



Suffolk
New
College

Suffolk New College

SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

2025 - 2030



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. We are a zero to landfill college.

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 will 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 will also provide a green skills training programme for local businesses which enables a step change towards adoption of green technologies.

WORKING TOGETHER

Suffolk New College chairs the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan sub-group and will work closely with partners across the region and nationally, pooling talent and expertise towards a sustainable future.



BUILDING ON SUCCESS - OUR AWARDS

Suffolk New College is proud to have earned the Beacon Award for Education for Sustainable Development in 2024. The judges were especially impressed by the way sustainability was threaded through every area of the college community.

In 2026, the Net Zero Skills Centre Phase 2 development was awarded Project of the Year at the East Anglia Clean and Green Awards.

We now hold the Lead Assessor role for the Beacon Award for Sustainability within the college.





OUR VALUES

Our BeSNC values are integral to the successful delivery of this Strategy

Bold

enterprising

Successful

Nurturing

Collaborative

BOLD

ambitious, fresh and original projects and initiatives which inspire others to take action.

ENTERPRISING

working in partnership with major employers and national sector leaders.

SUCCESSFUL

multi-award-winning delivery sharing widely what can be achieved.

NURTURING

funded CPD projects for staff to follow their passions with innovative projects and creative learner-led initiatives have involved the whole college community in our work.

COLLABORATIVE

regional and national partnerships with businesses and across the public, education and third sectors have been an essential part of our success.

The Strategy is divided into three key areas of focus

- **ACTION ON EMISSIONS**

pro-actively reducing emissions to achieve Net Zero by 2050.

- **ACTION ON VALUES**

putting sustainability at the heart of the values we share across the College community

- **ACTION IN PARTNERSHIP**

working across all our networks to promote sustainability and achieve a more sustainable future

PROGRESS TO DATE

Since the first College Sustainability Policy was approved in 2015, there has been considerable commitment from staff to reduce the College's carbon footprint, and we have made significant progress against our goals. Key measures include

- Leadership of major green skills and sustainability projects and initiatives regionally and in college
- The development of a Net Zero Skills Centre and the launch of green skills short courses in partnership with leading employers
- The installation of a major solar scheme on the Ipswich campus
- LEAF certification for the farm at Suffolk Rural and a 'Farm to Fork' initiative across our farm and catering functions
- Sustainability threaded through CPD and teaching across all curriculum areas
- The installation of more energy efficient boilers, lighting and equipment across the College estate.
- Reuse and recycling increased across all our functions and courses
- Use of single use plastics minimised
- Responsible purchasing including biodegradable and recycled or recyclable products where possible/ applicable
- An increase in paperless working.



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.
- Managing 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 Vision, ensuring that new developments and expansion projects support the move to Net Zero.
- Seeking funding opportunities to enable us to deliver the above investments.

FROM FARM TO FORK

Our LEAF Marque accredited farm at the Suffolk Rural campus is managed sustainably and the food we produce there is used in our restaurant, Chefs' Whites, as we educate our learners about growing and cooking food to minimise waste and promote wildlife and nature.

Our horticulture team support with salads grown in our Vertical Farm, and showcase sustainable horticulture practice every year at the Suffolk Show with practical tips on creating wonderful gardens sustainably.





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 embedding 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.

GREEN FUTURES

inspiring the next generation to embrace green skills

In 2024 the college organised 'Green Futures', an exhibition stand at the Suffolk and Norfolk shows, which used sustainably produced materials and activities to encourage families, schools and adult visitors to the shows to consider green skills careers. Funded by the Local Skills Improvement Fund, the stand brought together local education partners East Coast College, West Suffolk College, City College Norwich, College of West Anglia and the University of Suffolk to deliver the programme of activities at both shows.

Since that event, the college has showcased green skills careers at many school Careers Fairs and school sustainability events as we work in partnership to equip our community for a net zero future.



ACTION IN PARTNERSHIP

The Director of Business Development and Major Projects chairs the Education sub-group of the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership as part of the college's commitment to working with employers and public and voluntary sector stakeholders towards 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:

● **COLLABORATIVE ACTION**

we work with education and skills partners regionally to promote green skills career pathways, develop young people's awareness and understanding of climate change and share green skills best practice.

We proactively seek partnership funding, such as the 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, 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 relevant teaching and training in the Net Zero Skills Centre for businesses and students.

● **INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL ENERGY USE**

develop and grow our partnership with NIBE and our own green skills short course and apprenticeship programme to give 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.



NET ZERO SKILLS CENTRE PHASE 2



The Net Zero Skills Centre Phase 2 development won Project of the Year at the 2025-26 East Anglia Clean and Green Awards.

We launched a prestigious partnership with Europe's leading heat pump manufacturer, NIBE, created new solar facilities with leading regional business Greenscape Energy.

The Net Zero Skills Centre short course green skills training programme for industry has been developed in partnership with college Industry Partners Greenscape Energy, NIBE and Energie Solutions and many other green skills businesses.

Alongside courses which deliver industry-standard qualifications, we have developed and launched an innovative bespoke programme of introductory one day courses aimed at traditional electrical and gas companies who don't know where to start in their journey to net zero skills.

The Centre was also a key focal point at the 2025 Future Skills Fair with leading green businesses showcasing green skills careers to 3,000 school students on 3 November at Suffolk's main school careers event.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND SUCCESS INDICATORS

ACTION ON EMISSIONS

Target	2027 Target	2030 Target
Develop and deliver a Small Steps to Sustainability programme to share, encourage and implement smaller measures across the college	Initiative implemented and initial activities evaluated	Initiative fully implemented and showing measurable impact
Continue to deliver a strong transport policy which minimises road miles for our students attending campuses – including a focus on travel training to reduce taxi use	Annual transport policy review	Annual transport policy review
Seek investment where possible to make further improvements to the College estate to reduce fuel use and conserve energy	Ongoing with annual review and SMT and Corporation impact challenge	Measurable positive impact on carbon targets
Monitor procurements to maximise the sustainability of purchase decisions	Ongoing with annual review	Strong best practice exemplars achieved
Offset carbon emissions where further reductions are not possible	Offsets identified where required	Offsets identified where required and clearly evidenced as the only solution
Reduce e-waste and other damaging and unnecessary waste disposal	Reuse and recycle solutions implemented where possible	Ongoing with annual review





ACTION ON VALUES

Target	2027 Target	2030 Target
Maximise opportunities to train staff in green skills and encourage staff to use 'Back to the Floor' day to build green skills	At least 30 staff update their green skills	At least 50 staff update their green skills – strong exemplar case studies of staff expertise
All L3 learners explore the UN Sustainable Development Goals as the framework for their 2nd year social action projects culminating in a social action project event in March to raise awareness across college.	All 2nd year L3 learners undertake social action projects based on the UN SDGs	Programme amplified and developed and impact demonstrated
All learners explore sustainability in curriculum and/or PD and have an understanding of climate change and green skills careers opportunities	At least 70% of learners sampled can articulate an awareness of sustainability through course activity	95% of learners sampled can articulate an awareness of sustainability through course activity
Work towards a fully Green Campus and sustainable farm at Suffolk Rural, maximising the benefit to the environment of our land management and horticulture provision	Maintain LEAF accreditation, increase wildlife gardens and improve woodland	Suffolk Rural cited as a sustainable exemplar and working collaboratively to share best practice
Continue to develop the use of the Net Zero Skills Centre, growing the short course offer, supporting partnerships such as with NIBE and Greenscape Energy	Green skills short courses successful and programme growing. NIBE partnership successful All 16-18 students on relevant courses using the Centre.	Green skills short course and linked apprenticeship offer established as regional leading programmes. Use of Centre for 16-18 learners – richer, more in-depth engagements
Make annual Sustainability Awards to staff and students	Awards made with a strong field of possible recipients and relevant sponsorship	Awards made with a strong field of possible recipients and relevant sponsorship
All teams will adopt a reuse/ recycle approach and minimise single use purchases – there will be an annual review of department practice to review progress and set the focus for the coming year	Annual review in all departments notes improvements	Annual review in all departments notes improvements



ACTION ON PARTNERSHIP

Target	2027 Target	2030 Target
Lead the education sub-group of the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership, promoting collaborative working across region	Young people have greater awareness of sustainability and green skills careers	Young people have greater awareness of sustainability and green skills careers. Good examples of cross-region working.
Play an active role in regional groups such as the Building Growth group, the regional Green Skills group and through memberships such as EEEGR to maximise collaborative opportunities regionally	Significant Suffolk New College involvement informing curriculum and wider regional collaboration	Significant Suffolk New College involvement informing curriculum and wider regional collaboration
Seek further Industry Partners in the renewables industry or with a strong focus on sustainability to support our staff and learners with up to date skills	Number of relevant industry partners and impact of collaborative working	Collaborative working exemplars are cited as best practice



Our Commitment

We are committed to **achieving net zero emissions by 2050**, and will work hard to beat that target.

We promote a **'can do' attitude**, with everyone playing their part in effecting positive change.

Our Community

Our Role

We play a vital role in embedding **green skills** across the workforce and share our passion for sustainability across everything we do.

Coordinating education and skills within the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership

Working together



**At Suffolk New College
we are taking**

Action on Emissions



Decarbonising heat across our campus
and investing in **renewable energy**

Managing the land at
Suffolk Rural **sustainably**



Adopting sustainable approaches to
travel and transport

Working across all our teams to
reduce, reuse and recycle



Working with our suppliers to
reduce emissions
across our supply chain.

At Suffolk New College we are taking

Action on Values

Teaching **sustainable business practices** across our curriculum



Encouraging a **green mindset** through our enrichment programmes



Introducing a **green skills training offer** in priority sectors



Encouraging **'small steps'** in sustainability through staff action across all teams

Collaborating with businesses to build a **green skills training offer** which meets their needs

Working with other Colleges to **share skills, ideas and curriculum**



Working with partners like the **Suffolk Wildlife Trust** to protect the environment as part of our land management approach at Suffolk Rural



Working in partnership with other **colleges and skills stakeholders** to share expertise and deliver joint projects

At Suffolk New College we are taking

Action in Partnership



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