

The Trafford and Stockport College Group

SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

2026-2030

Making a difference,
together

DRAFT



PURPOSE

**Unlocking Potential for
Successful Futures.**



VISION

To lead the way for a city region where everyone has the education and skills to succeed in life and work.

MISSION

**Together
we elevate
skills, shape
futures and
transform
lives.**



VALUES

AMBITIOUS

We will push ourselves to lead in sustainability by creating a transformative, net-zero estate and developing innovative curriculum pathways that equip learners for the green economy.

COLLABORATIVE

We will embed sustainability across the college by working with students, staff and external partners to shape our priorities and share best practice.

INCLUSIVE

We will ensure everyone has a voice in our sustainability journey, providing opportunities, training and knowledge development for all students and colleagues.

RESILIENT

We will remain committed to long-term sustainability progress, developing skills and capacity across our college community while recognising the financial and social challenges ahead.

RESPECTFUL

We will respect our environment through responsible daily actions, from reducing waste to maintaining our estate, recognising that sustainability is a shared responsibility.



SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

S1 Equip learners with skills for the green economy and embed Education for Sustainable Development across the curriculum.

S2 Create a culture where sustainability is understood, valued and practiced.

S3 Empower students as sustainability advocates and leaders.

S4 Ensure responsible financial management and ethical procurement across our supply chain.

S5 Build and maintain a smart, low-carbon, climate-resilient estate.

S6 Provide civic leadership and collaborate with our communities and partners to maximise social value.



INTRODUCTION

The TSCG purpose is “Unlocking Potential for Successful Futures” 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 elevate skills, shape futures

and transform lives, 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.



KEY SUSTAINABILITY ACHIEVEMENTS:



Operational carbon footprint has fallen by 18% since The Trafford and Stockport College Group merged in 2021. From approximately 2,000 tonnes in 2021-22 to 1,600 tonnes in 2024-25.



All campuses achieved ISO 14001 certification in 2025 with no non-conformities.



49% of our day-to-day waste is recycled and the residual waste is turned into Refused Derived Fuel.



We actively seek sustainable investment opportunities for college funds, with £1M currently invested in green assets.



Our new Cheadle campus building, based on biophilic design principles, achieved BREEAM Excellent, and has the infrastructure to support zero emissions as the electricity grid decarbonises.



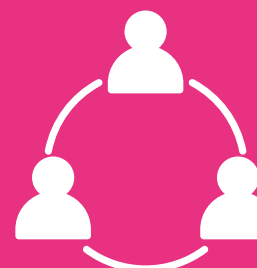
Through our Cheadle campus redevelopment we engaged over 1000 students, providing 261 apprenticeship weeks and 50 weeks of work experience placements.



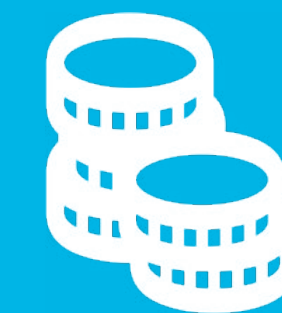
We conducted our first college wide Travel Plan Survey in 2025, providing our baseline position from which we will develop initiatives to encourage sustainable and active travel.



Community partnership model strengthened (70+ partners).



Community learning activity increased; £1m funding value.



Social value calculated at £1.1m.

CONTEXT

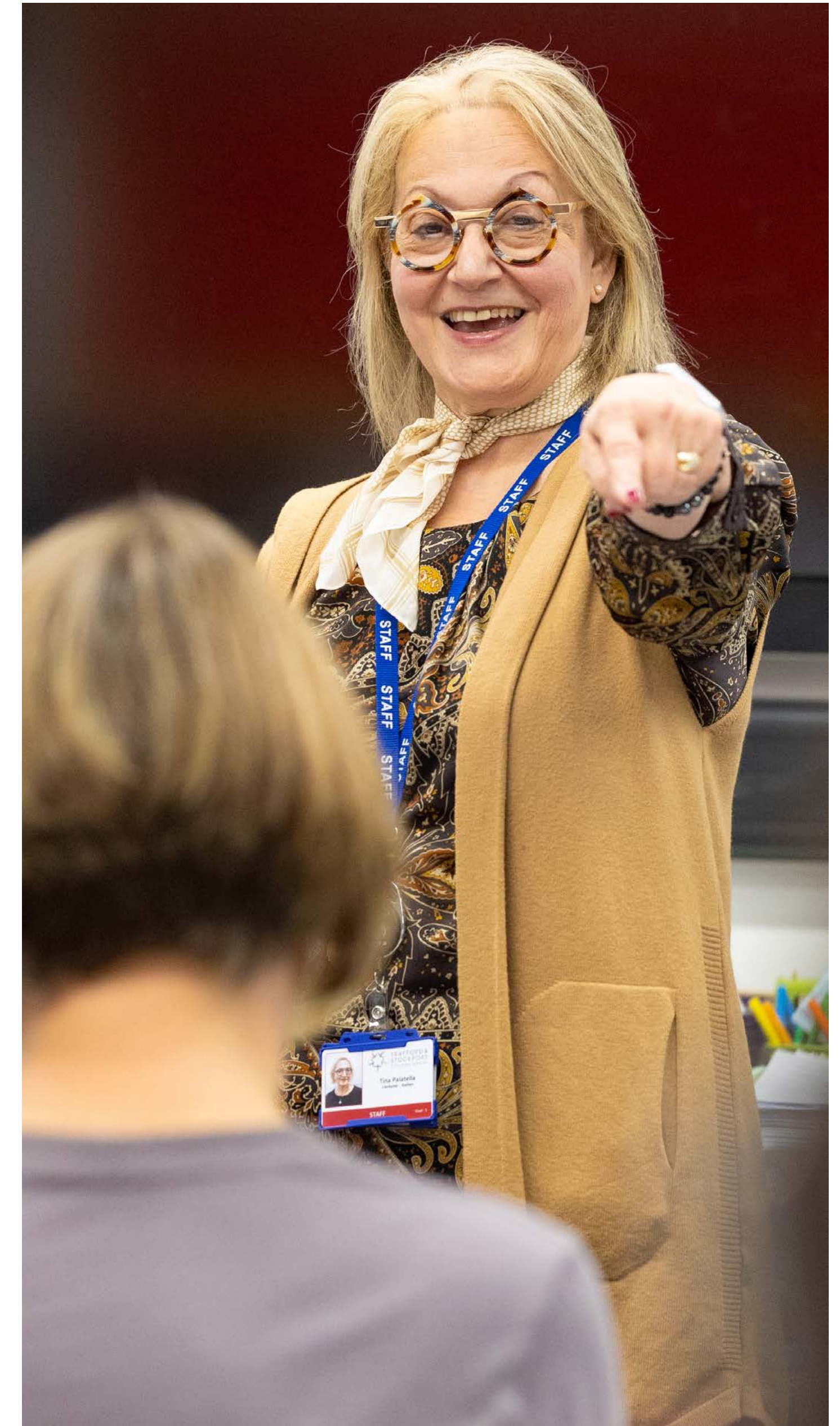
OUR COMMUNITIES

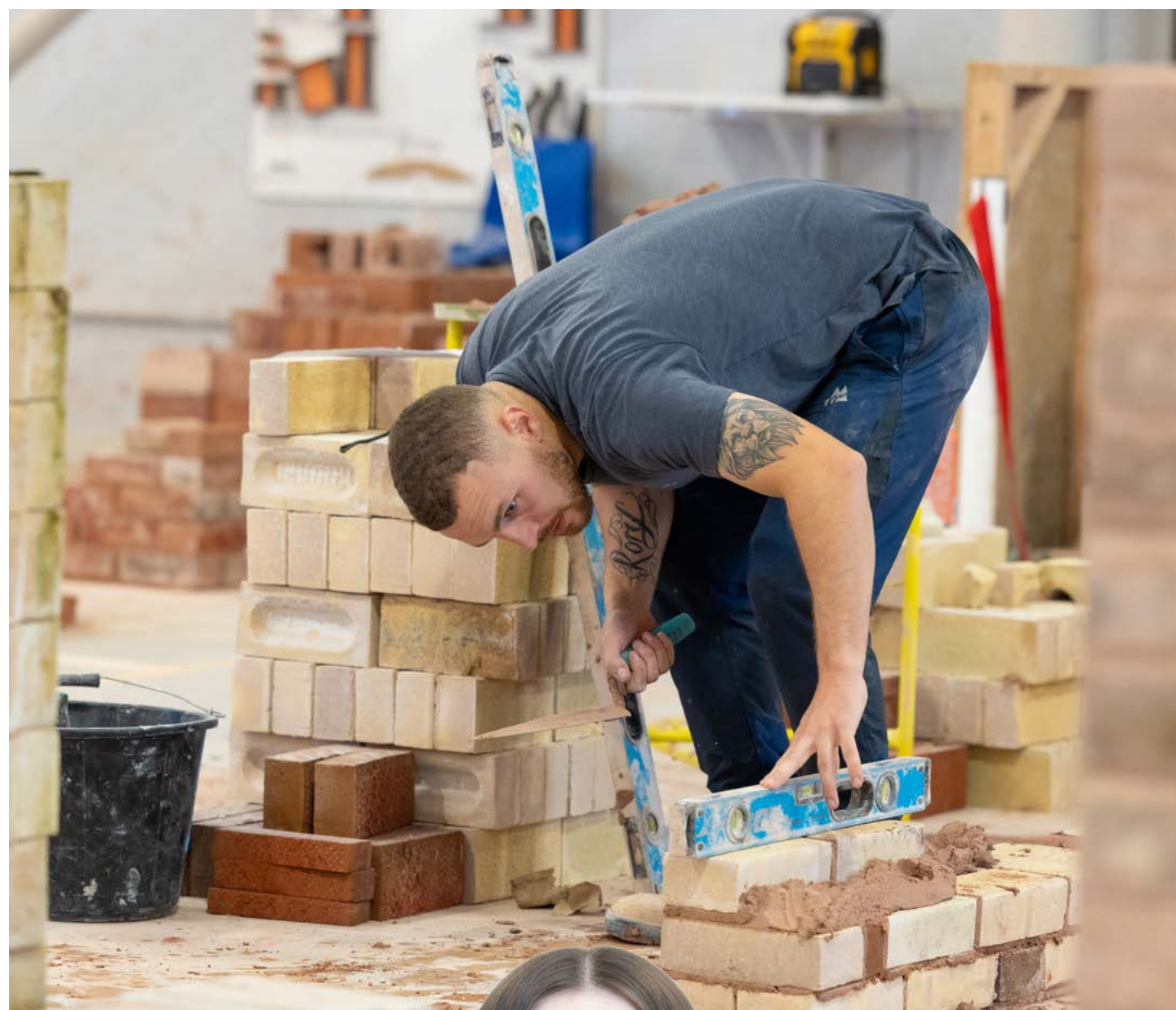
TSCG serves the communities of Trafford and Stockport to the south of Manchester and, for many of our programmes, including Higher Education and Apprenticeships, the wider Greater Manchester catchment area. We are a civic partner and educator with a strong sense of place and service to our communities. 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.

Greater Manchester has set an ambitious goal to become the UK's first carbon-neutral city region by 2038. This ambition goes beyond emissions reduction alone and is underpinned by a commitment to improving public health, reducing inequality, restoring and enhancing nature, and delivering sustainable economic growth that creates good, green jobs.



As a large education and skills provider within the city region, we recognise both the responsibility and the opportunity this presents. Through our curriculum, operations, partnerships and procurement, we have a vital role to play in equipping learners with the skills needed for a low-carbon economy, supporting employers through the transition to net zero, and ensuring that the benefits of climate action are shared across our communities.





FUTURE SKILLS

As a further education college with a vision to lead the way in a city region where everyone has the education and skills to succeed in life and work, we work closely with employers and key stakeholders to identify current and emerging skills gaps. National and local evidence highlights several long-term trends that are shaping the future labour market and influencing workforce demand across Greater Manchester.

Key megatrends:

- Ageing population: increasing demand for health and social care roles
- Technological change: growing need for digital and advanced technical skills
- Green transition: expansion of low carbon and clean energy occupations.

Priority occupational areas:

- Adult social care
- House building and construction
- Clean and renewable energy
- Creative industries

Our Skills Strategy and Employer and External Stakeholder Strategy, set out our long-term approach to responding to local, regional and national skills priorities; including green skills and career opportunities arising from major regeneration across the boroughs of Trafford and Stockport.

DEVELOPING OUR STRATEGY

Our first Sustainability Strategy (2022–2027) has driven significant progress—including reduced operational carbon emissions, ISO 14001 certification across all campuses, and growing green skills provision.

Following the merger, the 2024–2030 TSCG Strategic Plan refreshed our long-term ambitions. This updated strategy aligns sustainability goals with the plan, clarifying accountability and governance while remaining flexible to emerging challenges and opportunities.

We are committed to taking meaningful climate action by embedding sustainability into the full lifecycle of our estate; from design and construction to daily operation and end-of-life management. This approach strengthens our environmental resilience, reduces carbon emissions and waste, and ensures our campuses are prepared for the impacts of a changing climate. These

principles also shape our curriculum, helping learners develop the knowledge and skills needed for a low-carbon economy.

Sustainable practice extends to how we work with suppliers and partners; and the due-diligence processes to prioritise environmental responsibility and social value.

A risk-based approach within our environmental management system will guide decision-making, ensuring we focus on the areas with the greatest potential impact. This strengthens accountability, supports continual improvement and keeps us on track to meet our long-term sustainability goals.

This strategy reflects TSCG’s inclusive approach to sustainability; a product of partnership between leadership, enabling services colleagues, teachers and students.





MEASURING SUCCESS

We will track our progress throughout this strategy using the FE Climate Action Road Map. In addition, we will measure success through our continued alignment with, and compliance to, the ISO 14001 Environmental Management System, using it as a framework for setting objectives, monitoring performance, managing risks and opportunities, and driving continual environmental improvement.

Our Sustainability Committee; comprising representatives from the Board, Leadership Team, curriculum and enabling teams, and students; oversees the strategic direction of sustainability. The Committee develops the strategy and annual plans, monitors targets and compliance, and may invite additional internal or external experts to support its work. Meeting minutes will be reported to the Board of the Corporation; and we will report progress on annual priorities to the Board and share updates with employees and students.

S1

Equip learners with skills for the green economy and embed Education for Sustainable Development across the curriculum.

HIGH-LEVEL OBJECTIVES:

- Determine and deliver a curriculum that equips learners with green skills aligned to emerging local, regional and national skill needs.
- Enhance monitoring and evaluation processes to ensure that curriculum delivery remains responsive to sustainability focused sectors with targeted engagement to explore alternative delivery models and/or curriculum content.
- Drive strategic employer engagement to build awareness, demonstrate return on investment and drive adoption of net-zero skills across sectors.
- Empower every learner to become a pioneer by embedding Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and UN SDGs across all curriculum areas and qualification levels.
- Ensure all teaching staff receive training and CPD to confidently embed sustainability in teaching and assessment.
- Champion collaboration between students and staff to co-create innovative sustainability practices in the learning environment.

DELIVERED THROUGH:

- TSCG Sustainability Strategy
- TSCG Climate Action Plan / Roadmap
- TSCG Teaching, Learning & Assessment Strategy
- TSCG FE Skills Strategy and HE Skills Strategy
- TSCG Annual Accountability Statement and Local Needs Duty

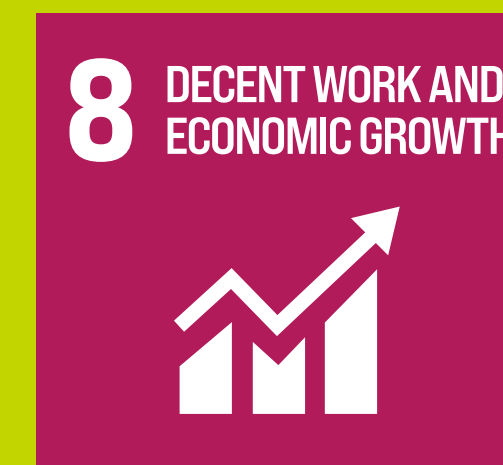
MONITORED BY:

- TSCG Sustainability Committee
- TSCG Resources Committee
- TSCG Skills Accountability Committee
- TSCG Curriculum and Quality Committees

IMPACT MEASURES:

- All curriculum staff complete ESD training programmes by 2030.
- TSCG becomes a Carbon Literate Educator.
- 100% of study programmes have sustainability and green skills content embedded.
- Learner survey scores on understanding of sustainability, SDGs and climate literacy.

Alignment to UN SDGs:



S2

Create a culture where sustainability is understood, valued and practiced.

HIGH-LEVEL OBJECTIVES:

- Embed sustainability within our culture with people-centred sustainability actions that empower colleagues to make a difference, supported by the implementation of policies and working practices across all departments.
- Inspire staff and students to become champions of climate action through transformative campaigns that support behaviour change and shared stewardship.
- Build the sustainability competency and confidence of all staff through training, resources and development pathways.
- Foster inclusive participation in sustainability initiatives with equitable access to support and opportunities, allowing all voices to contribute to sustainability decision making.
- Deliver sustainability training for all leaders, with a focus on equipping them to act beyond compliance requirements, becoming proactive agents of change.
- Celebrate individual and team achievements in sustainability through the TSCG recognition and reward framework.

DELIVERED THROUGH:

- TSCG Sustainability Strategy
- TSCG Climate Action Plan / Roadmap
- TSCG People & Culture Strategy

MONITORED BY:

- TSCG Sustainability Committee
- TSCG People & Culture Steering Group.
- TSCG Shadow Board

IMPACT MEASURES:

- All relevant college policies explicitly integrate sustainability principles.
- Number of departments with an annual sustainability action plan.
- Annual staff survey score on “sustainability is part of how we work”.
- All leaders complete sustainability training by 2030.
- Evidence of sustainability being included in induction, onboarding or role expectations.
- Representation of diverse student and staff groups in sustainability forums or committees.
- Inclusion of sustainability KPIs in leadership performance frameworks.

Alignment to UN SDGS:



S3

Empower students as sustainability advocates and leaders.

HIGH-LEVEL OBJECTIVES:

- Amplify the student voice through the Green College Assembly to empower students to shape sustainability priorities and influence college wide action.
- Guarantee a green enrichment offer that promotes climate awareness and personal development, aligned to the emerging DfE Enrichment Framework around civic engagement, nature and outdoor adventure.
- Make sustainability accessible for all with the increased participation of underrepresented groups in sustainability, health and wellbeing enrichment activities.
- Connect learning to careers through student participation in work-experience, work-related learning, or industry-related green sector projects.

DELIVERED THROUGH:

- TSCG Sustainability Strategy
- TSCG Climate Action Plan / Roadmap
- TSCG Student Experience Strategy

MONITORED BY:

- TSCG Sustainability Committee
- Green College Assembly

IMPACT MEASURES:

- Co-create and implement a clear list of priorities that reflect the student voice.
- Deliver an Enrichment Guarantee providing opportunities for students on sustainability and climate action.
- Establish a work experience guarantee, offering opportunities and insights into green careers in priority occupations such as clean energy, construction and social care.

Alignment to UN SDGS:



S4

Ensure responsible financial management and ethical procurement across our supply chain.

HIGH-LEVEL OBJECTIVES:

- Make ESG criteria intrinsic to all procurement and partnership decisions. Prioritise local, ethical, and low-impact supply chains wherever possible, and ensure all suppliers meet clearly defined environmental and social responsibility standards.
- Embed lifecycle thinking into procurement processes, including supply chain due diligence and responsible disposal.
- Expand resource allocation to support sustainability targets, including capital investment, staffing and revenue planning.
- Strengthen data-driven actions with accurate, real time sustainability reporting and informed decision making.
- Increase staff and departmental engagement in delivering financial and environmental sustainability actions.
- Explore and secure partnerships that expand sustainable procurement options and maximise funding opportunities.

DELIVERED THROUGH:

- TSCG Sustainability Strategy
- TSCG Climate Action Plan / Roadmap
- TSCG Procurement Strategy

MONITORED BY:

- TSCG Sustainability Committee
- TSCG Resources Committee

IMPACT MEASURES:

- 100% of procurement tenders include an ESG assessment by 2030.
- Achieve agreed target spend with local suppliers.
- Achieve agreed target of suppliers meeting college ESG standards.
- Achieve Fairtrade University & College Award accreditation for catering outlets.
- Proportion of departmental budgets aligned to sustainability objectives.
- Develop building-level data on Scope 1 & 2 emissions.
- Gather baseline data on initial Scope 3 focus areas (waste & transport).
- Secure capital investment and/or external funding to support building decarbonisation projects.

Alignment to UN SDGS:



S5

Build and maintain a smart, low-carbon, climate-resilient estate.

HIGH-LEVEL OBJECTIVES:

- Reduce the environmental impact of the estate by integrating efficiency measures and low carbon technologies.
- Deliver sustainably designed capital projects and implement maintenance practices, that reduce environmental impact and contribute directly to achieving the 2038 net zero ambition.
- Improve biodiversity and environmental resilience across all campuses through targeted nature-based interventions.
- Implement a smart estate model using digital monitoring, data insights and space use optimisation.
- Promote and increase sustainable travel to reduce pollution and carbon emissions, while supporting the health and wellbeing benefits of active travel.
- Strengthen climate resilience planning to reduce risks and vulnerabilities linked to extreme weather and climate change.

DELIVERED THROUGH:

- TSCG Sustainability Strategy
- TSCG Climate Action Plan / Roadmap
- TSCG Estates Strategy

MONITORED BY:

- TSCG Sustainability Committee
- TSCG Health & Safety Committee

IMPACT MEASURES:

- Reduce energy consumption by 5% against 2021-22 baseline.
- Achieve carbon reduction targets set out in the Climate Action Roadmap
- Reuse or recycle 65% of day-to-day waste.
- Establish improved water meter reading to gather baseline data for target setting.
- Enhance campus green spaces to promote a 10% increase in biodiversity.
- Expand facilities to support active and sustainable travel methods.
- Increase the proportion of electric fleet vehicles.

Alignment to UN SDGS:



S6

Provide civic leadership and collaborate with our communities and partners to maximise social value.

HIGH-LEVEL OBJECTIVES:

- Be a sustainability leader by embedding strong governance, transparency and accountability mechanisms, and by creating demonstrable social value for the college and its communities.
- Provide clear leadership on the college's sustainability commitments, promoting engagement internally and externally and supporting the delivery and continual improvement of ISO 14001 objectives.
- Promote and embed the college's Green Travel Plan, to help improve air quality and enhance health and wellbeing across our local communities.
- Forge strategic partnerships with local authorities, employers and community groups to strengthen shared sustainability outcomes and maximise collective impact.
- Ensure community facing programmes and partnerships reflect TSCG principles and respond effectively to local priorities and community needs.
- Enhance community opportunity and inclusion through purposeful use of college spaces to generate social value.

DELIVERED THROUGH:

- TSCG Sustainability Strategy
- TSCG Climate Action Plan / Roadmap
- TSCG EDIB Strategy
- TSCG SEND & Vulnerable Learners Strategy

MONITORED BY:

- TSCG Sustainability Committee
- TSCG Social Value Tracker

IMPACT MEASURES:

- Maintain ISO 14001 certifications to drive continued environmental improvements and resilience.
- Be on track to achieve net zero for direct carbon emissions by 2038 (Scope 1 & 2), and indirect emissions by 2050 (Scope 3).
- Increase journeys made by active or public transport by 5%, and reduce single person car use by 5%, based on 2025 baseline.
- Number of local or regional forums where the college is represented.
- Social value generated annually (TOMs framework).

Alignment to UN SDGS:



CONCLUSION

The Sustainability Strategy 2026-2030 sets out our commitment to embedding environmental responsibility across every aspect of college life: our curriculum, our campuses, our partnerships and our culture. By working together as students, colleagues and community partners, we will build the skills, behaviours and systems needed to respond to the climate emergency and contribute to a fairer, greener and more resilient future.

Our ambitions are clear: to lead by example, empower our learners, and operate as a responsible civic institution that delivers social value for Trafford, Stockport and the wider region. As we move forward, we will monitor our progress transparently, uphold the principles of ISO 14001, and continue to adapt and innovate. Together, we will ensure that sustainability is not an add-on, but a defining feature of how we educate, how we operate and how we make a lasting difference for future generations.



