



Suffolk
New
College

Sustainability Strategy

Policy Title:	Sustainability Strategy
Issue date (m/y):	October 2022
Last review (m/y):	October 2023
Author(s):	Director of Growth, Innovation & Strategic Projects
Approved by:	Senior Management Team
Review date:	October 2024
Related Policies & Procedures:	-



Equality Impact Assessment Tool

Name of Policy: Sustainability Strategy

		Yes/No	Comments
1	Does the policy/guidance affect one group less or more favourably than another on the basis of:		
	Race or ethnicity	No	
	Disability	No	
	Gender	No	
	Religion or belief	No	
	Sexual orientation	No	
	Age	No	
	Marriage and Civil Partnership	No	
	Maternity and Pregnancy	No	
	Gender Reassignment	No	
2	Is there any evidence that some groups are affected differently?	No	
3	If you have identified potential discrimination, are any exceptions valid, legal and/or justifiable?	N/A	
4	Is the impact of the policy/guidance likely to be negative/	No	
5	If so, can the impact be avoided?	N/A	
6	What alternatives are there to achieving the policy/guidance without the impact?	N/A	
7	Can we reduce the impact by taking different action?	N/A	



Our commitment

Suffolk New College is committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2050, in accordance with the Government target, but stands with Suffolk partners proactively seeking the funding to beat that target and achieve Net Zero as soon as we can.

Our community

Suffolk New College will work with all staff and learners across the College community to nurture awareness and understanding of the climate change emergency and promote a 'can do' attitude, with everyone playing their part in effecting positive change.

Our role

Further Education Colleges play a vital role in teaching the next generation of skilled technical staff across key industries. We aim to ensure that all learners leave College able to apply green skills in their chosen industry, and with a proactive approach to sustainability in their personal and professional lives. We also aim to provide a green skills training programme for local businesses which enables a step change towards adoption of green technologies.

Working together

Suffolk New College supports the delivery of the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan and will work closely with the Suffolk Sustainability Institute at the University of Suffolk and across the New Anglia Colleges Group, pooling talent and expertise towards a sustainable future.



Principal

Key aims

The College will play its part in mitigating the impact of climate change and moving towards Net Zero by –

Action on emissions – we will proactively seek to reduce the College's emissions to achieve Net Zero by 2050 by –

- Taking a systematic whole building approach to reducing emissions, investigating and prioritising cost-effective investments which will have the greatest impact.
- Working to decarbonise heat across our College estate, linked to building fabric and energy efficiency measures.
- Obtaining power from renewable sources where possible.
- Manage the land at our Suffolk Rural campus in a sustainable and green way, adopting sustainable farming practices where possible, and moving towards Suffolk Rural being a Green Campus.
- Working with our partners and suppliers to reduce emissions across the supply chain, building sustainability into our procurement processes.
- Adopting sustainable approaches to transport between campus and learner transport planning.
- Taking a circular economy approach to the purchase, disposal and recycling of materials and equipment, purchasing responsibly, and ensuring recycling and reuse where possible.
- Embedding sustainability into the College Strategic Plan, ensuring that new developments and expansion projects support the move to Net Zero.
- Seeking funding opportunities to enable us to deliver the above investments.

Action on values - we will put sustainability at the heart of the values we share across the College community by –

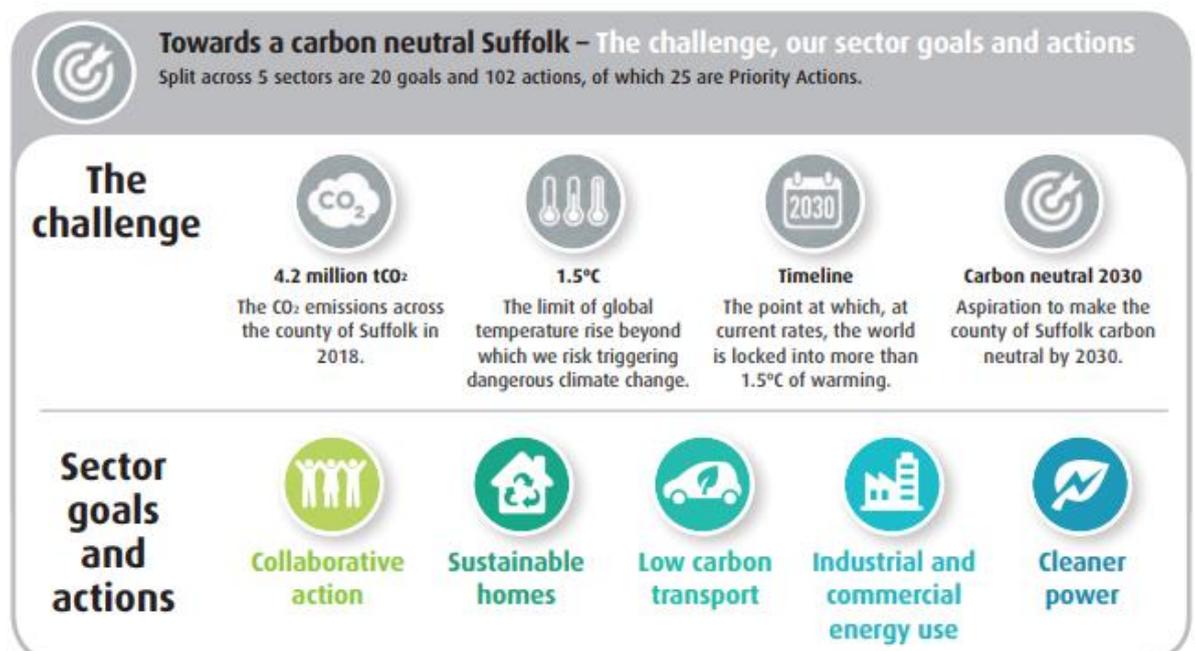
- Actively encourage students to develop a sustainable approach to life and work by introducing sustainability as a key theme in PD and enrichment activity.
- Embedding an understanding of sustainable business practices across all curriculum areas.

- Building curriculum to introduce a quality new green skills teaching and training offer in priority sectors embedding rapid technological change, such as construction, engineering, and agrifood.
- Promote a proactive approach to sustainability across our College community through our Personal Development and enrichment curriculum, and encourage 'small steps' in sustainability in everyday practice across the College.

Action in partnership – we support the work of the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership and Suffolk Sustainability Institute, and will work with partners to ensure Suffolk New College plays its part in the wider regional move to a net zero future.

Suffolk Climate Change Partnership

Working to support Suffolk Climate Change Partnership – we will deliver against their sector goals and actions as follows –



Taken from the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership Action Plan.

- **Collaborative action** – working on regional projects such as the New Anglia Green Skills project and Local Skills Improvement Fund project to effect change collaboratively at a wider regional level, maximizing the benefit of skills sharing and collective ideas.
- **Sustainable homes** – ensure learners across relevant programmes have the understanding and skills to build and retrofit sustainable homes, working with the University of Suffolk Smart House project, upskilling staff, and using our Net Zero Skills Centre as a focus for teaching and learning.

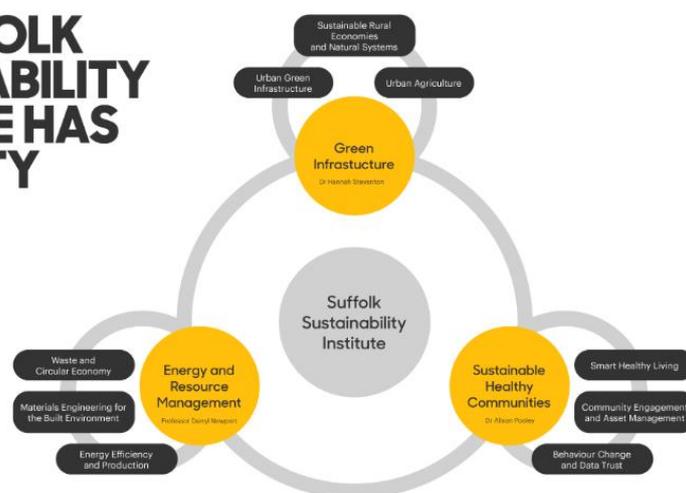
- **Low carbon transport** - begin the introduction of EV vehicles into the Suffolk New College fleet, along with EV infrastructure. Build sustainability into the College's transport strategy. Provide teaching and training in the Net Zero Skills Centre for businesses and students to learn how to install EV chargers and maintain hybrid and EV cars.
- **Industrial and commercial energy use** – build on our regionally recognised Gas Centre training offer to introduce a range of curriculum which gives people and businesses the skills to install and maintain electric boilers and ground and air source heat pumps, ensuring local businesses have access to the skills they need to decarbonise the region's commercial premises. The College will also work to reduce emissions across its own estate.
- **Cleaner power** – the College will move towards the use of renewables across the estate, and will also introduce a training and teaching programme to ensure the solar industry has a strong supply of trained staff .

Suffolk Sustainability Institute

The Suffolk Sustainability Institute at the University of Suffolk is focused on action research under the following themes. Suffolk New College will collaborate with the Institute, seeking to –

- Involve our learners in the Smart House project and other relevant initiatives
- Explore opportunities to involve Suffolk Rural's landbased programmes in green infrastructure initiatives
- Ensure our learners have the opportunity to explore pathways into HE in relation to green skills.

THE SUFFOLK SUSTAINABILITY INSTITUTE HAS 3 PRIORITY THEMES



New Anglia Colleges Group / Norfolk and Suffolk Economic Strategy

We will work to deliver the New Anglia Green Skills project across the region's five Colleges, in support of the Clean Growth regional economic priority. On completion of that project, we will build an ongoing inter-College collaboration on this important theme.

Action Plan on Sustainability

We will develop an annual Action Plan with SMART measures which will be reviewed and updated annually. The plan will have actions against all the above aims and involve all the College community.