

Glasgow Kelvin College

Board of Management Meeting of 18 March 2026

Public Sector Climate Change Duties Report – 2024/25

Report by Assistant Principal Estates, Corporate Planning and Governance and Head of Facilities and Environmental Sustainability

1. Introduction and Purpose

This report is to update members on the recently submitted Public Sector Climate Change Duties Report for Academic Year 2024/25.

2. Public Sector Climate Change Duties Report – 2024/25

The Public Sector Climate Change Duties Report for Academic Year 2024/25 was submitted by the deadline of 30 November 2025. The full submission can be reviewed in [Appendix 1](#) in the portal.

3. Outcome

Glasgow Kelvin College is committed to minimising the negative impact its activities have on the environment. In Academic Year 2015/16 the College prepared its first Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) and reported on its environmental performance from Academic Year 2014/15 onwards as part of the Scottish Government Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Reporting. The College is fully compliant with the reporting requirements specified in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. It now has several years of carbon emissions data.

The Scottish Government announced in April 2024 that it would be scrap its 2030 target to reduce carbon emissions by 75%. This followed a critical report from the Climate Change Committee (CCC) which said that reaching the milestone was no longer achievable. A fresh bill was brought to Holyrood to adjust the legally binding targets, removing the 2030 interim target but keeping the ultimate ambition to hit net zero by 2045. It is in this context that the College will likewise follow the Scottish Government restated target and aim to achieve Net Zero by 2045.

The College can report that annual 'organisational boundary' carbon emissions (measured in tCO₂e or tonnes of carbon emissions) for Academic Year 2024/25 have decreased by 15% since 2023/24, with an overall reduction in organisational boundary emissions of 63% since the baseline year of 2014/15, i.e. from 3,257 tCO₂e to a current level of 1,184 tCO₂e. The College's organisational boundary includes all Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions which are under its operational control.

It is important to note that while our organisational boundary emissions are decreasing, the College reported its Scope 3 Supply Chain emissions for the first time in Academic Year 2024/25 which significantly increased the total emissions reported. The Supply Chain emissions were derived from APUC Scope 3 Supply Chain Emissions Tool (a standard amongst HE and FE institutions).

During the 2024/25 academic year, the College undertook a range of initiatives to strengthen environmental performance, climate resilience, and institutional sustainability. Key highlights reported to the Scottish Government through the Public Sector Climate Change Duties Report include the following:

Climate Risk, Governance and Strategic Planning

- Development of a College Climate Risk Register and Climate Adaptation Plan, with climate risks integrated into the College's Strategic Risk Register.
- Membership of the Public Sector Climate Adaptation Network (PSCAN), supporting sector-wide collaboration and knowledge sharing.

Energy, Carbon and Resource Efficiency

- Commencement of energy efficiency audits across all campuses to identify opportunities for further energy and carbon reductions.
- Replacement of standard car park lighting with LED lighting, improving energy efficiency.
- Replacement or renovation of dozens of campus toilets to improve water efficiency and reduce water consumption.

Sustainable Travel and Active Transport

- Investment in improved cycling infrastructure, including:
 - Installation of three new cycle shelters.
 - Provision of 20 new fleet loan bicycles to support staff and student active travel.
- Recognition of the 'Cycling for All: Breaking Barriers' project:
 - 2025 UK & Ireland Green Gown Award Winner.
 - College Development Network Award Finalist.

Biodiversity, Nature and Campus Development

- Development of the Easterhouse Climate Engagement Learning Garden, incorporating a rainwater harvesting system, rewilded areas, and habitat restoration.
- Drafting of a Biodiversity Action Plan.
- Selection for participation in Students Organising for Sustainability UK's Nature Friendly Grounds Pilot Programme.

Learning for Sustainability and Student Engagement

- Selection for participation in the EAUC Pilot Programme: Identifying Key Enablers to Integrate Learning for Sustainability in the Curriculum.
- Recognition of the 'Holistic Approach to Whole-Student Engagement' project:
 - 2025 UK & Ireland Green Gown Award Finalist.
 - College Development Network Award Finalist.
- Continued recognition of the 'Fighting Fast Fashion' project:
 - 2024 International Green Gown Award Winner (Next Generation Learning and Skills category).

Further analysis of the 2024/25 Public Sector Climate Change Duties Report shows a continued reduction in energy consumption:

- Grid electricity usage decreased by 21% during 2024/25.
- Gas usage decreased by 11% over the same period.
- These reductions are primarily attributable to the disposal of the West End Campus in October 2024.

The financial situation facing the public sector and the College must be considered. This limits the likely availability of capital funding for more environmentally friendly solutions but also increases the need to make savings and improve efficiency which in turn is a key driver of reduced carbon emissions.

As reported within the Public Sector Climate Change Duties Report, the five main targets for Glasgow Kelvin College for the year ahead are:

1. To develop and begin implementing a College Biodiversity Action Plan.
2. To continue to identify funding opportunities for projects and measures to reduce the College's carbon emissions and improve its climate adaptation capacity.
3. To complete energy efficiency audits of each campus and to progress with proposed efficiency measures.
4. To further integrate Green Skills training and Learning for Sustainability across the College curriculum.
5. Continue to inspire and encourage staff and students to continue to adopt environmentally sustainable ways of learning, teaching, working and living.

The College will publish its Public Sector Climate Change Duties Report 2024/25 on its website as per previous years. It will also ensure that the College complies in full with the requirements of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, including reporting requirements; this is expected to be uploaded around February 2026 once the EAUC assessment is complete.

4. Resource Implications

There are substantial resource/time implications involved in terms of gathering, analysing and implementing data to make this regulatory return; these reporting requirements are ever-increasing.

Without significant financial investment the College is limited in the progress it can make.

5. Impact on Students

There are no direct impacts on students arising from the College's submission of the annual Public Sector Climate Change Duties Report.

6. Equalities

No adverse impacts on individuals with protected characteristics have been identified as a consequence of this report.

7. Risk and Assurance

Risk to the College is mitigated by ensuring that the Audit and Risk Committee receive assurance that the College is complying with environmental regulations and meeting deadline submission dates.

8. Data Protection

No data protection issues are identified arising from this report.

9. Environmental and Sustainability

The College will continue with its efforts to reduce its environmental impact as far as available resources allow, as outlined in this paper and the appendix attached.

10. Recommendation

Members of the Board of Management are asked to:

- i) note the content of this report and its appendix.

11. Further Information

Members can obtain further information on the contents of this report from Lisa Clark, Assistant Principal – Estates, Corporate Planning and Governance lisaclark@glasgowkelvin.ac.uk; Claire Reid, Head of Facilities and Environmental Sustainability – creid@glasgowkelvin.ac.uk; Sarah Shea, Environmental Sustainability Manager – sshea@glasgowkelvin.ac.uk .

Lisa Clark/Claire Reid
March 2026