

**Ayrshire College**  
**Sustainability Strategy**  
**(2023-2025)**

## INTRODUCTION



This strategy sets out the College's desire to be a sustainable organisation and a driver of sustainability for Ayrshire.



The strategy outlines the actions the College will take to achieve robust sustainability targets by July 2025.



The strategy also outlines the College's commitment to ensure its staff and students are aware of their sustainability responsibilities and to equip them to be ambassadors for sustainability within their workplaces and communities.

## BACKGROUND

The Scottish Government has set the target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero by 2045. Scotland's Colleges are working towards a net-zero target of 2040 and Ayrshire College is committed being operational net-zero by 2040.

The United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are an action plan for people, planet and prosperity. The SDGs seek to transform the world by ending poverty, improving health and education, reducing inequality, and supporting economic growth whilst also tackling climate change and protecting our oceans and forests.

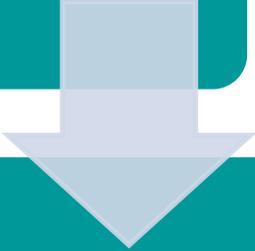
## STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Ayrshire College is embracing the Scottish Government's Energy Strategy focussing on the well proven principles of the Energy Efficiency Route map. The College will identify, monitor and manage down all energy waste. It will then optimise assets to identify true energy baseloads and finally swap over from residual hydrocarbon use to clean technologies.

The College must therefore put sustainability at the core of its curriculum operations and service delivery. Since 2014-15 Ayrshire College has delivered a 23% reduction in carbon emissions. This is broadly in line with the sectoral average of 24%. Ayrshire College is however working to be a sector leader in carbon emissions reduction and not merely be in line with the rest of the sector. Therefore, this strategy is to be a platform for achieving sizeable and significant reductions in the College's carbon emissions.

## STRATEGIC AMBITION

Ayrshire College is committed to enhancing its environmental and sustainable credentials



Ayrshire College will be a leader in sustainability, recognised for its achievements in carbon reduction, student empowerment and community engagement



Ayrshire College will be environmentally responsible, embedding sustainability in its learning, teaching and business operations

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

<b>Develop and embed</b>	<b>Sustainability within all of the College's learning and make sustainability a consideration in all our strategic decision-making processes.</b>
<b>Influence</b>	<b>Low impact living within its communities including opportunities for sustainable travel and guidance on low carbon diet options.</b>
<b>Ensure</b>	<b>The College's procurement arrangements use sustainable and ethical supply chains and promote best practice to our suppliers.</b>
<b>Promote</b>	<b>Sustainable operations in the College's energy, waste, water and biodiversity activities.</b>

## BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE

*The College remains focused on empowering, supporting and inspiring student success*

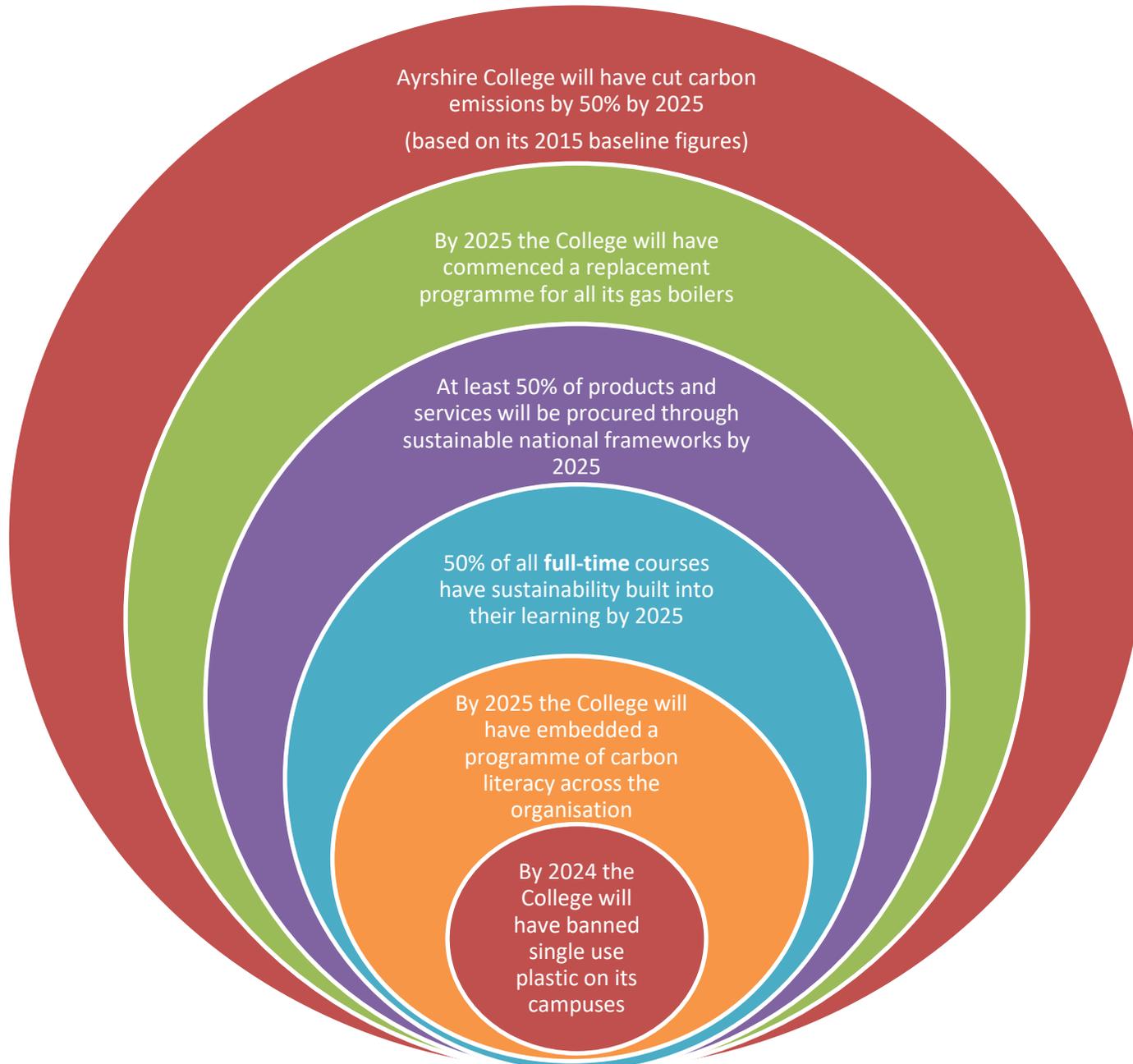
This includes prioritising the development of new and innovative sustainability solutions. It also includes delivering curriculum programmes and learning environments which successfully prepare learners with a relevant awareness of and, engagement with, all aspects of sustainability which they can draw on in their future careers.

*Ayrshire College will also provide pathways for students to develop the skills necessary to support a green recovery and deliver a sustainable future*

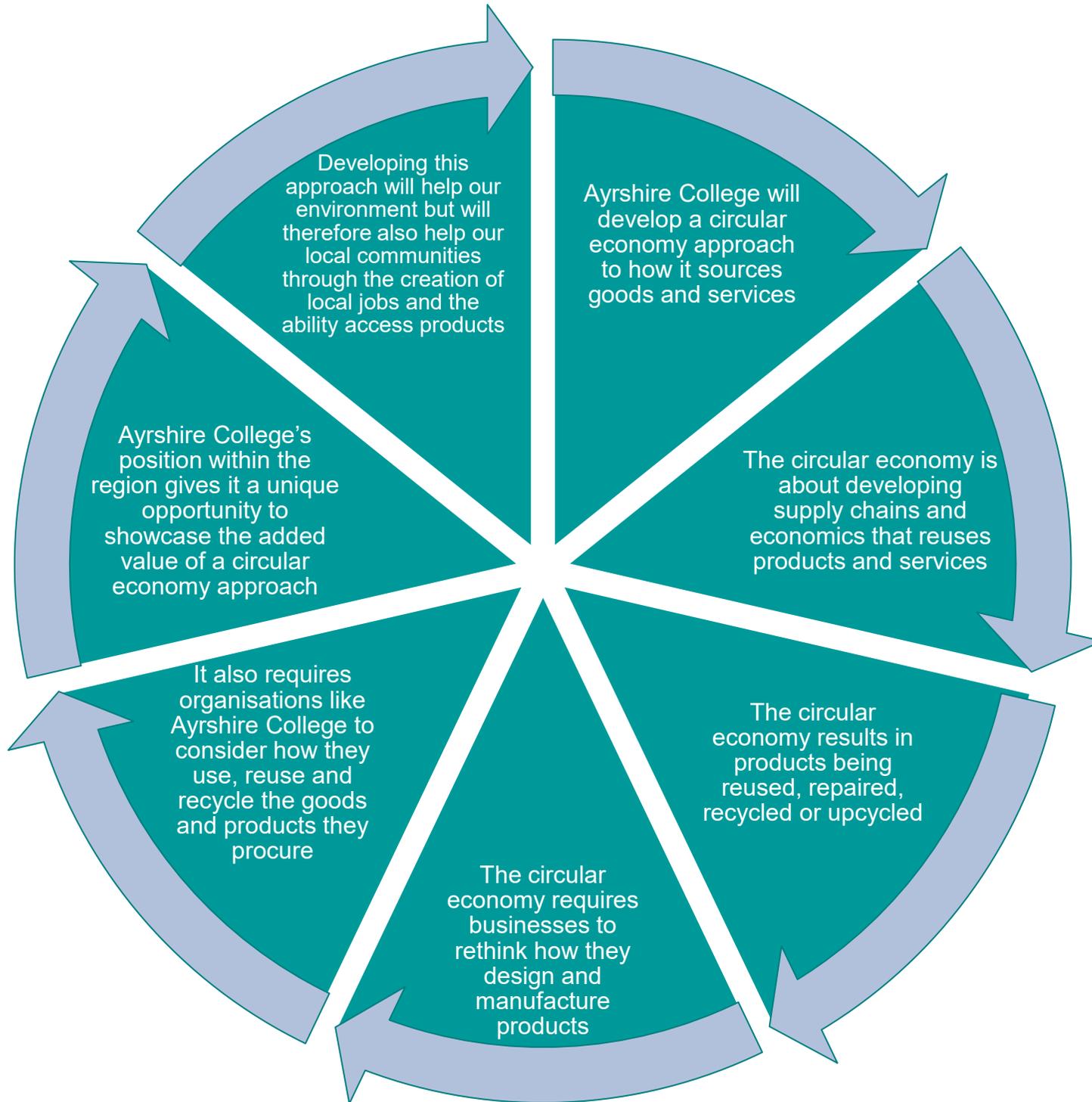
It will achieve this by developing more sustainable business practices and encouraging behavioural change across the whole organisation.

**This is set out in the following Performance Measures**

# PERFORMANCE MEASURES



# CIRCULAR ECONOMY



## GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

***The College is ideally placed to be a proactive global citizen for sustainability and for driving change***

The College is proud to play a key role in a strong and vibrant stakeholder network in the Ayrshire region, working together to deliver a local carbon future. The College will continue to enhance its sustainable practices and inspire sustainable behaviours through cross sector collaborations including the Sustainable Scotland Network and Ayrshire Environmental Officers Network.

***Ayrshire College is also part of a global commitment to tackling sustainability***

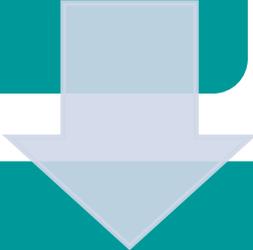
This can be evidenced through our engagement with the United Nation's Sustainable Development Solutions Network. As a result of our submission to their global survey, the College has been invited to contribute to the compilation of the guide and toolkit on how colleges and universities can advance campus climate action across the world.

# PARTNERSHIPS

The College's journey to creating a sustainable future will be helped by the enthusiasm, expertise and resources shared through partnerships.



The College is already working with key stakeholders to build a sustainable network.



The stakeholders the College is working with include Sustainable Scotland Network, Adaptation Scotland, Zero Waste Scotland, National Energy Research & Development Centre, as well as with each of the three Ayrshire local authorities and local stakeholders.



[www.ayrshire.ac.uk](http://www.ayrshire.ac.uk)

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