

## **SUSTAINABILITY ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1. This paper provides a summary report on the management of sustainability within the College during 2020/21.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1. With sustainability becoming an increasingly important part of life and an important issue for students, this Sustainability Annual Report has been produced to provide information on how the College is currently performing and what is being done.
- 2.2. The EAUC/Association of Colleges sustainability roadmap was launched in 2019, this topic is going to play an increasingly important role. With this in mind the College has recently relaunched the Sustainability Committee with representation across College to drive this agenda forward.
- 2.3. The Corporation has discussed the climate emergency and agreed to declare a climate emergency and to make sustainability one of its Values for the period 2022-2025.

### **3. SUMMARY OF PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020/21**

- 3.1. Key Actions during the year have included:

- Replacing inefficient 60-year-old gas fired boilers at SMC with new efficient modulated gas boilers.
- Installing Building Management System at SMC to monitor and manage heating and cooling supply.
- Joining a partnership arrangement with Leicester City Council to further share ideas regarding Leicester's announcement of a Climate Emergency.
- Replacing fluorescent lamps at APC C Block with full LED lighting system
- Replacing all street furniture lighting at FPC with LED lighting
- Submitting funding applications to SALIX for various projects.

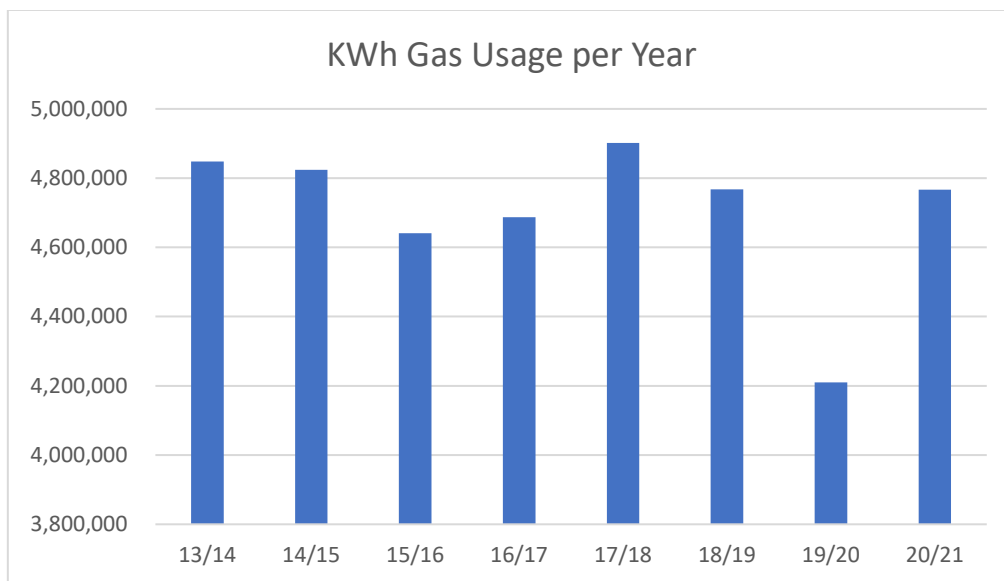
## 4. UTILITY CONSUMPTION

### 4.1. Gas

4.1.1. The College's main campuses and outreach centres (minus the Sue Townsend Theatre and City Skills Centre) are all served by gas. This contract was renewed March 2021 for a period of 12 months meaning the College has not been materially affected by the recent rise in gas prices.

4.1.2. The chart included below shows historic usage over the last seven years, representing the earliest time through which data is available. This shows a constant pattern of gas usage. However 2019/20 is notable; lockdown was in force for a period of circa 12 weeks towards the latter end of the heating season and so consumption was lower. For comparison reasons, only the main campuses are analysed below.

Year	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
KWh	4,848,390	4,823,694	4,640,935	4,687,560	4,901,407	4,767,321	4,210,104	4,766,442



4.1.3. The demand for gas within the College is heavily influenced by two major factors: outside air temperature and occupation times.

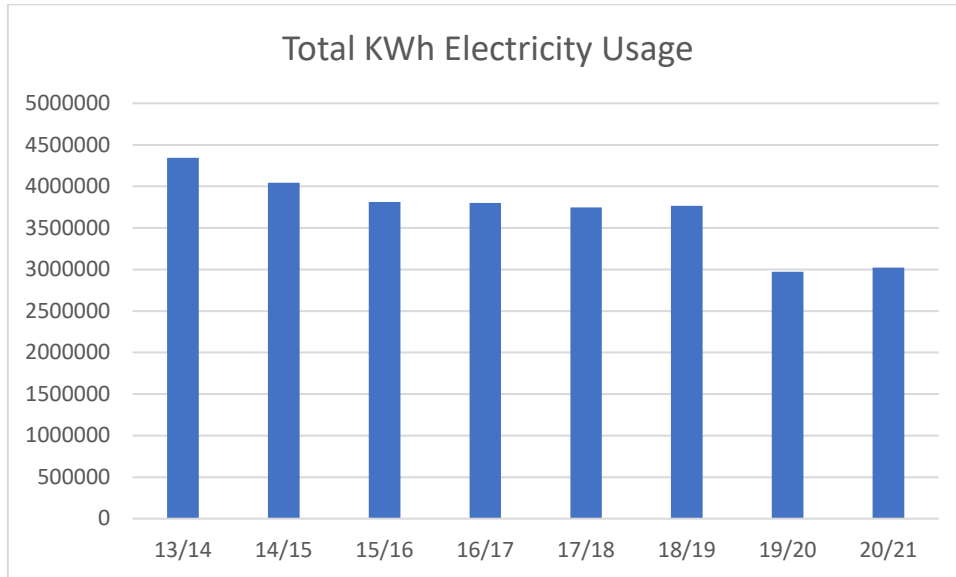
### 4.2. Electricity

4.2.1. Over the past seven years there has been a declining trend of electrical usage within the College. This has been influenced by the usage of more efficient technologies such as LED lighting, good housekeeping and control of occupation times.

4.2.2. The chart points below to this decline and also emphasises the impact that lockdowns have had in reducing consumption. Flexible work

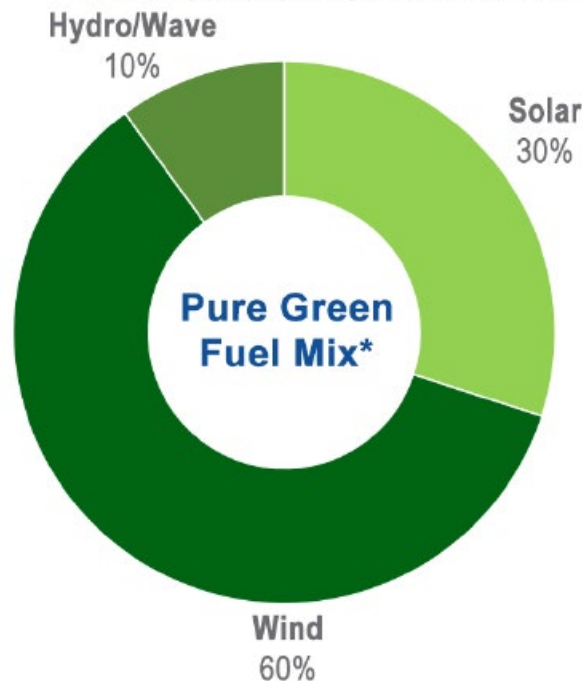
patterns that have become evident and have played an important role in reducing demand.

Year	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Total KWh	4,344,856	4,043,099	3,811,726	3,802,266	3,748,094	3,767,954	2,971,841	3,023,502



4.2.3. The College’s current energy provider, West Mercia Energy, provides electricity on a Pure Green basis. This enables the College to report zero emissions under Scope 2 (see 4.4.2). The make-up of electricity is as follows:

\* The actual generation mix cannot be guaranteed until after the delivery period (when generation is confirmed)



### 4.3. Water

- 4.3.1. The College only recently started monitoring its water consumption across all areas of the Estate. In 2019/20 17,757m<sup>3</sup> of water was used rising slightly to 18,253m<sup>3</sup> in 2020/21. This trend will be monitored going forward.
- 4.4. During the Pandemic more work had to be completed off site. The College recognised the success of this and has brought in a Hybrid Working Policy in October 2021; Hybrid Working is defined as the ability to work on site and at home. Over time this should see a reduction in the number of staff on campus at any one time, leading to a decrease in utility consumption and aiding the College's net zero ambitions.

### 4.5. Streamlined Carbon Reporting

- 4.5.1. The Companies and Limited Liability Partnerships Regulations 2018 were brought in to increase awareness of energy costs within organisations. In respect of this, the 2018 Regulations require large unquoted companies and educational establishments that have consumed more than 40,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of energy in the reporting period to include energy and carbon information on their websites. While not covered by the Regulations, colleges are asked to report this information by the ESFA.
- 4.5.2. The table below shows the main summary table for the reporting period and previous year's figures.

<b>Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data for the period 1 August 2019 to 31 July 2020 – UK</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)	7,670,903	8,335,268
<b>Scope 1 emissions in metric tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e</b>		
Gas consumption	797	919
Transport	4.77	0.22
<b>Total Scope 1</b>	<b>802</b>	<b>919.22</b>
<b>Scope 2 emissions in metric tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e</b>		
Purchased Electricity	<b>860</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e</b>	<b>1,662</b>	<b>919.22</b>
<b>Intensity Ratio</b>		
<b>Tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e per member of staff</b>	<b>1.42</b>	<b>0.85</b>

- 4.5.3. For comparative reasons a number of colleges were selected to show their gross emissions and intensity ratio. This shows that Leicester College compares well with this group.

<b>College</b>	<b>Total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO2e</b>	<b>Intensity Ratio, Tonnes CO2e per member of staff</b>
<b>Leicester College</b>	1,662	1.42
<b>Derby College</b>	5,841	5.08
<b>NWSL College</b>	1,353	N/A
<b>Croydon College</b>	1,477	2.69
<b>Boston College</b>	601	1.34
<b>Solihull College</b>	2,104	2.21

## **5. GREEN TRAVEL**

5.1. Sustainable travel of both students and staff represents a large body of work and an important area in helping the College continue to offset its carbon emissions. In terms of work carried out highlights are as follows:

- 5.1.1. Dr Bike – free bicycle MOTs for staff and students, which occurs 3 times a year at all campuses with circa 75 bikes being repaired each session.
- 5.1.2. A salary sacrifice scheme for staff for purchasing bikes via Halfords. Up until Mar '21, 137 bikes have been purchased by this medium.
- 5.1.3. Free bike D locks are given to students to encourage cycling and also act as a deterrent to thieves.
- 5.1.4. The College uses the Smartgo Green Travel discount hub for public transport. Staff use this hub to benefit from reduced bus fares from all the bus companies in Leicester and many staff use this portal.
- 5.1.5. Interest free loans are offered to staff to purchase bus and train season tickets. To date this offer has only been taken up by 2 staff members.
- 5.1.6. A staff intercampus minibus was setup in 2012 with the help of a grant from Leicester City Council. Each year staff were making 12,500 – 13,000 trips saving about 1.2 tonne of CO2 emissions a year in a low emission vehicle. Due to the pandemic the service is not currently running however staff are encouraged to use Teams for meetings and travel between sites only when necessary.
- 5.1.7. The Green Travel team are currently involved in the 'building better hospitals' meetings involving green travel via Smartgo and Ebike share scheme with Leicester City Council to progress the schemes

## **6. FOOD INC REFECTORIES**

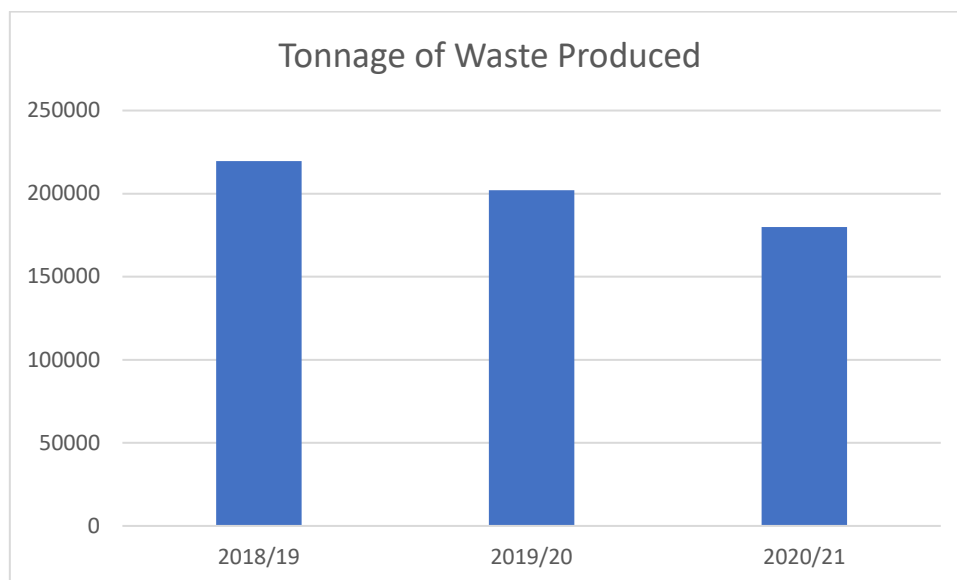
6.1. The College currently operates from three refectories within the main campuses. As part of these numerous sustainable initiatives have been completed including:

- Sale of Fairtrade teas, coffee, and chocolate
- Recycling of used cooking oil, glass wear and clear plastic cutlery
- Sandwiches bought in are packed in plastic free packaging
- Removing polystyrene from take away containers. Now only recyclable containers are used

- Food waste goes to an anaerobic digester plant - bio generator
- Using local suppliers to reduce food miles. - LIFE (local, independent, fair, ethical) with a 50-mile radius where possible
- Buying in season food and vegetables, where possible
- Using Red Tractor meats
- Using MSC approved or sustainably sourced fish
- Wherever possible, removing food items that contain palm oil or using products that contain sustainable palm oil.
- Offering 'use your own cup' incentives.

## 7. WASTE

7.1. With numerous sites and a varied curriculum delivery, the College is a large contributor of waste as can be evidenced by the chart below. Of the approximately 210,000 tonnes of waste produced annually, 91% of this is diverted away from landfill. As can be seen, there has been a downwards trend on overall tonnage, attributable to lockdowns but this is something the College is keen to see continued.



## 8. OBJECTIVES FOR 2021/22

8.1. Objectives for 2021/22 include:

- Continuing progress with the AoC sustainability roadmap
- Recruiting a new Sustainability Officer to help with delivering objectives
- Driving through CO2 emission reductions through careful management of the Building Management Systems across College.
- Engaging students and staff through a sustainability questionnaire and interpret results accordingly.
- Working on a Feasibility Study regarding T Level Construction Build delivering this to a BREEAM Excellent level.
- Developing a sustainability/carbon reduction policy.

- Establishing a task and finish group to look at sustainability in curriculum areas and in the wider personal and social development curriculum.
- Curriculum and Student Services working together to embed a series of sustainability-based projects for students.
- Implementing delivery staff training to support knowledge and understanding of embedding sustainability.
- Exploring a specific sustainability curriculum, linked to LMI.
- Upskilling within the estates team on measuring Scope 3 emissions and reporting on these within annual report.
- Producing an annual streamlined carbon usage report and ensure visibility.
- Obtaining annual Display Energy Certificates (DECs) for buildings and acting on any findings.
- Reducing waste tonnage produced by College and increasing the amount of this diverted from landfill.
- Helping to deliver events with Student Union to engage students on subject.
- Setting the College's Net Zero date.
- Working with local partners on delivering the Net Zero agenda.
- Continuing to provide a diverse menu in College refectories and promoting meat free alternatives where applicable.
- Report on carbon savings made via the College's current renewable options.
- Helping to embed Sustainable Development Goals within curriculum delivery
- Working with departments within College to understand their contribution towards Net Zero.

October 2021