



PLACE 21
HIGHER PLACE



HIGHER PLACE Sustainability Implementation Plan 2021 – 2023

This Sustainability Plan is based on 12 actions that we believe will embed sustainability into West Suffolk College and form a key part of Higher PLACE. These are described in Table 2.

Table 1 details our commitment to waste minimisation; travel efficiencies; and energy efficiencies.

Table 1				
Objective	Measures	Responsibility	Monitor/ review	Progress/outcomes
Minimise waste	The measures we take to minimise waste include our contractual relationship with West Suffolk Council which involves specific commitments to sorting waste and recycling wherever possible.	Richard Stevenson – Group Director Estates	Termly – next review April 2023	Waste minimisation is a key objective of the college and to this end we constantly remind staff to reduce waste wherever possible. Initiatives include paperless where feasible; and not using single use plastics. A lot of staff and students now bring their own mugs to college and our college cafes are happy to fill these instead of ‘takeaway disposable mugs’
Minimise use of travel; promote use of public or green transport where travel is unavoidable	Implement car sharing scheme; Encourage hybrid working where feasible so that journeys to work can be minimised; Encourage on-line meetings where feasible.	Richard Stevenson – Group Director Estates	June 2023	We have implemented a car share scheme and this is promoted on the college website. Many staff now work at least some of the time at home and this has significantly reduced journeys to work. Many meetings previously held in person are now held on line.
Minimise energy consumption	Explore alternative sources of energy – e.g. renewables. Explore energy storage systems Encourage energy efficiency and behaviour change towards energy consumption.	Richard Stevenson – Group Director Estates	June 2023	We have recently contracted with West Suffolk Council to install solar panels on our roofs. We are in the process of investing in battery storage to ensure that energy generated through solar panels is not wasted and can be stored. We are currently implementing a Green Skills Project which aims to tackle behaviour change and transform attitudes towards energy consumption.

Table 2

Higher PLACE Sustainability Objective	Measures	Responsibility	Monitor/Review (Date)	Progress/Outcomes
<p>1. Network: Resources / Toolkit Workshops, Webinars & Events & Sustainability Awards</p>	<p>To build a workshop/webinar series - creating momentum, showing leadership, widening our sustainability network.</p>	<p>Andrew Wheeler Danny Hewitt</p>	<p>April 2023</p>	<p>Sustainability Centre Network Breakfast March Event had 15 Sign ups, 4 guests, 4 new business Sign ups of which majority wanting to take IEMA course, 3 interested in 1-2 support, many interested in apprenticeship Breakfast successful and will now become periodic. Next event to be June. Reconnecting East Anglia: Circular Economy Webinar 26th April joined with local, national, and international guests for businesses and college staff Climate literacy seminar to be delivered at Huntingdonshire Business festival 27th April Circular Economy Course and FEPD has been completed by Chloe and from that an action plan within the college around Circular Economy/Sustainability. This will be adopted into our key areas.</p>

<p>2. Courses (internal, external)</p>	<p>To ensure that we have a good spread of courses for our students, our staff and for businesses in the region.</p>	<p>Andrew Wheeler</p>	<p>April 2023</p>	<p>IEMA 5 day delivered through Feb-March and new April course about to begin Looking to start the 1-2 IEMA again but need external support Matthew apprenticeship approved and will be working with many of the businesses at the Sustainability Centre who will send employees on the course or will give live briefs to the students We have a workshop available around social, environmental and business within sustainability ready to offer business students from external network Investigations for Carbon Literacy course for the colleges group. This course could potentially be taken by leadership team/Sustainability Committee or similar.</p>
<p>3. Videos & Network</p>	<p>To manage a promotional programme, which highlights the work of the Sustainability Centre and especially its work with small businesses in the region, through case studies and videos. To create a comprehensive series to be promoted and accessed across the group and used in curriculum and IAG settings.</p>	<p>Andrew Wheeler/ Misha Panovs</p>	<p>April 2023</p>	<p>Plans to record SaveMoneyCutCarbon and One Planet Pizza for Reconnecting East Anglia series (had to be rescheduled due to Covid illnesses) Network has been expanding through webinar & event invites and outreach from LinkedIn Now joined West Suffolk Council Climate Group Invited to public health committee group</p>

4. Ambassadors	To encourage staff from across the group to get involved in the sustainability agenda and the work of the Sustainability Centre.	Andrew Wheeler	April 2023	Ambassador programme now live and being advertised. 2 Official applications. Deadline is mid May. Interview to then be held May/June with a first group meeting and workshop.
5. Outdoor learning activities	To develop the idea of outdoor learning, and learning from the environment. To work with colleagues to develop a programme which can be rolled out across the group.	Andrew Wheeler	April 2023	UOcean partnership for awareness/litter pick group to start this month 27 th April with Tracey Marshall's department. Equipment is being borrowed but we have now purchased our own. Next litter pick will be with Neals/Paula's group to Southwold with businesses and UOcean. To propose Workshops for Debbie Coombes with Orchard Barn: working with natural materials.
6. Embedding into curriculum	To ensure that the principles of sustainability are thoroughly embedded into the curriculum; are clear and obvious in all schemes of work; and addressed in classroom activity. To ensure that senior subject leads, curriculum directors and heads of department are engaged in this process.	Andrew Wheeler	April 2023	Through ambassador programme Workshops to be delivered to staff that enquire. Climate literacy workshop to be delivered to Catrina Bacon's apprentices in Dental, health, pharmacy and social care June/July Carbon Literacy course being investigated with a proposal to ripple through the college Drop in & book in consultancy/support scheme to open for academics and students Need to work closer with Universities-connection to be revised and re-introduced.



				On going support for staff in their projects.
7. Audits and actions	To contribute towards sustainability audits and ensuing actions.	Andrew Wheeler	April 2023	SMCC to send second draft of audit week commencing 19/04/22 to be shared with Chloe, Andrew, Richard and Pam. Following this a meeting at the end of April to go through. Final report presentation to be delivered to wider stakeholders May time. Once completed this to be passed over to estates team to manage relation and next steps with SMCC? But will be open to support from SC.
8. Infrastructure improvements	To liaise with Estates and the Group Operations Director to address infrastructure improvements.	Andrew Wheeler	April 2023	Will come following audit? Chris Grover from WS Council, is open to support college in active travel schemes/grants Have proposed to Richard about using Ecolgi as main internet search engine. Sustainability Centre website is being created and renovated Edmunds will be selling reusable coffee cup on scheme

9. Supply chains	To liaise with Estates and other departments to develop a plan and a timetable for action on procurement policy and supply chains.	Andrew Wheeler	April 2023	Courses for procurement team and policy extended to suppliers/partners is advised.
10. Jobs & Careers	To improve our knowledge of the jobs market in relation to the sustainability agenda. To explore the whole spectrum of work that impacts on the environment. Employers will increasingly be looking for students to help them navigate the new world order, processes, products, services, and supply chains - and it is our role to be knowledgeable about these emerging needs and ways of aligning curriculum so that students are work ready.	Jonathan Boast	April 2023	This is a longer term outcome which will be reported on in 2023. A small survey has been developed regarding the Circular Economy within education and work place for future proofing.
12. Work experience & placements		Jonathan Boast	April 2023	Andy Frazer (HE Work Placement Officer) is now working with many of the Sustainability Centres businesses and Networks that are interested in

	To work with our Work Placements and Connections Team to help secure work experience opportunities, industry placements and closer ties to employers across the group.			offering placements, briefs and work experience. Businesses also open to give live briefs to Matthews apprenticeship
12. Building Resilience:	To manage the Sustainability Centre so that it becomes a beacon of best practice for students, staff and businesses in the region and enables us to build resilience in tackling climate change and the wider sustainability agenda in the coming years.	Andrew Wheeler	April 2023	Through ambassadors Award Ceremony pencil agreed for early 2023 at University Building for internal and external stakeholders. Leadership & Circular Economy course been taken by Chloe Ennis.

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Name and Role	Andrew Wheeler – Executive Director Curriculum Initiatives



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