REGIONAL BOARD REPORT

Subject: Sustainability Strategy Update	**Purpose:** **For Approval** ☐ **For Discussion** ☒ **For Information** ☐
Prepared by: Kirsty Robb, Vice Principal Finance and Corporate Services	**Date: 22 June 2023**

Purpose:
To provide members with an update of key activities for each of the sustainability workstreams since the Board report on 1 December 2022.

Executive Summary:

Key Items:
The Sustainability Strategy sets out how the climate emergency has redefined sustainability, taking it from a component of corporate social responsibility, escalating it to become a leadership essential, to be placed at the heart of all of our plans. The College demonstrates the importance of moving towards a more sustainable society through the work as an instigator of behavioural change, ensure relevance and impact on a global scale by committing to the circular economy and developing it's staff and students to become global citizens.

Borders College is committed to working towards a more sustainable world, and over the last eleven years has implemented big projects and little actions, which together have resulted in a significant reduction in our carbon emissions. Borders College continues on this sustainability journey, with net-zero by 2045 as the ultimate destination. The strategic objectives are:

- Influence positive, sustainable behaviours across the wider community
- Develop awareness of, and implement, good sustainable practice in all of our learning programmes
- Promote sustainable innovation and the adoption of technological breakthroughs with our employers and students
- Adopt best ethical, sustainable and social practice in our operations and supply chain.

The College has organised the sustainability work across eight workstreams and is currently working on developing key KPI's it can monitor and report to Board, for each of the workstreams.

The attached report provided the Board with and update on the progress of these workstreams since the annual report provided to the Board on 1 December.

The hard work and commitment of the College has resulted in the College being a finalist for the International Green Gowns – 2030 Climate Action. The winner of this will be announced on 17 July.

Questions that Members should ask themselves when reading the paper:
Do the actions completed and actions planned allow the College to meet the objectives set out in the Sustainability Strategy? Is there more we could be doing?

Linked to Strategic Ambition: Take a leading role in enabling an inclusive, resilient and sustainable Scotland

Performance Measures: Recognised as national leaders in sustainable practice

Linked to Strategic Risk Register: New Risk (outwith themes) **New Risk Commentary**		
Recommendation: Members to note the activities within each workstream over the last six months.		
Previous Committee Approvals: Regional Board 1 December 2022		
For publication ☒	**For publication with redactions** ☐	**Not for publication** ☐

SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY MID YEAR UPDATE
REPORT TO REGIONAL BOARD: 22 June 2023

1 INTRODUCTION

This report provides the board with an update on key activities of each workstream since the report to the Board on 1 December 2022. The workstreams agreed in the strategy are listed below:

1. Carbon management
2. Waste management
3. Travel and transport
4. Procurement
5. Curriculum
6. Community
7. Biodiversity
8. Behavioural

The College continues to make good progress on the implementation of the strategy and all opportunities are taken to make the College more sustainable. This has been recognised with College being named as a finalist for the International Green Gowns Award in the 2030 Climate Action category. The winner will be announced on 17 July and the College is up against a wide range of large education providers across the globe including, Spain, Canada, Pakistan, India, Saudi Arabia and other countries.

The College undertook a climate action roadmap review in March 2022 and a further review in March 2023. The diagram below shows the progress made by the College over the period. The inner circles represent the initial evaluation and the outer circles the position at March 2023.

2 CARBON MANAGEMENT

NDEEF Application

Following the completion of the Hysopt modelling the College is progressing through the Non Domestic Energy Efficiency Framework towards an application for grant funding to Scottish Government. The purpose of the £200m fund is the decarbonisation of the public sector estate focussed on public sector organisations who are unable to borrow. The scheme is supporting decarbonisation projects up to the value of £5M. Mott MacDonald have been appointed by Scottish Government as the Project Support Unit.

The funding will allow the removal of the remaining gas boilers within the Galashiels Campus and replace with Heat pumps building upon the success of the Sharc Heating system. Output and costs projections from the Hyspot modelling exercise indicate a favourable reduction of CO2 by a further 150tco2 and indicating a slightly reduced operational cost in terms of utilities. Initial budget costs for supply and install are circa £2M. Before an application for grant funding can by submitted there are two outstanding issues which require resolution.
1) work with Ofgem to make sure the RHI application which is provided to support the Sharc system is not affected and
2) information to be received from Scottish Power for a quote to increase our onsite Electrical capacity.

Once both have been resolved an application will be submitted. It is estimated an application should be submitted before the September deadline.

3. WASTE MANAGEMENT

Waste management contract is now operational, ongoing monitoring is being completed to ensure we maximise the output from the service. Data collected will be used to calculate our CO2 included within the Public Bodies Climate Change Declaration due in November. The data will enable the improved monitor and introduction of KPI's for waste reduction.

4 SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL & TRANSPORT

Replace College car fleet with EV/Hybrid alternatives

Three electric vehicles were delivered in April ensuring the car fleet is now 100% electric. Guidance has been issued to all staff on the use of the electric fleet for both short and longer journeys.

Increase EV charging posts across the estate

Two additional EV charging points have been installed at the main loading area outside the Library entrance, these are to be used by College/HWU EV fleet only. The College is also involved in a project with Scottish Borders Council to develop a Borders regional wide charging infrastructure network in conjunction with the Private Sector.

Promote walking and cycling to work

The College has received grant confirmation from Cycling Scotland to fund a Cycle Officer for one year. The role will promote and improve cycling opportunities to all college campuses and assist in the development of a e-cycling.

Replace Minibus fleet with sustainable alternatives

Two new minibuses have been included in capital program which replace will existing fleet. Due to the high costs currently of EV/Hybrid alternatives the new minibuses will traditional diesel mini buses but will still result in a emission reduction of around 50% from the buses they will be replacing.

PROCUREMENT

The Procurement workstream aims to develop and provide an environmentally and financially sustainable procurement system for Borders College, in collaboration with the strategic working groups and leveraging support across our stakeholder partnerships. Our vision is to lead sustainable excellence in our supply chain, within the College functions and beyond, influencing our external environment and encouraging the circular economy.

An action plan is being developed to measure the sustainability of the Colleges suppliers. The plan will focus on the top 10 suppliers by expenditure for 2022/23 and work with APUC to determine a how the College can evaluate sustainability of companies.

CURRICULUM

Sustainability in the Curriculum

The College continues to deliver both the “Climate Change” and “Sustainability and Me” modules to students during their induction to college and has also developed a baseline of where Sustainability is being delivered across the curriculum using the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to reference from (Screenshot below).

Going forward this information will be analysed and look at where the gaps are and what we can do as a college to address these, we also need to look for areas of good practice that can be shared by curriculum areas. This will also allow KPI’s to be set and monitored.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
1	Sustainable Development Goal's (SDG's)			SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS																		
2																						
3	What is the name of course?	Please state the SCQF level of the course	Is this a full time or part time course?	Course type - please indicate the type of course. This could be: a short course, microcredential, National Progression Award, HNC, HND, Professional Development Award, module, National Certificate, apprenticeship, Foundation Modern Apprenticeship, Graduate Apprenticeship, undergraduate degree, postgraduate degree	Duration of course - how long does the course	1 NO POVERTY	2 ZERO HUNGER	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	4 QUALITY EDUCATION	5 GENDER EQUALITY	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	13 CLIMATE ACTION	14 LIFE BELOW WATER	15 LIFE ON LAND	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS
4						Course Content	Course Content	Course Content	Course Content	Course Content	Course Content	Course Content	Course Content	Course Content	Course Content	Course Content	Course Content	Course Content	Course Content	Course Content	Course Content	Course Content
5	HC Computing - FT	5	FT	National Certificate	24 weeks	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
6	Business and Enterprise SCQF Level 6 - FT	6	FT	HPAr	24 weeks	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
7	HND Cyber Security - FT	7	FT	HNC	24 weeks	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
8	HND Business - FT YR1	7	FT	HNC/D	24 weeks FTE 72 weeks	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
9	HND Business - FT YR2	8	FT	HND	72 weeks	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
10	HND Computing Software Development - Year 1	7	FT	HNC/D	24 weeks FTE 72 weeks	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
11	HND Computing Software Development - Year 2 (Under Development)	8	FT	HND	72 weeks	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
12	HPA Cyber Security SCQF Level 8 - Edinburgh Link	8	PT	HPA	24 weeks	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
13	HPA Cyber Security SCQF Level 6	6	PT	HPA	18 weeks	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
14																						
15	Communication SCQF Level 4	4	Both FT/PT	SQA Unit	GLH 40 Hours	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
16	Communication SCQF Level 5	5	Both FT/PT	SQA Unit	GLH 40 Hours	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
17	Communication SCQF Level 6	6	Both FT/PT	SQA Unit	GLH 40 Hours	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
18	Communication SCQF Level 7	7	Both FT/PT	SQA Unit	GLH 40 Hours	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
19	Numeracy SCQF Level 4	4	Both FT/PT	SQA Unit	GLH 40 Hours	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
20	Numeracy SCQF Level 5	5	Both FT/PT	SQA Unit	GLH 40 Hours	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
21	Numeracy SCQF Level 6	6	Both FT/PT	SQA Unit	GLH 40 Hours	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
22	ICT SCQF Level 4	4	Both FT/PT	SQA Unit	GLH 40 Hours	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
23	ICT SCQF Level 5	5	Both FT/PT	SQA Unit	GLH 40 Hours	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
24	ICT SCQF Level 6	6	Both FT/PT	SQA Unit	GLH 40 Hours	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
25	ICT SCQF Level 7	7	Both FT/PT	SQA Unit	GLH 40 Hours	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
26	Data Science SCQF Level 4	4	Both FT/PT	SQA Unit	GLH 40 Hours	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
27	Literature 1 SCQF Level 4	6	Both FT/PT	SQA Unit	GLH 40 Hours	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
28	Data Science SCQF Level 4	4	Both FT/PT	SQA Unit	GLH 40 Hours																	
29	Literature 1 SCQF Level 4	4	Both FT/PT	SQA Unit	GLH 40 Hours																	

This piece of work has been shared with West Lothian College and Forth Valley College as they look to try and establish their own baselines and from meeting with them and discussing our plans there is some good work that could be undertaken collaboratively, like sharing good practice across the three colleges.

COMMUNITY

Sustainability short course

A number of sustainability and green energy courses have been delivered and are available to individuals and employers. So far it has predominantly been local Housing Associations that have undertaken any of the above courses to help upskill and retrain their own staff.

- Renewable Technology Awareness
- Smart Home Control Systems
- Electric Hybrid Vehicle Awareness
- Carbon Literacy for Community

BIODIVERSITY

Bug hotels

Introduction to Animal Care course has been up cycling bricks, wood etc to make and build bug hotels to encourage wild life to stay within the area and to encourage pollination. These will be installed across the campuses.

Tree/Hedge planting

The College is working actively with the International Tree Foundation to increase the biodiversity at Hawick and Galashiels campuses. Plans have been developed for both sites to increase both the number of trees and natural hedging.

The plan includes 24 tress (fruit and non-fruit) and 450 hedging plants. The funding bid is currently being finalised ready for submission and plans beginning developed for the Landbased students to undertake the planting in October and November.

No Mow May

Borders College took part in the annual campaign calling all gardens and green space managers to not mow during May. This campaign is to boost flowers and provide nectar to bees and butterflies.

BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE

Sustainability Champions

The Senior Leadership has approved the creation of sustainability champions. The role will allow individual with a interest in sustainability to indicate their interest in becoming Champions. The College will development information channels to enable Champions to come together as a group to identify and take forward initiatives. This has been trailed successfully in Edinburgh University and information can be found on their blog site

Sustainability Champions – Social Responsibility and Sustainability (ed.ac.uk)

Influencing behaviours

A Sustainability Calendar was introduced in August 2022 running through to May 2023, highlighting and encouraging changes to behaviours in different areas each month throughout the period. Marketing was carried out to highlight the particular areas on a monthly basis e.g. November is European Week for Waste Reduction. Each initiative is linked to the Sustainability Development Goals. The Sustainability Calendar activities for 2022/23 can be found in Appendix 1.

2022-2023 Sustainability Calendar of Events **Appendix 1**

SEPTEMBER 2022

8th	**Zero Waste Week**	https://www.zerowasteweek.co.uk/	**Zero Waste Week:** Campaign raising awareness about the environmental impact of waste. Open to individuals, businesses and organisations. Provides tips and advice on reducing waste (inc. Recipes)		Images and posters: https://www.zerowasteweek.co.uk/press-page-2019/ Blogs & newsletters: https://www.zerowasteweek.co.uk/blog/

OCTOBER 2022

18th	**Enviromentstrual Week**	https://www.wen.org.uk/environmenstrualweek/	**WEN (Women's Environmental Network):** Encouraging uptake of reusable and plastic-free period products.		Social media toolkit: https://www.wen.org.uk/2008/07/14/socialmediatoolkit/ Events toolkit: https://www.wen.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Environmenstrual-Action-Toolkit-1.pdf Events (BTC for 2022): https://www.wen.org.uk/environmenstrual-week-events%e2%80%8e/ Discount codes and guidance on plastic free period products: https://www.wen.org.uk/2008/07/14/plasticfreeperiods/

NOVEMBER 2022

1st	**Carbon Literacy Action Day**	https://carbonliteracy.com/carbon-literacy-action-day/	**Carbon Literacy Project:** First held in 2021 as the first mass climate education training event of its kind	13 CLIMATE ACTION	Details yet to be confirmed if repeating in 2022
19-27th	**European Week for Waste Reduction**	https://ewwr.eu/	**The European Week for Waste Reduction (EWWR):** Encourages all Europeans to carry out awareness-raising actions about sustainable resource and waste management during a single week in November. Awards	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION 13 CLIMATE ACTION	Registration opens in September Support to organise actions/events: https://ewwr.eu/take-part/ General waste saving tips: https://ewwr.eu/get-inspired/#good_habits Tools: https://ewwr.eu/tools/

December/January – World EV Day (launch green car purchase, demo our cars)

??	**World EV Day**	https://www.worldevday.org	**World EV Day** The global movement driving change together. A day of celebration of emobility, and a day to shift the transition to sustainable transport with consumer, business and policy outcomes.	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION 13 CLIMATE ACTION	Images and posters: https://www.worldevday.org Blogs & newsletters: ElectricDrives | EV Life

MARCH 2023

1st – 31st March (2023)	**SDG Teach In**	https://www.sos-uk.org/project/global-goals-teach-in#:~:text=The%20annual%20campaign%20runs%20in,21st%20February%20%2D%204th%20March%202022.	**SOS UK:** campaign to put the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and therefore sustainability, at the heart of all stages of education, and across all disciplines.		Case studies & webinar: https://www.sos-uk.org/project/global-goals-teach-in#4
6th – 12th	**Food Waste Action Week**	https://wrap.org.uk/taking-action/citizen-behaviour-change/love-food-hate-waste/key-campaigns/food-waste-action-week	**Love Food Hate Waste:** Week of action raising awareness of the environmental consequences of wasting food and promoting activities that help to reduce the amount of food wasted.		Detailed partner pack (marketing resources available from 22/02/22) https://wrap.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-02/WRAP%20PartnerPack_final_0.pdf Requested resources/input from Enva

APRIL 2023

22nd	**Earth Day**	https://www.earthday.org/	**EARTHDAY.ORG:** to diversify, educate and activate the environmental movement worldwide. Earth Day 2022 theme is "Invest in Our Planet"		Clean-up/litter picks etc. Register through: **THE GREAT GLOBAL CLEANUP™**

					Quizes: https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-quizzes/ Social media & marketing content: https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2022-action-toolkit/

MAY 2023

20th	**World Bee Day**	https://www.un.org/en/observances/bee-day/background	**UN:** To raise awareness of the importance of bees and beekeeping, inform the public of major beekeeping events around the world and celebrate World Bee Day.		Posters and guidance: https://www.worldbeeday.org/en/toolkit.html Webinar last year: https://www.fao.org/world-bee-day/en/ *Borders College – potential beekeeper contact. Suggested potential to share webinar/resource with other colleges*
1st-31st	**No Mow May**	https://www.plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay/	**Plantlife:** Encourages landowners to not mow lawns and verges throughout May, to provide food and habitat for bees and other wildlife.		"Every Flower Counts" survey at end of May to discover how many bees the UK's lawns can feed.