

Sustainability Strategy

2025 - 2030



Introduction

The Leeds College of Building Sustainability Strategy is aimed at embedding environmental and social sustainability across all areas of the College, aligning with the EAUC’s Sustainability Leadership Scorecard, the Further and Higher Education Sustainability Development Goals (SDG) Accord and the Climate Action Roadmap for FE colleges 2024.

The strategy will support efforts to integrate sustainability into curriculum, reduce the college’s carbon footprint, promote resource efficiency, and create a culture of sustainability within the college community.

The four key areas of the EAUC framework:

- Leadership and governance
- Estates and operations
- Teaching and learning
- Partnerships and engagement

In line with the EAUC frameworks, the strategy will:

- Develop and implement sustainability focused curriculum, integrating sustainability principles across disciplines to build student and faculty capacity for sustainability leadership.
- Work towards the college’s commitment to the SDG Accord, ensuring alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).
- Identify and implement strategies to improve the college’s environmental impact through resource efficiency, waste management, energy conservation, and sustainable procurement.
- Build engagement with sustainability initiatives across the college’s community to embed sustainability values.
- Form partnerships with local and national stakeholders to enhance the impact of sustainability initiatives and utilise additional resources to achieve sustainability goals.

The strategy aligns with the overall Leeds College of Building Curriculum Strategy 2025 – 2030.

Leadership and Governance

What Success Looks Like

Demonstrate strong leadership by embedding sustainability across all college policies, governance structures, and decision-making processes, aligning with the EAUC Climate Action Roadmap, SDGs, and the criteria of Emerging, Established, and Leading performance measures.

To achieve this, we will:

- Align our sustainability strategy with the EAUC Climate Action Roadmap 2024, incorporating the Emerging (basic practices), Established (intermediate practices), and Leading (advanced integration) criteria, particularly focusing on SDGs 4, 9, 13 and 17.
- Establish a sustainability committee, reporting to senior leadership, to oversee progress towards 50% carbon reduction by 2030, 75% reduction by 2035 and net zero by 2040, ensuring alignment with the Roadmap's targets across all performance levels.
- Embed sustainability metrics in governance systems, tracking progress through the climate action roadmap Emerging, Established, and Leading measures to ensure continuous improvement.
- Participate in the EAUC Sustainability Leadership Programmes to support leadership development and ensure the college progresses from Established to Leading levels in sustainability.
- Produce a biannual Sustainability and Climate Action Report to track progress against the EAUC Roadmap milestones and SDG targets, reflecting the college's journey from Emerging to Leading standards.
- Ensure that all strategic decisions integrate sustainability, following Emerging (basic considerations), Established (systematic integration), and Leading (comprehensive integration) measures.

Estates and Operations

What Success Looks Like

Transform operations to reflect sustainable construction best practices and reduce carbon emissions in line with EAUC roadmap and SDGs 7, 11, and 12, moving through Emerging, Established, and Leading stages.

To achieve this, we will:

- Aim to achieve a 50% carbon reduction by 2030, 75% reduction by 2035 and net zero by 2040, progressing through the Emerging, Established, and Leading stages as outlined in the EAUC Climate Action Roadmap.
- Develop a Sustainable Estates Strategy to drive energy efficiency, utilising leading technologies such as renewable energy and real time performance monitoring, in line with the climate action roadmap’s recommendations.
- Adhere to BREEAM standards for retrofitting existing or new builds, progressing the college’s sustainability from Emerging to Leading innovation in green construction.
- Implement a zero waste policy that follows the waste hierarchy across all operations, ensuring the transition from Emerging (ad hoc practices) to Established (systematic management) and Leading (closed-loop systems).
- Develop a Sustainable Transport Plan to promote active travel and low-emission transport options, progressing through the climate action roadmap’s measures to achieve Leading status.
- Aim to improve campus biodiversity through initiatives such as planting, wildlife corridors or areas, green roofs or walls and beehives in an urban environment, moving the college from emerging to Leading.

Teaching and learning

What Success Looks Like

Equip students with sustainability knowledge and skills, embedding Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) across all curriculum areas in line with EAUC climate action roadmap stages and SDG 4.

To achieve this, we will:

- Embed sustainability in 100% of courses, developing from Emerging (basic ESD principles) by 2026 to Established (integrated across the curriculum) by 2028 and Leading (transformative teaching methods) by 2030.
- Offer specialised qualifications in sustainable technologies and construction methods, aligned with industry needs in green technologies and low-carbon building methods and techniques.
- Promote interdisciplinary learning by engaging students in real world sustainability projects. Our goal is to move from basic projects to fully integrated, advanced problem-solving experiences as students' progress through levels.
- Implement a development program for all staff to increase knowledge and awareness of sustainability aiming for 80% engagement by 2028 improving sustainability pedagogy and general sustainability operations.
- Collaborate with employers, awarding bodies and government departments to ensure all apprenticeships and qualifications embed sustainability, aligning with industry needs.
- Participate in the EAUC's Green Gown Awards to demonstrate and gain recognition of the college's progression from Emerging to Leading in sustainability initiatives.

Partnerships and engagement

What Success Looks Like

Build strong partnerships with key stakeholders, helping to advance sustainability efforts and contributing to SDG 17, following Emerging, Established, and Leading engagement models of the climate action roadmap 2024.

To achieve this, we will:

- Partner with local government, employers, industry professional bodies and other stakeholders to create sustainability education solutions, progressing from Emerging to Established and Leading.

- Actively engage with regional climate action networks contributing to leading regional climate resilience and green skills.
- Collaborate with EAUC and other institutions to lead and share best practices in sustainability, advancing through Emerging, Established, and Leading levels of impact.
- Organise or participate in sustainability focused activities or projects for students, such as green construction competitions, to engage students in practical climate action.
- Host an annual Sustainability in Construction forum as a platform for discussions among students, staff, industry professionals and other stakeholders, reflecting a shift from Emerging to Leading innovation in sustainable building, skills, and education.
- Create alumni networks to support lifelong learning in sustainable construction, transitioning from Emerging engagement to Leading contributions in sustainability practices.

Measuring Success

Target	2023 - 24	2024 - 25	2025 -26
Achieve leading status in governance by embedding sustainability into decision making		50% senior leadership trained in sustainability and progress tracked against the EAUC Climate Action Roadmap milestones	100% senior leadership and 20% governors trained in sustainability and progress tracked against the EAUC Climate Action Roadmap milestones.
90% of waste diverted from landfill			
Sustainable transport plan implemented			
Reduced carbon emissions			
Integrate sustainability across 100% of courses by 2026 at emerging level, developing to leading by 2030		50% of courses at emerging level	100% of courses at emerging level, 25% of courses at leading level
Establish 5 key partnerships by 2027, contributing to SDG 17			Three partnerships
Plan and deliver the inaugural Sustainability in Construction forum		Planning complete	Forum delivered to 30 attendees