THE
TRAFFORD
COLLEGE
GROUP
Sustainability
Strategy
2022-27
Unlocking potential, fostering success
Ambitious | Resilient | Collaborative | Inclusive | Respectful

THE TRAFFORD COLLEGE GROUP

MARPLE SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

THE CHEADLE COLLEGE

STOCKPORT COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY CENTRE STOCKPORT COLLEGE

TRAFFORD COLLEGE

TRAFFORD COLLEGE SIXTH FORM

Sustainability Strategy 2022-27

FOREWORD

We are pleased to introduce our new Sustainability Strategy 2022–2027. At the Trafford College Group (TCG) we recognise climate change is no longer a distant threat and as an education provider, employer and anchor institution for our local communities, we have a leading role to play. Whilst we have a track record for delivering innovative solutions, we appreciate there is still much to do.

The TCG purpose is "Unlocking Potential, Fostering Success" and aligned to this is the belief that education provides opportunities to deliver positive and sustained change. Given our sphere of influence, the Further Education sector is in a unique position to respond to the global challenges we face.

Through the delivery of education and skills and the personal development we provide, we can ensure our students, many of whom are likely to be the most affected by the climate emergency, have the skills, confidence and appreciation of their social responsibilities to find solutions.

We recognise climate action will require significant changes to how we function and the businesses and industries we support, with traditional roles disappearing whilst new ones are created. As an FE college, with a mission to provide the highest quality of career-focussed education and training, we will not only deliver specialist education to enable our future scientists, engineers, construction specialists and social scientists to apply the knowledge and skills gained with us, but we will provide the much-needed opportunity for adults to retrain for new careers and develop their skills to reflect changing technologies.

We know many of our students are already passionate about sustainability and have been actively engaged in our Green College Assembly, however, by ensuring the whole student body understands how all of us can make a difference, we will ensure our students become global citizens and that the next generation of leaders across all disciplines can spread best practice.

We are an ambitious college with a vision to be a leading provider that is supportive of our community and integral to boosting local and regional productivity. As such, our vision is to be one of the most sustainable colleges in the country.

TCG is committed to collaborating with our partners within Greater Manchester to support the achievement of the net zero target by 2038. Working closely with our partners, we will contribute to the decarbonisation of the economy through our building design, operational practices and ensuring the appropriate supply of individuals with the required skills enter or re-join the labour market.

Our employees and students expect us to lead the way, ensuring sustainable practice is integral to everything we do. However, we also recognise the importance of taking an inclusive approach as everyone of us must respect our environment. With this in mind, student and employee engagement has underpinned the development of this strategy and will underpin our whole approach to sustainability.

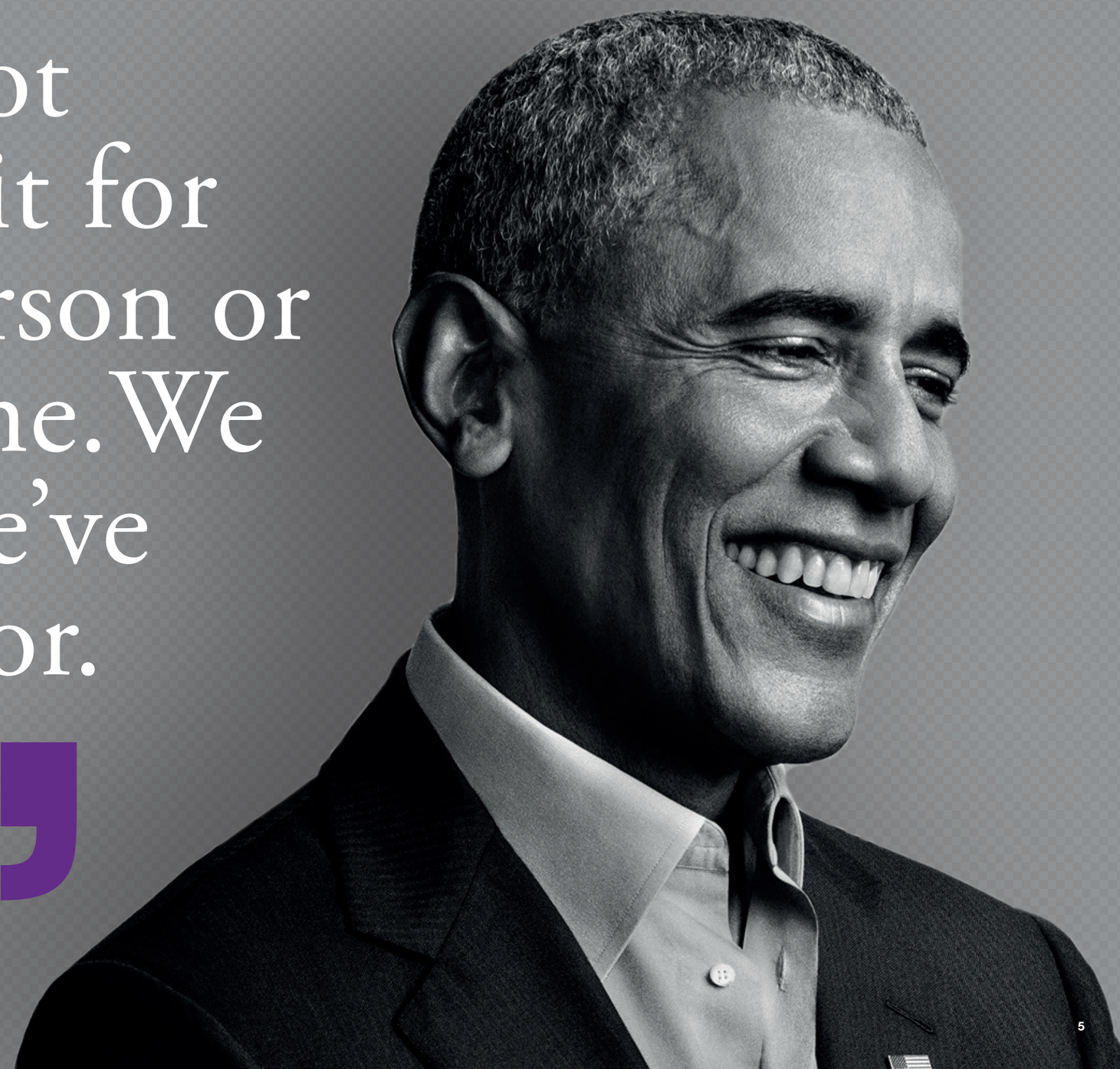
Finally, we acknowledge that this strategy is not an end in itself; it is just the beginning of a co-ordinated and resilient response to promoting sustainability. Throughout the duration of the strategy, we will challenge ourselves to keep doing more.

Michelle Leslie Vice Principal Corporate Services and Planning

Sustainability Strategy 2022-27

“Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for.”

Barrack Obama



PURPOSE, VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

Purpose

"Unlocking Potential, Fostering Success"

Vision

To be a leading provider of education and skills that supports community cohesion and drives local and regional productivity.

Our Mission

To provide the highest quality of education and training to all our students and employers through an inclusive and career focused curriculum.

Values

- Ambitious
- Resilient
- Collaborative
- Inclusive
- Respectful

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“We don’t have to engage in grand, heroic actions to participate change. Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people can transform the world.”

Howard Zim

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OUR SUSTAINABILITY VALUES

We will constantly challenge ourselves to be **ambitious** and action-oriented. We will develop a transformative estate that delivers our commitment to be net zero by 2038. We will achieve a national reputation, setting us apart from other providers, for the innovative development of our curriculum, equipping our students to progress to exciting careers within the green economy.

We will be **resilient** to the longevity of the sustainability cause. We will ensure we remain committed to delivering progress whilst acknowledging the financial and social pressures we are likely to experience. We will continue to develop the knowledge and skills of our employees and students and ensure sustainability remains high-profile.

We will embed sustainability across the whole college group by being **collaborative.** We will ensure there are opportunities for students and colleagues to contribute to shaping our strategy and priorities through membership of the Sustainability Focus Group. We will develop external links and be active participants in partnership networks to develop our knowledge and capacity and share best practice.

We will ensure our approach to sustainability is **inclusive** so that we can build a healthier college environment. We will actively listen and engage with all students and colleagues to maximise ideas. We will ensure training, skills and knowledge development is available to all students and employees.

We will all remain **respectful** of our environment and accept our personal responsibilities for promoting sustainability. We will all be pro-active in keeping our estate clean, reducing waste and switching off lights and electrical equipment. We will never leave it to somebody else to do.

SUSTAINABILITY PRIORITY AREAS

A green thread needs to weave through whole college strategies from estates and procurement to curriculum planning. The sustainability strategy, therefore, focuses on three priority areas which are underpinned by the need to ensure effective leadership, governance and partnership arrangements.

Sustainability Priority Area 1:

Establish the Trafford College Group as a sector-leading provider in the delivery of a 'green' curriculum.

Sustainability Priority Area 2:

Through building design and management, contribute to the delivery of sustainable communities via environmental objectives, which support the reduction of TCG's carbon footprint.

Sustainability Priority Area 3:

Deliver ethical and best practice circular economy principles in all our operational processes and practises including those delivered by third parties.

Sustainability Priority Area 4:

Leadership, Governance and Partnerships: Ensure the successful implementation of TCG's sustainability strategy through effective governance, leadership and the strengthening of our relationships with external partners.

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“

The moment we decide to fulfil something, we can do anything.

”

Greta Thunberg

CONTEXT OF THE STRATEGY

ABOUT US

The Trafford College Group (TCG) serves the educational needs of young people, adults and businesses extensively across the boroughs of Stockport and Trafford. It has developed over a number of years following a series of mergers. In 2007, North Trafford College and South Trafford College merged into one college for the borough, Trafford College. In 2018, Stockport College merged with Trafford College to form The Trafford College Group. Then, in May 2021, Cheadle and Marple Sixth Form College joined The Trafford College Group to create a £45m institution.

Operating over multiple campuses, including five main campuses, TCG provides a broad curriculum offer, meeting the needs of many student groups across the local area and wider sub-region. This offer includes academic, adult education, apprenticeships, commercial programmes, higher education, vocational / technical courses and a large Foundation Learning provision. Student numbers consist of around 5100 young people, over 4000 adults, around 1500 apprentices and over 500 higher education students. In addition, TCG operates an extensive community learning provision across the borough and a vibrant employability programme at the Trafford Centre. A number of our students have Educational Health Care Plans and High Needs requirements.

Whilst TCG has grown significantly in recent years we continue to strive to maintain, for staff and students, the sense and feeling of belonging to a local place at each of its campuses. The drive to ensure a 'One College' approach in terms of the quality of service to learners and stakeholders, whilst recognising the importance of fostering a sense of belonging to place is underpinned through the TCG structure, processes, and culture. We have high ambitions for the Group, for our staff and for our students, and we set the bar high in terms of student success and the quality of our educational offer.

This ambition and commitment extend to ensuring we provide a learning and working environment where sustainability is at the core of what we do and our values and culture.

We have an ambitious estates strategy which has resulted in high-quality building and campus design. For many years we have delivered major capital projects that have met the BREEAM standard of 'Excellent' for new builds and 'Very Good' for redevelopment projects. We have recently been successful in achieving a capital grant to deliver a transformative estates solution for our Cheadle campus and will challenge ourselves to go further to deliver a truly 'green' campus.

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OUR COMMUNITIES

TCG serves the communities of Trafford and Stockport to the south of Manchester and, for many of our programmes, including Higher Education and Apprenticeships, the wider Greater Manchester catchment area. We are a civic partner and educator with a strong sense of place and service to our communities. This is not only in terms of our educational offer but also in the role we play in supporting the economic development of Greater Manchester and supporting local community cohesion. We play an important role in supporting business and the economic prosperity of Greater Manchester.

We have a reputation for being an anchor institution with our communities and a clear understanding that no organisation exists in a bubble; everything we do impacts the world around us. We will continue this commitment to work with our partners, in particular Stockport Council and Trafford Council, in our determination to make a positive and collaborative impact in the way Stockport, Trafford, Greater Manchester and the broader FE community tackles climate change.

DEVELOPING OUR STRATEGY

This strategy brings together sustainability work that the college is undertaking or is committed to undertake. The college is starting from a solid foundation having embraced initiatives to support sustainability with previous actions including 100% recycling, achieving BREEAM standards in building design, reducing the use of single use plastics and achieving the ISSO 14001 accreditation.

Our sustainability strategy is the next step on our journey, providing an effective framework and a direction of travel with priorities and clear targets. This strategy takes an action-orientated focus with a commitment to deliver real change. The strategic ambition applies to our campus design and working practices to ensure we become carbon neutral but also to drive innovation within our curriculum offer. We don't take this lightly and we acknowledge that we don't have all the answers.

The sustainability strategy is aligned to:

DfE
Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy.

AoC
Green Skills Commitment.

AoC
Climate Action Roadmap for FE Colleges.

CONTEXT OF THE STRATEGY

ENGAGEMENT

This strategy reflects TCG's inclusive approach to sustainability; a product of partnership between estates professionals, teachers, leadership and enabling services colleagues, a member of the Board and students. We believe the arrangements for developing and delivering the strategy can enhance student, employee and partner engagement.

Whilst student and employee engagement has been pivotal to creating this strategy, we also recognise that for it to be successful we cannot just rely on engaging with those who have already demonstrated their commitment. Broader engagement throughout the period of the strategy will, therefore, be essential.

To support employee and student engagement, we have established the Sustainability Focus Group with a representative group of employees and students giving them the opportunity to shape the development and delivery of this strategy.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

National student surveys overwhelmingly show that sustainability is the most important issue affecting their future and our young people are demanding action. At TCG we have an established Green College Assembly including a broad range of students from across the college group. We have a significant opportunity therefore, to build upon the energy of our students to reduce our environmental impact in innovative ways. Quite rightly our students have challenged our performance and direction of travel. The message from our students is clear, nothing but a bold strategy is good enough.

TCG is harnessing our student commitment and drive to create a united, one-college approach. Students from the Green College Assembly are represented on our Sustainability Focus Group and two student representatives are also members of our Sustainability Committee, which monitors overall performance and determines our policy framework.

EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

Many colleagues have already made a significant contribution to promoting sustainability, either through course development or estates and operational practices. It was clear however, that for us to continue with our sustainability journey we needed to be more effective in pooling this enthusiasm and experience to unlock ideas and deliver change in a co-ordinated and measurable way. Employees with key areas of responsibility have therefore, joined the Sustainability Committee and all staff were given an opportunity to join the Sustainability Focus Group. Our inclusive model gives all staff the opportunity to help deliver our strategy.

CONTEXT OF THE STRATEGY

MEASURING SUCCESS

Throughout the duration of this strategy, we will monitor our progress and set targets against the framework of the FE Climate Action Road Map. This roadmap includes three 'levels' of colleges from 'emerging' to 'leading'.

We have established a Sustainability Committee to oversee the strategic direction of sustainability. The membership of the Committee includes representation from the Board, Leadership Team, specialist curriculum and enabling team colleagues and students. Members of the Committee play a key role in developing the strategy and annual plans and the subsequent monitoring of targets/outcomes and cross-college compliance. It is appreciated that Committee members will want to use the skills and expertise of other individuals (both internal and external) in developing strategic objectives and, where appropriate, they will be invited to attend committee meetings. The minutes of the meetings will be reported to the Board of the Corporation.

A resource plan with expenditure commitments will be developed to inform the budget setting process. The resource plan will be reviewed on an annual basis with outcomes against expenditure monitored. We will report on progress against our annual priorities to the Board and share the reviews with our employees and students.

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> The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it.

Robert Swann

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OBJECTIVES & PRIORITY AREAS

Sustainability Priority Area 1:

Establish the Trafford College Group (TCG) as a sector-leading provider in the delivery of a 'green' curriculum.

OBJECTIVE	OUTCOME / IMPACT MEASURE
Develop and deliver an innovative curriculum offer that upskills and informs learners of the green agenda and which supports future skill needs and career options for the green economy.	Curriculum offer developed to support the green economy including a review of the following curriculum opportunities: • Property regeneration project (Apps). • Electrification of transport including City & Guilds Levels 2 &3 Electric Vehicle Charging Installations. • Skills training in alternative sources to fossil fuels. • Heat Pump Technology Air Source. • Heat Pump Technology Ground Source. • Solar Photovoltaic Systems. • Rainwater Harvesting & Greywater Recycling Systems. • IMI Level 1 Award In Electric/Hybrid Vehicle Awareness. • IMI Level 2 Award In Electric/Hybrid Vehicle Routine Maintenance Activities. • IMI Level 3 Award In Electric/Hybrid Vehicle System Repair And Replacement.
Collaborate with employers to ensure the curriculum planning process includes the identification of local, regional and national future skill needs.	• Student destinations within the green economy sector in line with KPI targets. • Employers Forum established. • Positive employer feedback in line with KPI targets.
Continue to develop an adult offer which supports the retraining and upskilling of individuals to meet new career opportunities and revised methods of working.	• Adult progression / destination rates within the green economy in line with KPIs.

OBJECTIVE	OUTCOME / IMPACT MEASURE
Ensure existing and potential new students receive high-quality careers education, information, advice, and guidance on the new and emerging professions that support sustainability.	• Student destinations within the green economy in line with KPIs. • Student enrolment for new and updated courses in line with KPIs.
Embed education for sustainable development (ESD) and ensure the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are at the heart of our curriculum offer for all disciplines and levels to enable all our students to improve their skills and knowledge and realise their potential as global citizens.	• Active participation in the Global Goals Teach-In. • All students develop their knowledge and understanding of sustainability and how they can personally contribute to sustainability goals both during and outside of college activities. • Completion of a curriculum assessment against SDGs using Responsible Futures Framework and develop and implement a subsequent action plan. • Achieve Responsible Futures Accreditation.
Ensure all teaching staff have the knowledge and skills to incorporate sustainability into the curriculum for all courses.	• Sustainability development programme delivered to all teachers. • Evaluation of the development programme demonstrates high satisfaction and teacher confidence. • Organisational Development Plan aligned with curriculum offer for the green economy.
Enhance student engagement around the Green Agenda.	• Green College Assembly in place across all campuses.
Further develop the student enrichment programme to include opportunities to support sustainability.	• Delivery of enrichment activities to support sustainability in conjunction with our employer and partner links including work placements and workshops. • Participation rates in line with targets.

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OBJECTIVES & PRIORITY AREAS

Sustainability Priority Area 2:

Through building design and management, contribute to the delivery of sustainable communities via environmental objectives, which support the reduction of TCG's carbon footprint.

OBJECTIVE	OUTCOME / IMPACT MEASURE
Ensure TCG is on target to achieve net zero emissions by 2038.	• Net zero plan in place with the achievement of milestone targets. • Estates strategy modified and implemented in line with net zero targets. • TCG can anticipate regulated and unregulated energy use on an annual basis. • Reduced energy use achieved. • Renewable energy implemented at the Cheadle campus, achieving targets to balance generation against use. • TCG can demonstrate effective use of the site characteristics (for example use of large roofs for PV) to support energy generation. • Programme in place to replace gas boilers at all campuses.
Maximise the efficient use of all college buildings.	• Rationalise usage of college buildings during evenings and holiday periods with activity concentrated in 'hub' buildings. • Improved utilisation resulting from the completion of timetable reviews. • Reduced energy usage.
Support the improvement of biodiversity within our local communities.	• Achieve a biodiversity net gain for all capital building projects. • Develop and implement a plan to increase biodiversity across all campuses. • Develop external spaces to support the health and wellbeing of our staff and students including the introduction of initiatives such as horticulture activities and eco-friendly learning hubs.
Deliver sustainably designed capital building projects.	• Ensure capital projects are designed as a minimum to deliver a BREEAM rating of Very Good (redevelopment projects)/Excellent (new build). • Improved space efficiency and estate rationalisation. • Achievement of ISO 14001 for all campuses.
Design and deliver the Cheadle new build project to be the flagship for TCG in terms of innovative building design.	• Achieve a reduction in energy demand through a fabric first approach with improvement in U values, high glazing specifications, tighter infiltration/ ventilation towards Passive Haus principles. • Achieve the delivery of fossil fuel free heat. • On-site renewable energy achieved. • Green infrastructure included. • Passive and integrated shading in building fabric achieved. • Low maintenance, robust and natural materials included in the building design.
Reduce TCG's risk and vulnerability to climate change, strengthen resilience and the capacity to anticipate and respond successfully to climate change.	• Climate adaptation measures for all campuses in place. • Overheating risk reduced through an increase in ventilation effectiveness. • Water efficiency improved with reduced usage and spend. • Flood risk reduced by managing surface water run-off. • Storm water management systems employed. • Increased use of grey water to help reduce water usage. • TCG has a flexible estate, which is capable of transitioning and adapting through its life to suit the needs of time.

Achieve an environmentally sustainable digital estate with a reduction in TCG's digital carbon footprint.	• Digital Strategy 2023-2026 includes the reduction in our digital footprint as a strategic priority area.
	• Achievement of digital strategy (2023-2026) targets for reducing our digital carbon footprint.
	• Implementation of TCG's "Don't Standby, Turn Off" awareness campaigns leading to behaviour changes and resulting in cumulative energy and carbon savings across on-premises, cloud and remote digital footprints.
	• Targets achieved to extend the life span for TCG's technology through refurbished, remanufactured and re-homed technology.
	• Reduce the IT End User Device estate by 200 each year over the 3 years to:
	  • Reduce overall number of devices purchased (85% of a device's carbon footprint is in the manufacturing/shipping phase).
	  • Reduce on site carbon footprint attributed to use of IT devices (10% YOY for the next three years)
	  • Reduce amount of IT waste sent to our recyclers.
	• The effective use of technology enabling and hybrid learning results in a reduction in on-site resource requirements.
	• Reduction in print requirements and subsequent waste.

Design and deliver a "smart" estate to improve building and campus efficiency through effective monitoring and target setting and optimising the use of resources.	• Single building management platform across all campuses delivered against milestone targets set out in the 5 Year Estates Plan.

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OBJECTIVES & PRIORITY AREAS

Sustainability Priority Area 3:

Deliver ethical and best practice circular economy principles in all our operational processes and practises including those delivered by third parties.

OBJECTIVE	OUTCOME / IMPACT MEASURE
Deliver a responsible and ethical procurement and purchasing strategy, ensuring our procurement and purchasing partners share our commitment to sustainability and achieving net zero.	• TCG procures from companies that commit to achieving net zero by 2050. • Validation criteria includes sustainability requirements for suppliers and supports the sustainable purchasing of products. • Social value plans, which detail contractor commitments to sustainability, are included and major capital building contracts.
Ensure that TCG incorporates localism in the purchasing process, wherever feasible.	• TCG can demonstrate a reduction in the shipping and transportation of goods and services because of increased purchasing from local suppliers.
Switch the TCG vehicle fleet from ICE (Internal combustion engines) to EV, inclusive of any government subsidies for Education.	• All college vehicles are EV. • EV charging points in place at each campus with the number of charging points per campus achieved against target.
Expand the green travel plan to ensure sustainability including a reduction in pollution is central to college-related travel arrangements.	• Revised green travel plan in place which promotes healthy and sustainable travel arrangements and reduces emissions including arrangements for commuting to/from campuses. • Salary sacrifice scheme to promote EV purchases operational. • Cycle to work scheme in place.
Support the protection of the environment through the implementation of an effective waste management plan.	• A review of waste management arrangements completed. • Waste management plan in place with waste reduction against targets achieved. • Life of TCG resources and products extended against target. • Ensure all staff and students are aware and support TCG waste management and recycling arrangements.

Sustainability Priority Area 4:

Leadership, Governance and Partnerships: Ensure the successful implementation of TCG's sustainability strategy through effective governance, leadership and the strengthening of our relationships with external partners.

OBJECTIVE	OUTCOME / IMPACT MEASURE
Ensure TCG demonstrates and promotes its commitment to sustainability and achieving net zero by 2038.	• Sustainability Committee established with minutes/outcomes reported to the Board of the Corporation. • Terms of reference for the sustainability committee agreed. • Net zero ambitions are included in the strategic plan. • A climate adaptation/climate risk management approach is developed and monitored.
Ensure TCG demonstrates and promotes its commitment to sustainability and achieving net zero by 2038.	• TCG has signed the race of net zero for universities and colleges. • TCG has signed the SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) accord. • TCG achieves the Green Gown or AoC Beacon award for sustainability.
Ensure effective resource allocation to deliver against sustainability targets (capital, revenue and pay as appropriate) and form resource partnerships to maximise funding opportunities.	• Ring-fenced budget for sustainability is established. • Salix loan to improve energy efficiency/ reduce emissions has been utilised, where appropriate. • External grants to support sustainability objectives obtained. • Fossil fuel divestment plan in place.
Ensure TCG's commitment to sustainability is integral to our organisational culture.	• Employee and student focus group established (Green Champions/GCA's) • College views on sustainability are surveyed and benchmarked with annual improvements against targets achieved. • Staff and students taking personal responsibility to support sustainability targets in everyday activities switching lights off, screens, printing less etc.
Ensure climate responsibility is embedded into organisational development.	• Carbon literacy training delivered to all staff and students. • Delivery of annual climate responsibility development targets as detailed in the organisational development plan.
Further develop our local partnerships with our local authorities and key stakeholders to harness knowledge and expertise and create a focused, consistent and commercially aware approach to deliver sustainability priorities for our communities.	• Established links formed with external partners including Stockport and Trafford councils including participation in climate action networks. • Confirmed agreement to net zero target with local partners. • Increased biodiversity achieved for the community through our work with local councils, communities and businesses.
Ensure TCG can make the best decisions possible in the successful delivery of its sustainability programme through the development of effective data management.	• TCG able to track and report on the impact of sustainability initiatives because of the data management it holds. • Credible target setting and business cases produced enabling future investment. • Outcomes against targets are published. • TCG's accountability and outcomes for sustainability is transparent to others, further improving our reputation with students, colleagues and external partners.

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