



Dumfries and
Galloway College

Climate Change

Action Plan

2020 – 2025



One step ahead

Contents

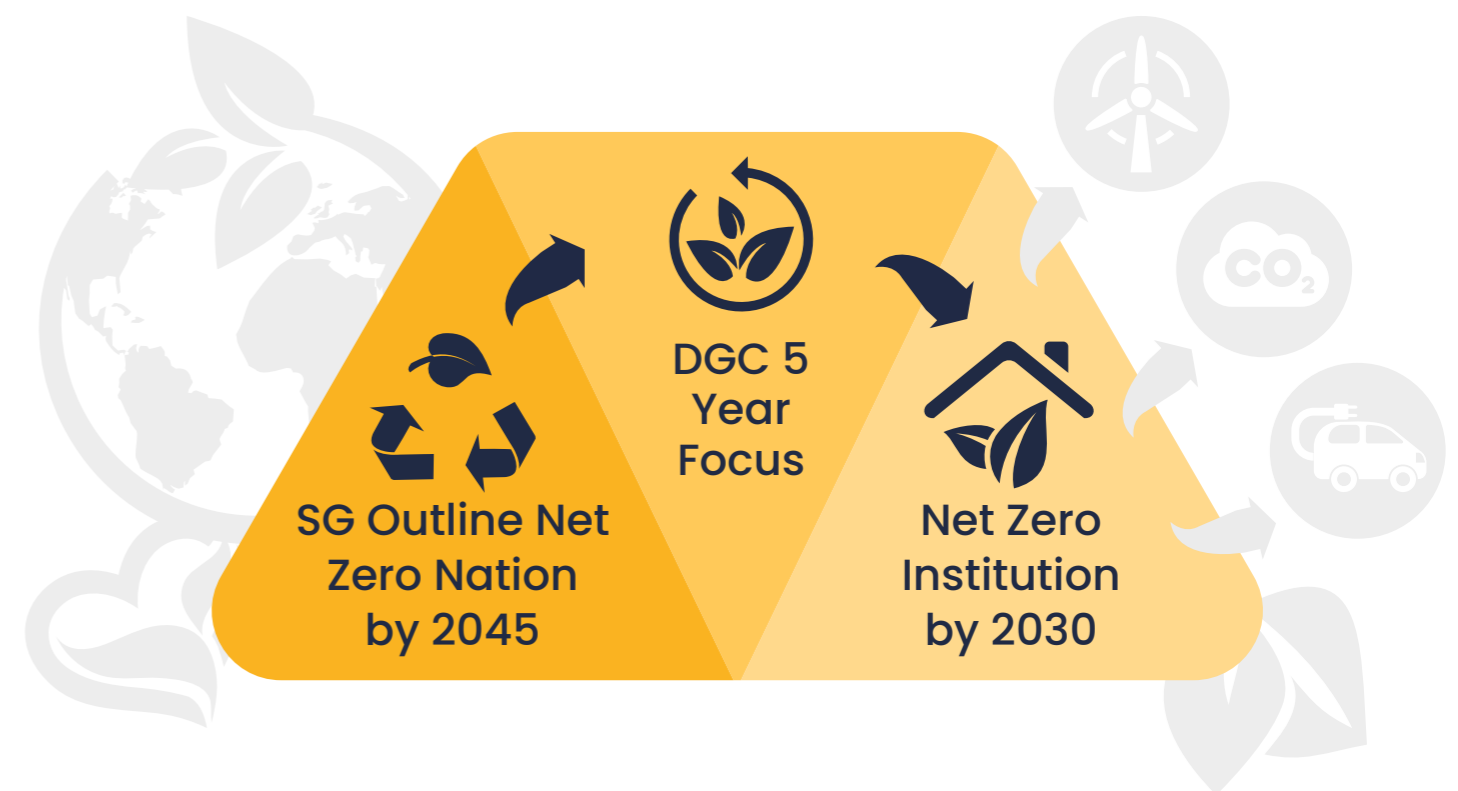
Making real changes	03
Working towards Net Zero	04
Emissions Targets	05
Emission Scopes	06
Road Map to Brighter Future	07
Governance	16

Making real changes...

Tackling climate change isn't something we can opt to do, it is a responsibility we all have. With the effects of ever increasing carbon emissions taking serious hold on the earths environments serious action is required to begin the work to reverse the effects and become a net zero society.

In Scotland the Scottish Government have set a firm target of being a net zero nation by 2045 and have set out their plans in the Climate Change: Net Zero Nation Strategic Plan.

The purpose of the climate change action plan (hereafter known as CCAP) is to outline the key areas that Dumfries and Galloway College will focus on across a 5 year period to continue its work towards becoming a net zero institution by 2030.



Working Towards Net Zero

The college has been working towards net zero since 2014 through its previous action plan and has been doing so in accordance with Part 4 of the Climate Change Act (2009). Working closely with agencies such as the Scottish Funding Council, EAUC, sector peers and regional partners the college has successfully met its first set of targets in line with the action plan.

The college declared a climate emergency in January 2019 and created a cross college working group dedicated to providing support and guidance to colleagues and students on climate change matters.

This group provides the focus for projects, funding sources, innovations and also embedding climate change into curriculum.

This action plan will focus on key focus areas which will allow the college to continue to reduce carbon emissions, become a key partner both locally and nationally on climate change matters and become a focussed training centre for green skills.



Take a look at our Green Skills Academy Brochure for more info on how to get a step ahead with green energy courses and kickstart a greener career.



Emissions Targets

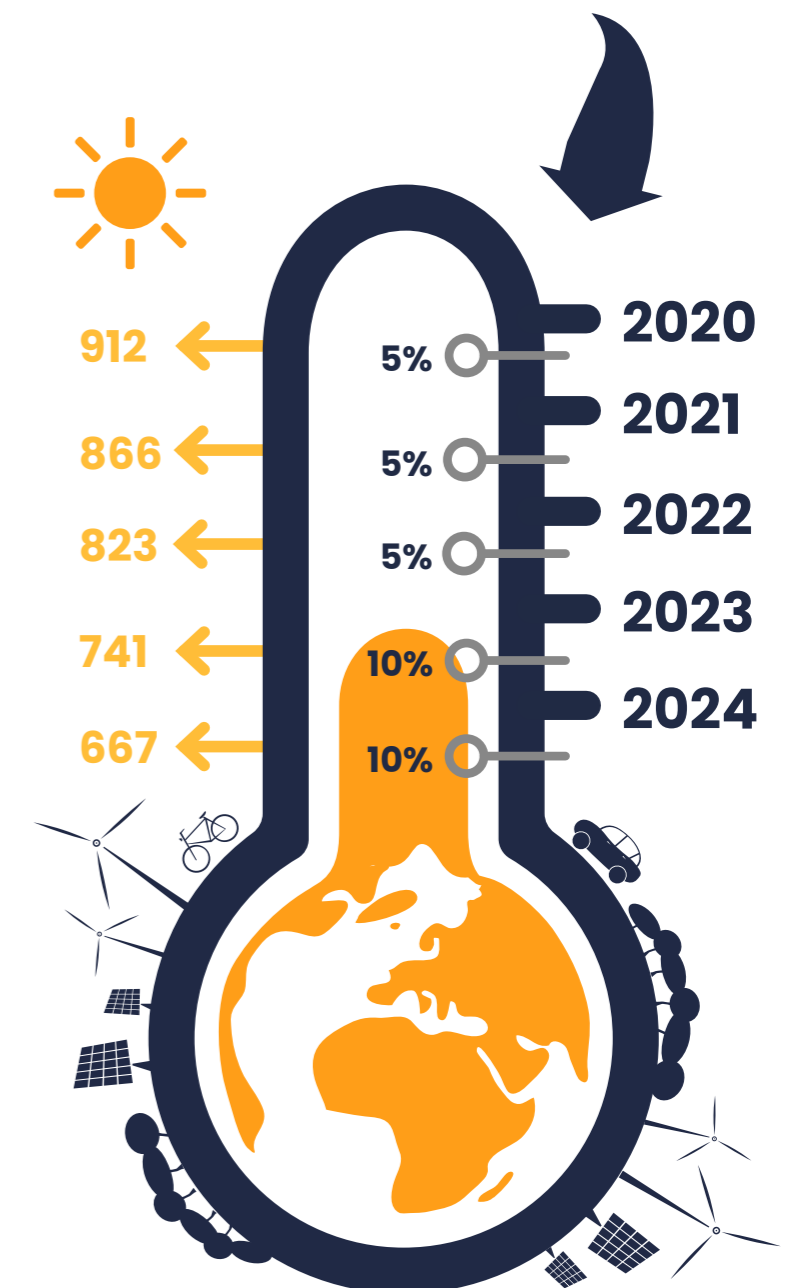
This action plan will provide a key pathway to allow the reduction in carbon emissions. To do this in a focussed manner fixed targets year on year have been set to show real progress.

The college started in 2014 with a baseline emissions figure of 1321 tonnes CO2 equivalent and set a target of 20% reduction by reporting year 2019. The current plan will open on an emissions figure of 906 tonnes CO2 equivalent which represents an overall reduction of almost 32%.

Emissions Targets for the 5 years from 2020-25

Successful achievement of these targets will mean that the colleges **overall emissions reduction will be over 70%** leaving it well on the way to a net zero target by 2030.

-  Reporting Year
-  % Reduction
-  Emissions Total



The overall emissions are broken down into 3 scopes as follows:



Scope 1

Emissions are direct emissions from activities which includes our use of natural gas for heating and catering, fleet vehicles and air conditioning system leaks.



Scope 2

Emissions are indirect emissions from the use of purchased energy such as electricity from the grid.



Scope 3

Emissions are other indirect emissions from sources not owned or controlled by the college. This includes waste, procurement, business travel, water, and wastewater.



Due to these factors main emissions come from our Estates and Facilities operations. Key savings are usually attributed to new technologies being deployed, greater focus on waste management or renewing fleet vehicles.

To allow for the continued reduction of the above emissions the college must set out several key areas to focus on.

Road Map to a brighter, cleaner future...

**Net Zero by
2045**



6 Carbon offsetting
2023 - 2024

5 Partnerships and collaboration
2020 - 2024

The college commits to working with sector colleagues to explore this need and to work towards embedding climate change and sustainability into all subject areas where possible.

4 Skills and education
2021 - 2024

Dumfries and Galloway College will focus efforts across a 5 year period to continue its work towards becoming a net zero institution by 2030.

1 Carbon reductions through efficient operations
2020 - 2024



3 Waste reduction
2020 - 2024

2 Reduction of business travel & decarbonising of the college fleet
2020 - 2022

The college is already committed to reducing its use of diesel vehicles from 2020-2022 and replacing these with a modern fleet of energy efficient vehicles.



Carbon reductions through efficient operations

As outlined in our annual carbon reporting the main emissions come from use of natural gas supplies and grid electricity supplies, accounting for around 86% of the total emissions. The college is committed to exploring and utilising renewables technologies and has shown this commitment by creating the Green Energy Hub which is completely powered by renewable resources. Opportunities for greener grid supplies will be explored collaboratively through our procurement channels and working with suppliers as well as examining stand alone and local sharing opportunities for low carbon energy projects.

The Systems and Infrastructure Strategy places strategic focus on sustainability and climate change. Through this strategy we will ensure the processes are in place to ensure maximum efficiency through its operations.

Focussed digital and estates transformational plans will identify projects which meet the strategic criteria of providing modern, fit for purpose facilities whilst also contributing to the overall carbon reduction targets.

Our Aims

The Corporate Services team will continue to create, monitor and report on energy reduction opportunities through its daily operations through annual departmental operational plans.

Through the campuses natural rural surroundings, biodiversity is encouraged in its estates.

We are committed to providing more opportunities in this area including:

- » wellbeing gardens across our campus
- » promotion of wild flowers in our meadow areas
- » utilisation of areas within the main campus car park to allow for more planters.



Reduction of business travel and decarbonising of the college fleet

Travel and fleet contribute to 13% of the overall carbon emissions, the third highest contributor behind gas supply and electricity supply.

The college has relied heavily on travel to execute its business. Being a remote location, travel has been necessary between its 2 campuses, to visit business partners across the region, to engage with other colleges and to attend key business meetings nationally.

The COVID pandemic has taught us that technology has moved on and there are means of continuing business without the need for such travel. We will commit to enhancing our digital technologies to allow staff to carry out their work without the requirement of substantial travel.

The existing fleet consist of several diesel vehicles ranging from 1.2l to 1.7l engines.

Our Aims

The college is already committed to reducing its use of diesel vehicles from 2020-2022 and replacing these with a modern fleet of energy efficient vehicles. Working with transport providers across the region will ensure our student travel is undertaken in the most energy and cost-efficient manner.

The Corporate Services team will continue to create, monitor and report on energy reduction opportunities through its daily operations through annual departmental operational plans.



Waste reduction

The college has already committed to banning all single use plastics in its campuses in 2019. The campuses have been water refill stations since 2017 and has provided reusable drinking cups to students in the past.

The college works closely with waste providers to ensure our waste streams are all recyclable and that we commit to zero waste to landfill. The College and the waste providers ensure that all skips are provided to ensure demarcation for all waste streams.

The college commits to increased internal recycling, particularly in the construction waste which is its largest

waste stream currently. The College will explore local partnership opportunities as well as looking at internal processes to reduce this waste stream over the 5 years of this action plan.



Skills and education

The college has continually embraced sustainability through its education provision, working through several curriculum areas to bring the matter into the curriculum framework. It is widely recognised, across the education sector, that more needs to be done.

Our Aims

The college commits to working with sector colleagues to explore this need and to work towards embedding climate change and sustainability into all subject areas where possible.

The college has already successfully implemented a digital project which focussed specifically on addressing accessibility to courses for those living in rural areas. This has seen the creation of a “Hub and Spoke” model which works along the South of Scotland in partnership with Borders College as wells as the 2 local authorities. This project will continue and expanded on within the college to ensure increased access to flexible learning is available in the South of Scotland.

The college also works heavily on green energy subjects, providing a range of opportunities across our engineering and construction curriculums. Green skills will feature heavily in the economic recovery post Covid 19 and as such the college will be well placed to lead on this.

The college is committed to creating a dedicated green skills academy which will focus on increased training opportunities in targeted green areas.

The creation of a dedicated Green Skills Academy will see pathways into the green energy sector be created along with a range of wider curriculum and commercial training opportunities focussed solely on providing a skilled workforce into the green energy sector.



Partnerships and collaboration

It is widely recognised that partnerships and collaboration will be key to Scotland and the UK meeting its net zero targets. These collaborations can be academic, business, community and regulatory collaborations.

The college has already embraced such collaborations, working with regional and national partners on a range of projects including the SPEN zero carbon communities tool which was developed by our staff.

Our Aims

The college will continue to work in a collaborative manner and will engage with all local and national agencies, with communities, businesses, academic partners to ensure that we equip all of our stakeholders to effectively become a net zero carbon society.



Carbon offsetting

The College will examine opportunities for offsetting of operational carbon emissions which cannot be replaced through means of adaptation.

Our Aims

The college will seek, evaluate and implement opportunities which may arise for the organisation, for the local region or through collective sector offsetting agreements.

These opportunities will be evaluated by 2023 to allow for timely implementation and evaluation ahead of realising net zero status by 2030.

Governance

The implementation of the plan will be the responsibility of the Head of Corporate Services. There will be an annual work plan, or operational plan, which will take into account the targets listed in this strategy. The plan will be monitored and implemented through the Climate Emergency Group.

Quarterly reports on progress will be issued to the Senior Leadership Team and an annual report going on to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

The College will continue to report on its climate emissions in line with the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties reporting requirements on an annual basis. These figures are publicly reported and utilised in the Colleges Regional Outcome Agreement.

“ Focussed digital and estates transformational plans will identify projects which meet the strategic criteria of providing modern, fit for purpose facilities whilst also contributing to the overall carbon reduction targets ”



Stay one step ahead.

Dumfries and Galloway College

📍 Bankend Road, Dumfries, DG1 4FD

☎ 01387 734000 🌐 www.dumgal.ac.uk

Principal: Joanna Campbell