

LEARNING FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Glasgow Kelvin College - embedding sustainability across every course and campus



15+

DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED

17

UN SDGS ADDRESSED

10+

COMMUNITY PARTNERS



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Glasgow Kelvin College

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2025-26

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL



Joanna Campbell
Principal & Chief Executive
Glasgow Kelvin College

“At Glasgow Kelvin College, sustainability is not simply something we talk about, it is something we live and breathe, in every classroom, workshop and community space we occupy.

The initiatives showcased in this newsletter are a testament to the creativity, commitment and compassion of our staff and students. Whether it is our hairdressing team recycling every gram of salon waste through the Green Salon Collective, our ESOL learners investigating food deserts in their own communities, or our civil engineers designing sustainable drainage systems fit for a changing climate, the breadth of what our college community is doing is genuinely remarkable.

Our Learning for Sustainability work is firmly anchored in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and in the character of Glasgow itself. We are a college rooted in our communities, in Springburn, in the East End, in Easterhouse, and we understand that sustainability means economic and social justice every bit as much as it means environmental action.

I am enormously proud of what our college has achieved this year, and I look forward to building on this foundation together in the year ahead.”



This newsletter celebrates the real people, real initiatives and real impact that make Kelvin a leader in sustainable further education — and our ongoing contribution to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Across 15 departments, staff and learners have embedded sustainability into their teaching, projects and everyday practice. Here is a snapshot of what each area has achieved in 2025–26.

Community Learning & Hospitality

Learners are exploring what it means to cook and eat sustainably from planning plant-based menus using locally sourced ingredients to running workshops on food waste and ethical sourcing. The team are embedding food security into the curriculum in a way that reflects real challenges in Glasgow's communities, while cutting single-use packaging from kitchen practice across all programmes.



Sustainable Food Event

Support for Learning

From building bug hotels and bird feeders to volunteering on forestry conservation projects, Support for Learning students are connecting with the natural world in meaningful ways. Campus

gardens are thriving, upcycling craft sessions are reducing waste, and outdoor wellbeing activities are improving learner confidence and engagement, all while making Kelvin's campuses greener, more biodiverse places.



Bird Feeder - Support for Learning

ESOL

ESOL learners have been exploring sustainability where it matters most, in their own neighbourhoods. The team visited the Student Association Clothing Bank to investigate fast fashion, conducted food desert research in Springburn and the East End, and took part in plant identification walks at Pollok Park using the iNaturalist app.

Partnerships with Refuweegee and Smart Works have connected language learning to real-world environmental and social issues in a way that builds both confidence and community.

Early Learning & Childcare

Future childcare practitioners are learning how to bring sustainability into the earliest years of education. Forest Kindergarten training, outdoor coastal walks and hands-on learning with natural and recycled materials sit alongside digital-first teaching approaches that reduce paper waste. Learners are graduating with the skills and values to make sustainability a cornerstone of their early years practice



Wishing Tree

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Hairdressing

The department has joined the Green Salon Collective, meaning every strand of cut hair and every piece of salon metal is now recycled rather than sent to landfill. Responsible product use runs through all programmes, and learners are developing the kind of social and enterprise skills through charity fundraising and community engagement projects that today's employers are looking for.



Responsible Product Use

Beauty

Beauty students are learning that sustainability in their industry goes well beyond products. Reusable tools, reduced waste and responsible sourcing are embedded into everyday practice, while pop-up community events have taken student skills directly to people in Glasgow's most deprived areas offering free services and building genuine connections between the college and the communities it serves.

Fashion

Donated fabrics and upcycled garments aren't an add-on in Fashion, they are the core of the coursework. Students are designing with sustainability at the heart of their creative process, taking part in Sustainable Fashion Week, and developing the business skills needed to pursue careers in an industry that is rapidly rethinking its relationship with the planet. The Fashion students upcycled/transformed 100 Holy Communion dresses into beautiful eveningwear gowns.



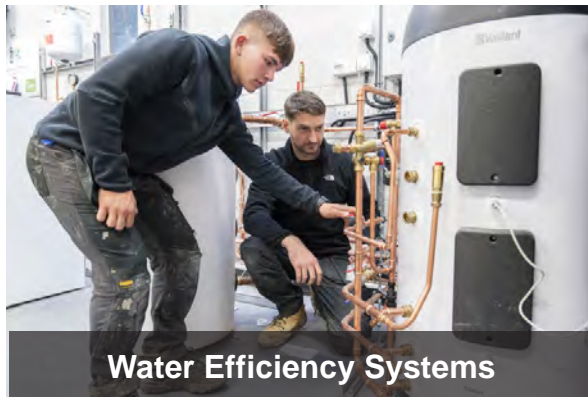
Sustainable Fashion

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Electrical Installation, Plumbing & Heating

As Scotland transitions to a low-carbon economy, Kelvin's trades students are being prepared to lead it. Practical sessions cover heat pump and solar technology, water efficiency systems and sustainable design giving learners industry-relevant skills at exactly the moment the construction sector needs them. Materials are reused wherever possible, and digital learning is reducing waste across the department.



Water Efficiency Systems

Civil Engineering

Sustainability is now central to what it means to study civil engineering at Kelvin. Students are exploring sustainable materials, designing

drainage systems using Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) methodology, and submitting work digitally to cut printing. They are graduating with the environmental knowledge that construction employers increasingly expect as standard.

Science

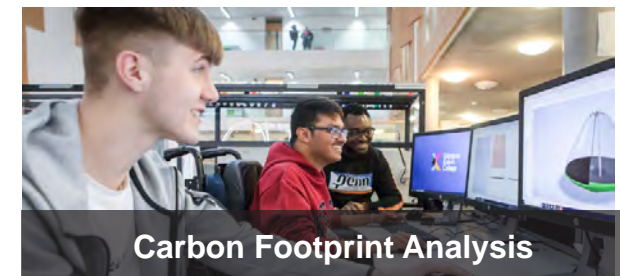
Science students have turned the college's own campuses into living laboratories. Habitat mapping and biodiversity surveys have documented the wildlife on our grounds, a Frog Pond has been constructed, and wildflower bulbs have been planted across sites. A collaboration with RSPB has deepened learners' conservation knowledge, and a Women in STEM workshop has brought new voices into scientific conversation.



Frog Pond Construction

Business & Computing

Business and Computing learners are building the critical thinking skills the sustainable economy demands. Carbon footprint analysis, supply chain ethics and distribution discussions are woven into assessments, while digital learning materials and reduced printing reflect the department's own commitment to practice what it teaches. Community engagement projects are helping learners connect their studies to real-world impact



Carbon Footprint Analysis

Communications/Media

Sustainability is embedded into how Communications and Media students think and write. Reflective writing, citizenship learning and SDG-linked assessments are developing critical thinkers, while HNC CAD students are researching sustainable materials and production methods for major brands including Lego, Games Workshop and Nike. Digital learning resources are reducing print across the department.

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Performing Arts

The stage has become a platform for sustainability. LED lighting, digital scripts and reused sets, props and costumes have significantly reduced the environmental footprint of every production. Beyond the practical measures, Performing Arts students are engaging directly with the UN Sustainable Development Goals through their creative work exploring what it means to make art responsibly and to use performance as a force for social change.



LED Lighting

Music, Media & Creative Industries

From green touring practices to festival sustainability case studies, the creative industries are grappling with their environmental footprint and Kelvin students are already ahead of the conversation. LED lighting and equipment reuse reduce waste in practical sessions, while awareness of green funding streams and cultural policy is giving learners a competitive edge as they move into the industry.

Sport

The Sport department's sustainability work is as active as you'd expect. Students have been leading canal litter picks, cycling routes through Glasgow's neighbourhoods, and running community sports sessions with local schools and associations through the Community Hub. Collaborative projects with ESOL and Beauty including paddling sessions for women and girls and archery taster days are breaking down barriers and building lasting connections across the college.

Social Care & Humanities

Social Care and Humanities students are exploring the ethical dimensions of sustainability from reducing PPE waste in healthcare settings to Wellbeing in Nature walks and talks. Cultural events including International Day celebrate community diversity, and re-gifting and fundraising initiatives are putting the values of social responsibility into everyday action.



Litter Pick East End

CURRICULUM AREAS AND UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



The matrix below shows how each curriculum area at Glasgow Kelvin College contributes to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Each coloured cell indicates an active connection between a department's teaching and that goal. The bottom row shows how the featured curriculum areas at Kelvin address each SDG.

CURRICULUM AREA	1 No Poverty	2 Zero Hunger	3 Good Health	4 Quality Education	5 Gender Equality	6 Clean Water	7 Clean Energy	8 Decent Work	9 Innovation	10 Reduced Inequalities	11 Sustainable Cities	12 Responsible Consumption	13 Climate Action	14 Life Below Water	15 Life on Land	17 Partnerships
Comm. Learning & Hospitality		•	•	•								•	•			
Support for Learning				•						•	•	•	•		•	
ESOL	•		•	•	•					•	•	•	•			
Early Learning & Childcare			•	•							•	•	•			
Hairdressing			•	•	•					•		•	•			
Beauty			•	•	•					•		•				
Electrical, Plumbing & Heating						•	•		•		•	•	•			
Civil Engineering						•	•		•		•	•	•			
Fashion	•			•								•	•			
Sport			•	•	•					•	•	•	•	•	•	
Science			•		•							•	•	•	•	
Performing Arts				•	•		•			•		•	•			•
Business & Computing								•			•	•	•			
Music, Media & Creative							•			•		•	•			
Social Care & Humanities			•	•						•	•	•	•		•	
Communications & Media				•					•		•	•	•			•
No. of departments	2	1	8	11	6	2	4	1	3	8	9	15	14	2	4	2

- Coloured cell: SDG addressed by department
 - Empty cell: not a focus area
- Bottom row: number of departments contributing to each SDG

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“Sustainability at Kelvin isn’t a tick-box exercise — it’s woven into how we teach, how we operate, and how we connect with the communities of Glasgow. Every department has a role to play, and this year, every department showed up.”



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