the regional sustainability agenda and in ensuring a managed, just, fair and inclusive energy transition."

Professor Paul de Leeuw
Chair – National Energy Skills Accelerator

“

Currently the Students' Association and the College work together under the Student Partnership Agreement to enhance the student experience. Sabbatical Officers and our Sustainability Officers work with the College to gather student feedback, shape policy and implement sustainability campaigns. We look forward to developing this partnership in the future to further support the Sustainability Strategy at NESCol."



“ETZ Ltd is delighted to work in partnership with NESCol to develop and promote the skills and capabilities needed to maximise the opportunities presented by energy transition and race to Net Zero. We have a clear aim to reposition the North East of Scotland as a globally recognised green energy hub and this aligns closely with NESCol's new Sustainability Strategy which is a hugely valuable contribution to this ambition.”

Maggie McGinlay,
CEO, ETZ Ltd

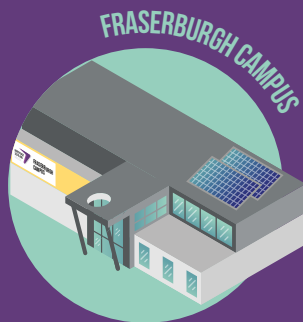


“ESP (Energy Skills Partnership) is the college sector agency in Scotland for energy, engineering, construction and STEM whilst leading on the Climate Emergency Skills Action Plan. Our vision is of a college sector working in partnership with Government, agencies and industry to meet national and regional skills needs, maximising investment and job opportunities aligned with emerging technologies, the Climate Emergency and the Just Transition to Net Zero.

NESCol are a very active partner in our activities across all areas and are engaged with our Leads Forums and formal training networks including Offshore Wind, Marine and Maritime, Advanced Manufacture, Hydrogen, Low Carbon Transport and Energy Efficiency plus many more.

With the alignment to CESAP and the priority for Net Zero NESCol's curriculum offering is rapidly aligning to the sustainability agenda.”





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Recognised as a Scottish charity – number SCO21174



www.nescol.ac.uk