

Sustainability Strategy Annual Report 2024-25

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Through its Sustainability Strategy, Sparsholt College Group (the college) is committed to operating all 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. 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.
- 1.3. In April 2022 the Department for Education 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 and the Green Jobs Taskforce report, and will support the delivery of the Government’s 25-year Environment Plan and Net Zero Strategy.
- 1.4. 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.

2. Sustainability Strategy

- 2.1. The Sustainability Strategy (Appendix A) was developed in 2020-21 in collaboration with the Green College Group and updated in 2023-24 to map to the DfE’s published strategy. 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.
- 2.2. The Strategy is updated annually and provides an action plan by which progress towards planned sustainability actions and environmental improvements is monitored.

2024-2025 Actions	Progress to date
Climate Education	
Roll out the Equine Carbon Calculator (ECC) project and implement at Sparsholt College	370 equine yards have now used the ECC nationally following a showcase at the Windsor Horse Show. ECC will be undertaken at Sparsholt in autumn 2025
Achieve full representation at curriculum sustainability termly meetings from both campuses and establish internal sustainability targets for learners	Sustainability working group is now fully established with representation from every curriculum area reporting against the targets set for their learners

Engage learners with the countryside stewardship programme at Sparsholt campus	Agriculture, game and conservation learners have supported the farm estate team in the delivery of options to support priority habitats and species
Cross campus 'Sustainability' week to showcase current practices/ examples in industry	3 rd -7 th February 2025 Sustainability Week was hosted on each campus involving a range of employers and industry experts
Green Skills	
New online learning curriculum offer that promotes sustainability and the low carbon sector	The College's online learning platform, the Innovation South Virtual Campus (ISVC) provides a range of modules: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic Retrofit • Carbon Literacy • Carbon Literacy & Climate Change • Introduction to Sustainable Resource Management • Next Steps in Sustainable Resource Management • Sustainable Resource Management in Practice • Tree Planting & Climate Change • Water Conservation Technologies
Curriculum offer delivered in Electric Vehicle Technology and Solar PV systems	Installation of Quantum Bays at the Sparsholt campus with curriculum offer from 2025
Education Estate and Digital Infrastructure	
Continue to increase rainwater harvesting on campus (planned new builds)	Now fully integrated into the farm estate and HE Science Centre
Enhance use of solar energy and incorporating battery storage into existing system	A 64-panel system (including storage) has been installed on the HE Science Centre and a 90-panel system (including storage) on the Vertical Farming Centre
Explore wind turbine energy generation in partnership with College's energy advisor	A feasibility study is underway
Create Green Skills Lab on each campus	Lab now completed which includes four tractor simulators
Operations and Supply Chains	
Introduce further electric/hybrid vehicles into college fleet	6 electric vehicles now in use across the college estate with a number of EV charging points for residents, staff, students and visitors

Carbon sequestration (carbon credit)- use of estate planting strategy	Projects include the installation of additional wildflower areas, additional tree planting and managed grasslands to improve insect habitats and increase diversity
Integration of technology ((including AI) to reduce printing costs in targeted areas	12% overall reduction in printing costs in 2024/25
International	
International trips and study tours to incorporate a sustainability learning objective and to propose Carbon Offsetting opportunities	All study trips completed in partnership with Gap Africa have assessed their carbon footprint, included sustainable reserve management activities and community work in local townships
Host event for careers advisors with sustainability theme	In July 2025 a sustainability themed careers event took place at Sparsholt attended by 30+ careers advisors
Andover School careers event aimed at promotion of green skills and careers	In March 2025 a careers event for school pupils took place at the Andover campus showcasing green skills across a range of curriculum areas