

Sustainability Strategy

Annual Report 2022/23

Introduction

The College is committed to delivering its core business in a sustainable manner, by minimising our impact on the environment, promoting sustainability and incorporating environmental best practise into teaching and learning.

We continue to use the FE Climate Action Roadmap¹ in planning our journey and the five key action areas from the DFE's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy².

Moulton
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The College has focused on the following themes in 2022/23:



Carbon Management in Agriculture and Regenerative Farming

The Moulton College estate is 456 hectares with a further 36.5 hectares rented. There are approximately 300 hectares of land in the arable rotation including grassland for the livestock and forage production included in this figure.

The College believes that the farm is a vital asset to promote the Green Skills agenda and climate resilience in farming.

Our aim is to establish the soil carbon level and commit to management practices to increase the level of organic carbon sequestered over a number of years. We will consider selling credits as the market for this matures, provided that we do not use them within the College operations.

Increasing carbon capture through regenerative farming techniques has various beneficial outcomes - potential reduced fuel usage, reduced fertiliser usage, reduced soil erosion and reduced run off of water and nitrates, to mention a few. It is therefore good farming practice, potential income generating and a great teaching opportunity. Soil testing is scheduled to commence in Autumn 2023.

Next steps:

- Quantify and validate our own emissions – these need to be offset for the College as a whole before any surplus carbon can be traded.
- Consider alterations to farming practices – regenerative farming principles promote no inversion tillage; a commitment to reducing fertiliser usage; and a commitment to growing cover crops. Where carbon credits are sold then there should be no tillage below 10cm for a 10 year term.
- Analyse carbon data on continuous soil improvements (This is a relatively new science and Moulton College has the opportunity to trial new ideas and techniques to educate the farming community. The College is identifying a number of partners with whom it can work to effectively investigate and deliver this expertise.) – particularly given that not all the soil at Moulton College is clay-rich.
- Gain a grant towards some of the costs of the soil testing exercise (e.g. Sustainable Farming Incentive – see below).
- Consider if carbon credit trading is of benefit to the College

¹Climate Commission and Nours Group Climate Action Roadmap for UK FE Colleges | EAUC

²Sustainability and climate change: a strategy for the education and children's services systems - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)



Skills for a Green Economy

We have worked with a group of Colleges to secure SDF funding to enable the development of training courses for in EV, solar and air source heat pump technology. This includes the use of Virtual Reality and provision of training rigs.

We have developed the curriculum in these areas and trained staff in these technologies to enable us to deliver the skills training to local students and businesses.

Next steps:

- > Roll out green skill courses to employers and bid for further funding to expand the offer to a wider audience.
- > Work with the LSIF to further enhance collaboration between regional college partners to ensure we are responding to employer demand identified in the LSIP for green skills.



Small projects

We have a small budget allocated to improve energy efficiency of the College's buildings over the next eighteen months. This builds on the energy survey that identified a number of improvements.

We are rewilding the arboretum, which will take a number of years to complete.

Next steps:

- > Continue to develop a pipeline of staff and student led sustainability projects.
- > Seek other grant funding opportunities.

Sustainability Strategy 2023-2040

The College has a key role to play in responding to the climate emergency, as an educator and through the stakeholders we engage with. Our Sustainability Strategy (Appendix 1) sets out our approach to reach a target of net zero emissions for scope 1, 2 and 3 by 2030, the strategy will consider whether to utilise carbon off setting to achieve this goal along with a range of other measures.

The strategy sets out the actions to be taken in 2023/24, which will be refreshed annual as part of the annual review and reporting cycle.

