# Climate Change Action Plan Annual Report

SRUC

2023

# Environment Policy

**SRUC is committed to promoting sustainability in the land-based sector, helping to mitigate climate change and minimising any adverse impact of our activities, directly and through our influence on others.**

To achieve excellence in sustainable development we provide further and higher education to prepare future generations with the necessary skills, knowledge and understanding. Our main goal is to embed sustainability in learning and teaching, and supporting careers that contribute to sustainability both directly and through sparking debate on the complex issues surrounding a sustainable world.

We undertake world-leading research on climate change mitigation and adaptation, particularly in the agricultural and wider land based sectors. Through our consultancy and education functions, we foster collaborative relationships between research and education. This ensures that research is translated into impact as quickly and effectively as possible to support and inform Scotland's land–based sector.

SRUC expects all staff and learners to be mindful of the environment. We will work with partners and community organisations to help others understand how to protect, maintain and develop the environment.
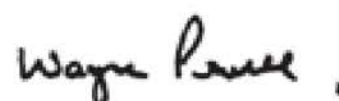
Our pledge is always to meet or exceed relevant environmental regulations, and other environmental related requirements, through the continual improvement of systems that manage the environment and prevent pollution.

SRUC complies with the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 Sustainable Procurement Duty, meaning whole life cost (production, use and disposal) will always be considered when procuring goods or services.

Our commitment to act on climate change mitigation and adaptation includes action to meet the Scottish Government's target date for net zero emissions of all greenhouse gases by 2045. To meet this challenge SRUC's Board has approved a 'Net Zero' compliance date of 2040. We will continue to develop and monitor our Climate Change Action Plan and our environmental objectives and targets to assist in meeting our obligations and commitments.

In addition, we have a responsibility to ensure that resources needed for our environmental ISO 14001 Certification are available, to ensure they remain effective at SAC Consulting: Environment Team.

We monitor and review this policy annually, and revise it where necessary, to ensure that it is, and remains effective.

Professor Wayne Powell
Principal and Chief Executive

January 2023

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# Principal and Chief Executive Letter

Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) is an institution working hard every day to share knowledge and discover solutions to some of the world's most challenging issues, particularly around climate change.

For SRUC to be a leader in this area – as an enterprise university at the heart of the natural economy – we must exceed the expectations of our students, clients, partners, and stakeholders to reduce our own impact on the environment.

To do this, we need a plan. A plan that will set us on course to net zero by 2040. A plan that will set us a path to follow while allowing us to seize opportunities, ideas, and innovations as they present themselves.
I'm delighted to introduce you to our Climate Change Action Plan. This goes far beyond previous plans focussed solely on carbon emissions. And while reducing our carbon emissions are still vital, we need to do more about our holistic impact on the environment.

We need to reduce the energy and water we use. We need to travel less or in a more sustainable way. We need to reuse materials where we can. And where we can't reduce or reuse, we must seek to recycle as much as possible.

These simple tenets are a challenge in an organisation of our size and diversity, but they are easy to remember and can guide us.

Through the Climate Change Action plan, we will benefit from the positive reputation and financial saving it will create. But, most of all, the actions in the Climate Change Action Plan are simply the right things to do – for ourselves and future generations.
I would like to thank everyone in the SRUC community for helping to develop and deliver the Climate Change Action Plan – particularly the Climate Change Action Plan Group and Campus and Estates Services.

As stated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the time to act is now. This a plan not just for the whole of SRUC but for the whole planet.

Professor Wayne Powell
Principal and Chief Executive

# Our Progress

During 2023 we made significant progress on our Climate Change Action Plan net zero journey.

SRUC continues to engage and progress against our Climate Change commitments and priorities.



SRUC Climate Change Action Plan 2020 – 25
SRUC
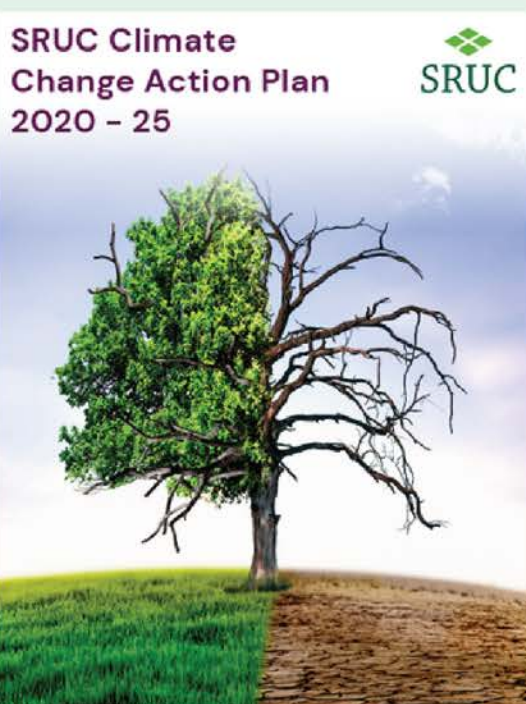
- Joined "Adaptation Scotland" Public Sector (PSCAN) to conduct our Adaptation Framework objectives.

- Formed a "Biodiversity Steer Group" to establish our Biodiversity Strategy and Baseline goals.

- Conducted an EV Strategy Framework Infrastructure project.

- Delivered a "Net Zero Feasibility Study" of Barony Campus.

- Initiated "Phase 1" Building Management System (BMS) Upgrade Programme of our main campuses.

- Project Management of a Feasibility Study of TECA District Heat Network for potential Craibstone Campus connection.

- Implemented a Staff/Student Travel Survey to understand organisational commuting emissions.

- Conducted a Waste Management Site Audit for organisational confirmation "Zero to Landfill" waste processes.

# Our Vision

To be the leading enterprise university at the heart of the natural economy

# Our Values

- Respect
- Innovate
- Support
- Excel

**E**xcel in everything we do

**S**upport each other

**I**nnovate for success

**R**espect everyone's contributions

We will
*RISE* to our values,
*RESPECT* everyone's contributions,
*INNOVATE* for success and
*SUPPORT* each other to
*EXCEL* in everything we do.

# Our Differentiators

Culture          Relationships          Solutions          Creativity

**CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN MILESTONE TARGETS**

**20%**
2025

**75%**
2035

**0%**
Net Zero by 2040

**7 "THEMES" OUTLINING 59 ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS**

**1** **Theme 1 - Climate Impacts Adaptation**
5 CCAP Objectives

**2** **Theme 2 - Energy Carbon Management**
16 CCAP Objectives

**3** **Theme 3 - Circular Economy**
6 CCAP Objectives

**4** **Theme 4 - Sustainable Procurement**
5 CCAP Objectives

**5** **Theme 5 - Sustainable Travel**
12 CCAP Objectives

**6** **Theme 6 - Engagement and Education**
7 CCAP Objectives

**7** **Theme 7 - Farming and Agriculture**
8 CCAP Objectives

# Theme 1 - Climate Impacts Adaptation
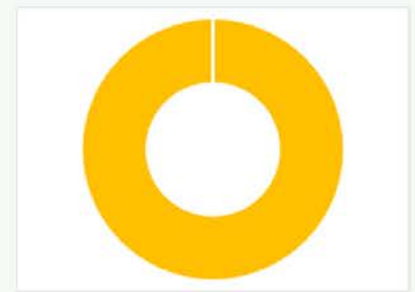


100% Partly Achieved

 Achieved   Partly Achieved   To Commence

| CCAP Action | CCAP Objective | CCAP Progress |
|---|---|---|
| CCA 1.1 - Develop a Climate Change Adaptation Plan using the "Adaptation Framework" developed by Adaptation Scotland | Long-term resilience, risk reduction and financial savings for the organisation as a result of having a business prepared to proactively manage current and future climate risks | SRUC are 1 of 10 new Public Sector "Adaptation Scotland" (PSCAN) members. We will actively engage with this network to participate in skills and training, understand benchmarking and develop case studies to help us develop our Adaptation Framework. |
| CCA 1.2 - Develop SRUC Climate change Adaptation Risk Register | Assess hazards posed by climate change and monitor and review regularly to adapt to new climate change data. | We engage with EAUC webinars and are conducting reviews of "Risk Register Tools" to commence main campus adaptation risk assessments during 2024/2025, (this action coincides with CCA 1.1 above). |
| CCA 1.3 - Work with colleagues and students to develop specific Biodiversity Strategy for all main campuses | New interventions to; reduce flood risks, improve water quality, urban cooling, support biodiversity, reduce energy consumption, improve air quality, encourage physical activity and improve mental wellbeing. | We formed a Lecture based "Biodiversity Steer Group" and are in discussions with SAC to conduct a main campus "Biodiversity Survey" Spring 2024. |
| CCA 1.4 - Work with colleagues to create opportunities for students to get involved in activities to improve biodiversity through the curriculum | Develop student awareness and expertise in Biodiversity. Increased cohesion and improve culture at SRUC. | We are actively striving to embed Biodiversity within student curriculum through our Biodiversity Steer Group meetings and main campus collaboration projects. |
| CCA 1.5 - In our forthcoming estate strategy include opportunities to maximise the use of outdoor spaces, considering partnering opportunities with the community and students. | Provide enhances staff and student environment which will deliver health and wellbeing. | We continue exploring partnership opportunities to enhance staff and student health and wellbeing. We incorporate projects within our estates strategy projects, (e.g KB Quad). |

# Theme 2 - Energy Carbon Management



38% Partly Achieved
50% Achieved
12% To Commence

 Achieved

 Partly Achieved

 To Commence

| CCAP Action | CCAP Objective | CCAP Progress |
|---|---|---|
| CCA 2.1 - Implement energy conservation measures. | Reduce carbon emissions and save on energy costs. Consider initiatives such as LED lighting, motion sensors, heating controls etc | Lighting upgraded to motion sensor LED's across our main campuses.  An "Energy Efficiency" Communication Campaign was conducted. |
| CCA 2.2 - Carry out SRUC Net Zero benchmark study and associated delivery plan (including carbon offsetting) | Develop renewable heat and power solutions which help to deliver net zero carbon emissions. | In conjunction with Hawkins Brown Architects, during 2023 an extensive "Barony Campus Net Zero Feasibility Study Report" was implemented. Barony Pilot completion is subject to final feasibility study approval. |
| CCA 2.3 - Upgrade SRUC houses to Energy Performance Certificates level D. | Comply with legislation and improve energy efficiency of houses | A tracking system is being compiled to monitor asset EPC's. Capital investment is required to meet the 2025 legislation deadline. Options provided within Estates Strategy. |
| CCA 2.4 - Monitor water use and develop usage reduction plan. | Improve data collection. Reduce water usage and costs, (sensor taps, recycling water etc). | We hope to commence investigations to construct an organisational "Water Management Plan" during 2024. Rain harvesting systems are being installed within new projects. |
| CCA 2.5 - Embed the Climate Change Action Plan targets into our future estates strategy. | Develop a pathway to modern fit for facilities which support hybrid working to reduce maximum capacity are more energy efficient. | Estate Strategy complete which outlined developing a pathway to include modern facilities, support hybrid working and energy efficiency. |
| CCA 2.6 - Develop corporate landlord space occupancy framework to drive space efficiencies by SRUC departments | Reduce space requirements and improve space efficiencies | A pipeline project which is envisaged to commence 2024. |

# Theme 2 - Energy Carbon Management (Continued)

**Achieved**  **Partly Achieved**  **To Commence**

| CCAP Action | CCAP Objective | CCAP Progress |
|---|---|---|
| CCA 2.7 - Develop green lease scheme for SRUC commercial tenants. | Encourage energy efficiencies within leased properties. | Light Green Lease is being investigated. |
| CCA 2.8 - Identify and install where appropriate, sub-metering and automated meter reading, monitoring and targeting systems. | Improve baseline information and usage which will drive efficiency initiatives. Improve visibility usage at building by building basis. | Organisation meter profiling and meter reading routes have been implemented within "Pirana". We continue to liaise with EDF regarding upgrades to Smart meters and sub meter installations. |
| CCA 2.9 - Develop heating control strategy and review building management systems. | Ensure that space heating is operated at optimum efficiency. | Initiated "Phase 1" and "Phase 2" Building Management System "Priva" (BMS) Upgrade Programme of our main campuses. "Phase 3" to be initiated during 2024. |
| CCA 2.10 - All new-build facilities to meet minimum sustainability criteria of RIBA 30. Full consideration of increased standards should be evaluated with a view of achieving BREEAM EXCELLENT standard of Passivhaus standard. | Ensure buildings are designed to the high sustainability standards to minimise the environmental impact over the lifetime of the building. | Adopted and now embedded within new build specifications |
| CCA 2.11 - All new-build facilities will use alternative to natural gas to provide space and hot water heating. | Ensure de-carbonisation of energy supply and that renewable technologies are explored and implemented during the design process. | Adopted by ELT and considered part of new build programme |

# Theme 2 - Energy Carbon Management (Continued)

**Achieved**  **Partly Achieved**  **To Commence**

| CCAP Action | CCAP Objective | CCAP Progress |
|---|---|---|
| CCA 2.12 - Property refurbishments and planned upgrades will consider sustainable and renewable features. | Ensure de-carbonisation of energy use and that renewable technologies (heat pumps, solar system, wind etc) are explored and implemented during the design process. | Company Procedure to be established |
| CCA 2.13 - All new builds will be created with hybrid working principals to reduce space requirements and maximise efficiencies | Create more efficient buildings from the offset. | Now embedded within new build specifications and standards. |
| CCA 2.14 - Set up recording process for any escape of fluorescent gases from refrigeration and air conditioning systems | Improve quality of reporting | A Procedure was compiled and undertook organisational Policy review process before being uploaded within Sharepoint. |
| CCA 2.15 - Appliances Policy, ensure purchasing prescribes AAA plus equipment. | Ensure equipment purchasing aligns with energy efficiency targets. | All IT equipment purchased has gold EPEAT status and meets criteria. |
| CCA 2.16 - Develop a Cloud First Policy. | Reduce our IT carbon footprint storing files in the "cloud" | IDS conducted an organisation "migration" programme during 2023. Proof of concept completion review occurring in January/February 2024. |

# Theme 3 - Circular Economy
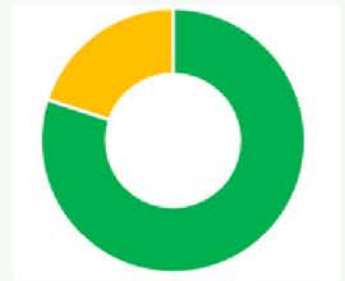
**50% Partly Achieved**
**50% Achieved**

Achieved   Partly Achieved   To Commence

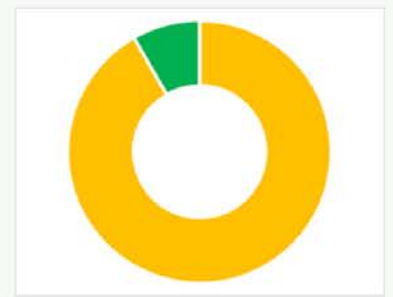| CCAP Action | CCAP Objective | CCAP Progress |
|---|---|---|
| CCA 3.1 - Review and update Waste and Recycling Management strategy and processes. | Reduced waste volumes. Increased proportion of recycled waste. Introduce food waste recycling. | We audited main campus canteens to ensure dedicated recycling centre stations. All Organic waste is recycled through our Waste Management Contractor recycling facility centres. |
| CCA 3.2 - Behavioural change campaign advocating the need to reduce, reuse and recycle. | Promote understanding and influence positive behaviour change. | A week long awareness and communications campaign was conducted during "Scotland's Climate Week". We are investigating implementing a Staff "Sustainability" e-learning course during 2024. |
| CCA 3.3 - Review and update waste collective contracts. | Ensure compliance, improve standards and better monitoring and reporting on waste. | A Waste Management Site Audit was conducted confirming "Zero to Landfill" waste operations with SRUC's Waste Management Contractor. |
| CCA 3.4 - Plastic use reduction plan. | Reduction in the use of harmful plastics. | Our Canteen Contractor implemented initiatives such as; promoting use of crockery, eliminated sauce sachets, introduced 'Mossgiel Milk' (who do not use SUPs), discounts for using reusable cups, reductions of compostable disposable containers and recycling crisp packets. All SUP's revised to compostable alternatives. |
| CCA 3.5 - Consider asset re-use portal to encourage the re-use of furniture, equipment etc within SRUC | Ensure optimum use of equipment and assets. Reducing waste and saving on replacement costs. | System initialised, implementation plan and process to be discussed. |
| CCA 3.6 - Develop frame work/policy to utilise recycling scheme for all redundant furniture and equipment (such as UniGreenScheme). | Free up space. Generate income. reduce waste and associated disposal costs and reduce emissions. Give back to the community. | System initialised, implementation plan and process to be discussed. |

# Theme 4 - Sustainable Procurement



20% Partly Achieved
80% Achieved

 Achieved

 Partly Achieved

 To Commence

| CCAP Action | CCAP Objective | CCAP Progress |
|---|---|---|
| CCA 4.1 - Working with colleagues in finance, develop a sustainable procurement toolkit. | Ensure innovative and sustainable thinking is applied to the development of procurement strategies and processes. | Developing an APUC tool: FNT2030 Commodity Management Plan. Commencing with furniture then IT. Cleaning and Catering pilots will also be conducted. |
| CCA 4.2 - Implement circularity principles in tenders where the whole life cost of the goods and services purchased is given full consideration. | Ensure we leave a positive legacy for future generations in the form of high-quality materials and resources that offer the maximum opportunity for recycling while minimising waste. | Implemented within tenders but assessment of individual tenders on a contract to contract basis will be evaluated to ascertain sustainability principles. Specific circularity clauses within ITT contracts, quality evaluation questions and procurement strategies also considered. |
| CCA 4.3 - Develop sustainability design principles for new build contracts. | Ensure new assets are designed to align with Net Zero carbon emissions targets thereby complying with legislation and reducing ongoing energy costs. | RIBA 30 or equal and approved methodology included within all new build procects. |
| CCA 4.4 develop reporting mechanisms for scope three sources, these include contractor emissions, procurement and supply chain and business accommodation. | Comply with emerging reporting legislation. | Chemical company submit quarterly reports to set benchmarks.<br><br>Post mortem waste and disposal contract includes requirement on haulage and disposal of waste $CO_2$ (test kits). Production process, distribution and transport captured. |
| CCA 4.5 - Seek out opportunities to collaborate with other organisations within HE/FE and the wide Public Sector. | To enhance procurement activities by sharing knowledge of best practise and lessons learned while partnering on tenders to achieve benefits of scale and reduce costs of tendering. | Procurement have developed farm sustainability contract which has been utilised by James Hutton Institute and UoE. Collaboration with APUC and Crown Commercial to ensure sustainability embedded within contracts. |

# Theme 5 - Sustainable Travel



90% Partly Achieved
10% Achieved

 Achieved

 Partly Achieved

 To Commence

| CCAP Action | CCAP Objective | CCAP Progress |
|---|---|---|
| CCA 5.1 - develop a Sustainable Travel Guidance and Policies to support better decision making. | Cost savings and contribution to emissions reduction targets by means of organisational change. | We are liaising with Finance Department to develop a company car policy. |
| CCA 5.2 - Improve the quality of business travel usage data. | Improved accountability contributing to emissions reduction targets. | Finance Department are recording and reporting CBS expense claim process and hope to implement CBS improvements during 2024. |
| CCA 5.3 - Further improve IT alternatives to travel through platforms and promote hybrid working. This will be achieved through the SRUC digital vision. | Reduced emissions relating to business travel. | Hybrid working and blended learning framework completed. |
| CCA 5.4 - Develop and begin a strategy to provide EV infrastructure across the organisation for staff, students and visitors. | Prepare SRUC for transition to low/no carbon modes of transport. | An EV Infrastructure Strategy was conducted with "Urban Foresight". We are exploring EV Charge Point providers and hope to pilot charge points at Craibstone Campus during 2024. |
| CCA 5.5 - Develop strategy to increase EV fleet with the aim of decarbonising the fleet by 2032. | Help meet national targets set out by the Climate Change Plan (RPP3) | We are liaising with Finance Department to provide high level vehicles reports and transitions. A Policy on leased cars is being developed. |
| CCA 5.6 - Increase access to and availability of staff pool bikes, electric bikes, and associated schemes | Reduced emissions and costs associated with staff business travel. Improvement in staff wellbeing. | Cycling fund schemes continue to be investigated with a pilot scheme trialled at Craibstone Campus. |

# Theme 5 - Sustainable Travel (Continued)

**Achieved**   **Partly Achieved**   **To Commence**

| CCAP Action | CCAP Objective | CCAP Progress |
| --- | --- | --- |
| CCA 5.7 - Implement a framework to record and manage colleague and student commuting emissions. | New Scope 3 requirements previously not recorded but is due to fall within standard reporting duties. | We conducted a "Travel Survey" to understand our Staff and Student emissions in line with Scope 3 reporting obligations. |
| CCA 5.8 - Work with neighbours and local partners to develop sustainable transport networks. | Improved cycle infrastructure, pathways etc. | Discussion have commenced with regional councils and neighbouring organisations to understand development constraints. |
| CCA 5.9 - Consider facilities which support active travel in our future estate strategy. | Consider bike sheds, showers to encourage staff and student uptake. | Our Sustainable Travel Officer is actively engaging with external Active Travel networks and platforms |
| CCA 5.10 - Investigate salary sacrifice scheme for bus/train season passes. | Encourage shift from individual car use. | Finance Department are investigating legalities of staff loans for public transport. |
| CCA 5.11 - Explore and implement sustainable methods for travel to campus. | To reduce the emissions created by staff and student commuting. | We will conduct a thorough analysis from our Travel Survey findings to understand main campus travel mode constraints during 2024. |
| CCA 5.12 - Develop a Business Travel Policy. | To reduce the emissions created by flights, rail, and petrol/diesel car travel. | Policy is scheduled for completion March 2024 |

# Theme 6 - Engagement & Education



57% Partly Achieved
29% Achieved
14% To Commence

🎯 Achieved    🎯 Partly Achieved    🎯 To Commence

| CCAP Action | CCAP Objective | CCAP Progress |
|---|---|---|
| CCA 6.1 - Host a series of sustainability workshops. | Raise student and colleague awareness of climate change | 🎯 We conducted an extensive organisational communication campaign during all of "Scotland's Climate Week". |
| CCA 6.2 - Develop signage strategy linked to behavioural change activites. | Encourage a culture of green thinking and micro actions. | 🎯 To be commenced. |
| CCA 6.3 - Audit climate change related learning, teaching and research activities, further embedding of sustainability concepts in learning, teaching and research activities. | Establish baseline and develop an action plan | 🎯 This has been driven as part of curriculum review and is scheduled for completion during 2025. |
| CCA 6.4 - Promote the development of Climate Impact Teams throughout SRUC | Drives climate change reductions and initiatives locally | 🎯 An extensive roadshow and programme of all main campuses was conducted during 2022 with an award system devised. Actual Student uptake was very poor. Currently one group operates out of KB. We will revisit this action during 2026. |
| CCA 6.5 - Make SRUC environmental impact data available to students and researchers for use in Academia | Cross SRUC cohesion and opportunities for innovation | 🎯 SRUC data repository being set up as part of our digital strategy. Scheduled to complete end 2023. |
| CCA 6.6 - Work with colleagues in Academia to provide learning opportunities to students. | Tap into existing expertise and knowledge to explore opportunities to introduce sustainability learning opportunities within the curriculum. | 🎯 Discussion are underway regarding future curriculum strategy and engagement. |
| CCA 6.7 - Look at possibility of introducing departmental financial disincentives such as Carbon flight "tax", car parking "tax" etc | Reduction in travel and emissions. | 🎯 Business Travel Policy due to be complete March 2024 to capture these topics. |

# Theme 7 - Farming & Agriculture

80% Partly Achieved
20% Achieved

Achieved    Partly Achieved    To Commence

| CCAP Action | CCAP Objective | CCAP Progress |
| --- | --- | --- |
| CCA 7.1 - Remove soya from diary diets. | Reduce CO2 emissions from direct deforestation associated with new soya plantation in producing countries. | Dairy diets have been reformulated. |
| CCA 7.2 - Model soya reduction in pigs and poultry diets. | If successful will deliver emission reductions | Supply chain issues means this is not feasible to take forward but will be revisited once supply chain rebalances. |
| CCA 7.3 - Review Farms Estate | Review Estate which meets in strategic and operational requirements and delivers reduction in emissions. | Stakeholder engagement being carried out and information being gathered. 1st draft of Farms Strategy envisaged end November 2023. |
| CCA 7.4 - Develop Farm Estate tree and plantation strategy | Absorb CO2 which can be offset against CO2 and other greenhouse gas emissions | Farm Woodland Titles are being investigated and will continue to be researched during 2024. |
| CCA 7.5 - Feasibility Study for Biodigester System at farms (pilot to be carried out at Barony) | Renewable heat/electricity generation to reduce demand for fossil fuel derived energy | Analysis carried out in pilot study which will be further assessed in full net zero technical study for Barony Site circa February 2024. |
| CCA 7.6 - Develop proposals to replace main items of slurry handling kit. | Reduce the need for splash plate spreading to ensure better retention of slurry nutrient | This is an ongoing process and subject to business case approval. |
| CCA 7.7 - Develop real-time analysis of slurry spreading. | Reduce the need for purchased fertiliser and therefore reduce embedded carbon in manufacturing and emissions of nitrous oxide from soils | Ongoing action and linked to CCA 7.6. |
| CCA 7.8 - Provide nitrification inhibitor in first fertiliser applications. | Reduce the bacterial conversion of nitrogen fertiliser to nitrous oxide and reduce leaching of nitrate. | All urea based products are in a protected format. |

# "Theme" KPI Dashboard

## Theme 1 - Climate Impacts Adaptation



100% Partly Achieved

## Theme 2 - Energy Carbon Management



38% Partly Achieved
50% Achieved
12% To Commence
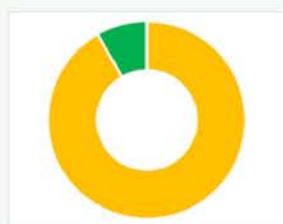
## Theme 3 - Circular Economy



50% Partly Achieved
50% Achieved

## Theme 4 - Sustainable Procurement



20% Partially Achieved
80% Achieved
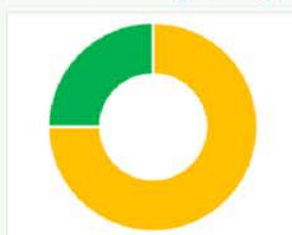
## Theme 5 - Sustainable Travel



90% Partly Achieved
10% Achieved

## Theme 6 - Engagement & Education
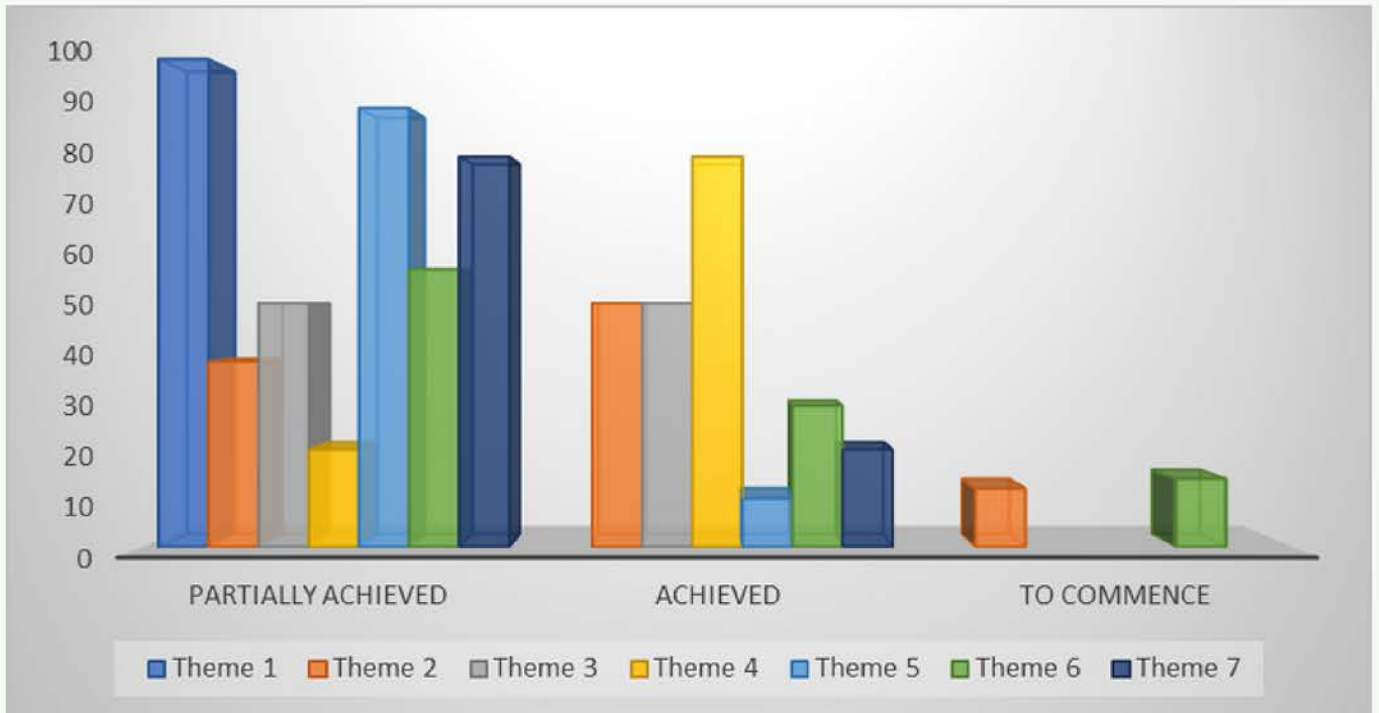


57% Partly Achieved
29% Achieved
14% To Commence

## Theme 7 - Farming & Agriculture



80% Partly Achieved
20% Achieved

# "Theme" KPI Dashboard

## 2023 % Progress

# Current Annual Environmental Reporting Commitments

## SDG Times Higher Ranking Reporting

UN Sustainable Development Goals reporting for staff and student welfare

## Scottish Government Public Bodies

Mandatory Scottish Government reporting on organisation emissions

## Climate Change Action Plan Annual Report

CCAP annual progression report

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# Forthcoming Annual Environmental Reporting Commitments

## Scottish National Adaptation Plan new statutory legislation reporting being introduced

## Higher Education Statistics Agency

# 2024 Roadmap Strategy

**1**   **Adaptation Plan and Risk Register**

Commence our network journey with Adaptation Scotland (PSCAN) and conduct main campus adaptation risk assessments.

**2**   **Biodiversity Strategy, Survey and Baselining**

Continue to progress our Biodiversity Steer Group discussions and liaisons with SAC Consultancy regarding Spring 2024 Barony Campus Biodiversity Survey.

**3**   **EV Charge Point Case Study**

Continue our investigations with EV Charge Point providers to establish an EV Charge Point pilot programme at Craibstone Campus.

**4**   **Building Management System "Priva" Upgrades**

Progress and implement "Phase 2" (Oatridge) and "Phase 3" (Kings Building) BMS Upgrade programme.

**5**   **TECA District Heat Network**

Continue discussions with Aberdeen City Council regarding potential connection to TECA's DHN System.

**6**   **Barony Net Zero Study**

Following the recent Barony Campus Net Zero Study we will investigate sustainable ceiling insulation options for better heating efficiency measures at Barony Campus.

**7**   **Water Management Plan**

Develop an organisational Water Management Plan and investigate rain harvesting options.

**8**   **Environmental Management System**

Develop an EMS with intention to become ISO 140001:2015 Certified to raise organisational environmental profile.

**9**   **Environmental Reporting Obligations**

Management of increasing mandatory organisational environmental reporting responsibilities.

# Corporate Environmental Profile

We will continue to enhance SRUC's Environmental Profile and Credentials through Environmental Award application processes such as the Green Gown and AUDE Awards.



"We are delighted to announce SRUC is a 2023 Finalist in the Green Gown Awards "Climate Action" Category for our Climate Change Action Plan efforts"

# Sustainability



The United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a framework for achieving the agenda and targets set by the UN Member States that collectively signpost what needs to be done to end extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice and protect our planet.

SRUC are committed to upholding the principals of the UN SDG's which include human rights, labour, environmental and anti corruption.

During 2023, we conducted analysis exercises involving 8 of the 17 UN SDG's. This process resulted in 26 environmental actions submitted within "The Times Higher Ranking Report" obligations. We will continue to focus on improving our SDG targets during 2024.

Discover more SRUC Sustainability news at:-
https://www.sruc.ac.uk/news/categories/Sustainability/

# Sustainability (Continued)

Our staff and students are at the heart of everything we do and supporting our people to achieve their full potential is key to SRUC's success.

Our employees are encouraged to take ownership of their careers and, through one to one meetings with their line managers, career development plans can be supported, reviewed and progressed.

We have a range of learning and development tools to help our people grow their knowledge including webinars and digital platforms that are designed to promote inclusion and equal learning.

SRUC believes everyone has a right to be treated fairly, with dignity and respect, and to have equal opportunities free from all forms of discrimination, harassment or bullying.  We value and promote diversity and are committed to being an institution where everyone can thrive.

SRUC proudly adheres to the "Three Pillar of Sustainability" Framework.

| Pillar 1 | Pillar 2 | Pillar 3 |
|---|---|---|
| **Environmental** | **Social** | **Economic** |
| • Reducing our carbon footprint. | • Equal opportunities to enable Staff and Students to lead more sustainable lives. | • Satisfying demand without utilising natural resources needed by future generations. |
| • Increasing our energy efficiency and reduce our energy costs. | • Access to land and natural resources. | • Thinking and reacting on a long-term financial basis. |
| • Investment and greater use of renewable energy. | • Embedding Sustainability within education and training. | • Maintaining high Health and Safety standards. |
| • Supporting Biodiversity and the protection of water reserves. | • Supporting Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. | • Environmentally efficient organisational processes. |
| • Resource conservation and recycling. | • Addressing Modern Slavery. | • Engaging and developing our Staff and Students. |
| • Staff and Student Sustainable training and awareness. | • Staff and Student Wellbeing including Mental Health Officers and First Aiders. | • Fair employment and supporting the living wage. |
| • Working with "Sustainable Partners of Choice" | | |

# Corporate Responsibilty

SRUC aims to be socially responsible in our organisation activities, our work with communities and in response to environmental issues. We strive to be a sustainable well-resourced organisation with exemplary environmental credentials and real ownership among our students, staff and stakeholders.

## Stakeholders
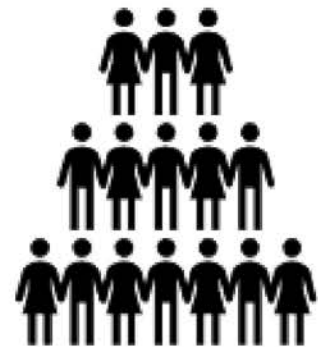Our Stakeholder are important to us and we strive to align with their environmental expectations.
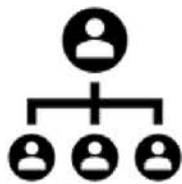


## Our People
Expect us to keep them safe, treat them with respect and be a leading, innovative institution.

## Our Society
Defines us what is acceptable and what is expected in terms of corporate behaviour. We have a duty to respect communities where we operate and the environments we operate within.

Rural and Veterinary Innovation Centre (RAVIC)

## Employer of Choice
SRUC is an organisation we should be proud to be part of. SRUC will continue to measure and progress it's Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG's) impacts and asses how these can be minimised or improved.

# Acknowledgements

SRUC's Climate Change Action Plan Net Zero journey would not be possible without the valued contribution, expertise and support from the following departments:

- Procurement Department
- Finance Department
- Communications Departments (Staff and Student)
- SRUC Lecturers in relation to Biodiversity, Wildlife and Conservation, Environmental Management and Horticultural
- SAC Consultancy
- Digital Services
- CES Team Work Officers
- Farms

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Thank you for your continued support in our efforts to deliver SRUC's Climate Change Action Plan.

Campus and Estates Team welcomes any feedback.

Arlene Barclay
Environmental Manager, SRUC

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## Contact

**SRUC**

**SRUC CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION**

✉ climatechangeaction@sruc.ac.uk

🌐 https://scotrural.sharepoint.com/teams/SRUCClimateChangePlan-Intranet

🌐 https://www.sruc.ac.uk/media/fpjfjdoj/environment-policy-2023.pdf