

1. Key points to note

- 1.1. Through its Sustainability Strategy, Sparsholt College Group is committed to operating all of its activities in a sustainable manner, through minimising the adverse impact of its activities on the environment and in promoting sound environmentally sustainable principles and practices through the delivery of its curriculum offer.
- 1.2. Whilst the Climate Action Roadmap has continued to be used to support the college in mapping out its journey towards being a 'Leading College' on sustainability, in 2022-23 it is our intention to transition towards mapping our progress towards the 5 key action areas as identified in the Department for Education's (DfE's) Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy.

2. Introduction

- 2.1. The college recognises the key role it plays in responding to the climate emergency, given the stakeholders with which it engages. The Sustainability Strategy sets out our approach to reach the target of net-zero emissions for scope 1 and 2 by 2030, and net-zero for scope 3 by 2040.
- 2.2. In April 2022 the DfE published its strategy for the education and children's services systems on 'Sustainability and Climate Change'¹. As previously reported, this strategy sets out ambitious activities to respond to recommendations for education from the Committee for Climate Change, the Dasgupta Review, Green Jobs Taskforce report and will support the delivery of the Government's 25 year Environment Plan and Net Zero Strategy.
- 2.3. This report provides an update on progress to date with Sparsholt College Group's journey to net-zero carbon emissions and its wider sustainability targets.

3. Sustainability Strategy

- 3.1. The Sustainability Strategy (Appendix A) was developed in 2020-21 in collaboration with the Green College Group. It identifies those activities which the College has already achieved, activities which are currently in progress this academic year, and those which are planned in the forthcoming years.
- 3.2. Progress towards planned sustainability actions and environmental improvements in 2021/22 include:

¹ [Sustainability and climate change: a strategy for the education and children's services systems - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/sustainability-and-climate-change-a-strategy-for-the-education-and-childrens-services-systems)

2021-2022 Actions	Progress to date
Launch Sustainability page on website	Complete. Sustainability page live to include our pledge, green group membership, relevant policies and strategies
Report and manage climate change impact in Strategic Risk Management Plan	Complete. 'The college fails to identify, understand and/ or respond to climate change potential threats and opportunities' has been added as a key risk to the strategic risk register, reviewed termly by Audit Committee.
Integration of the sustainability agenda within the tutorial programme to raise awareness and understanding.	Complete. The DigiEd team have developed a new Sustainability module as part of the update to the College Tutorial Programme (CTP) and this was launched to students in January 2022.
Engage learners in meaningful social action projects which focus on the green agenda and connects learners to wider societal responsibilities.	Ongoing. Sustainability is the key feature of social action projects in FE this academic year (examples include wetland development, pond restoration, rewilding areas). HE students engaged in a range of research based projects and volunteering opportunities linked to their subject specialism.
Consider remote working solutions to reduce travel (i.e., between campuses)	Complete. Cross college meetings (Andover and Sparsholt Comms) now hosted virtually, duty manager activities hosted per campus, initial stages of recruitment activities undertaken virtually.
Complete installation of LED lighting on Sparsholt campus	Complete. November 2021.
Carbon Reduction Plan (CRP) produced with priority actions identified	Ongoing. A priority action of energy consumption reduction has been targeted through Sparsholt campus, including LED lighting replacement project, replacing oil boilers and replacement windows and doors to Mitchell Wing. Salix phase 3 funding bid to create a decarbonisation plan submitted and awaiting outcome.

New property strategy developed which embeds climate change considerations within capital investment decision making	Complete. New Property Strategy applies a multiplier to the 'sustainability' criteria when undertaking options appraisals.
On-site College apiary re-established	Complete. Hampshire Beekeepers Association have supported college in establishing new apiary this term, with students StudyPlus activity planned from September.
FEETF funding application to replace the most inefficient buildings on the Sparsholt campus	Awaiting next funding round, likely in academic year 2022/23.
Ongoing management and review of habitat and diversity on SCG campuses	Ongoing. A new conservation land management plan is in place for Ower Wood, new planting to the front drive and current review of ELMS scheme to join.
Reduce Scope 2 (energy indirect) emissions by 10% from the base year 2017/18 through energy efficiency initiatives and raising awareness	Projected annual savings from 1,208,658 kwh to 222,934 kwh due to Sparsholt LED project gives an efficiency reduction of 82% for lighting. Saving 985,724 kwh as a percentage of group energy consumption gives an estimated reduction of 35.1% from 20/21 (2,805,707 kwh location based) and 46.3% from 17/18 (3,387,010 kwh) Staff habits encouraged through direct communication and consistent messages to save energy through emails and comms.
Reduce WEEE waste by further 5% through Repair, Reuse, Recycle and through sustainable procurement.	Complete and ongoing. Staff communication via newsletter. Revision of current Waste Management Policy to include adoption of Right to Repair rules to reduce wastage and increase lifecycle of goods, also to involve procurement and IT. New electrical retailer take back rules as discussed with Premises Manager and Residential Support Manager, to reduce stock piling of white goods.

Reduce water emissions by further 10% through increased leak detection, water harvesting, using meters for raising awareness and water saving devices to reduce consumption	Ongoing. Overnight detection works in Autumn 2021 with Demeter identified large leaks, in particular Horticulture irrigation system. 6-month average monthly consumption to 07/21 2508 Cubic Meters, reduced to 1727 Cubic Meters by 01/22, a reduction of 31.14%
Place sustainability at the heart of the Student Council agenda (including leading on initiatives throughout the student community)	Sustainability is a standing agenda item at Student Council. Each Council have been given £500 budget to run student-led initiatives. Student presentations at HE Board of Studies.
Reduce paper and printing consumption (migrate to electronic forms and resources)	Printing costs under monthly review. Consultant appointed to migrate to Office 365 and introduce wider roll out of Microsoft Forms.
Electric vehicle charge points to be installed	Expected installation August 2022.
Publish SECR data	Complete. SECR report now published on college website.

4. Roadmap Update

- 4.1. The College Green Group have, to date, used a modified version of the Climate Action Roadmap, developed by the Climate Commission for UK Higher and Further Education, as a mechanism to drive forward progress towards achieving net zero (modified to incorporate the HE climate action toolkit).

The scoring of the road map now includes actions which are fully complete (dark green), i.e. establishing a sustainability group, whilst also evidencing the level of progress towards initiatives which will continue to run throughout our journey towards net zero, for example, 'implementing strategies to reduce energy use'.

- 4.2. Progress towards Sparsholt College Group's Roadmap is demonstrated in Appendix B.
- 4.3. Going forwards, commencing Autumn 2022, progress will be measured against the DfE's key action areas identified in the Sustainability and Climate Change strategy.