



JANUARY 2021

Welcome to our first newsletter from the Sustainability team!

We are a group of staff and students joining together to improve the environmental impact of HCA and reduce our carbon footprint. We want to promote sustainable practices on campus and in teaching and learning in order to help build a greener future for the HCA community.

This monthly newsletter will keep the HCA community up to date with our plans and progress.

OUR PLAN

We started the group in January 2020 and have begun our mission following a [Climate Action Plan](#), set up by the Climate Commission for UK Further and Higher Education institutions. It is to be used by the College Leadership, Staff, Students and other Stakeholders to explain, develop and implement a Sustainability strategy.

This guide establishes three levels of colleges approaches to sustainability organised by different levels of maturity. HCA is on the first level - Emerging – as it is just beginning to address Sustainability. The guide contains a series of initiatives we can implement to reach net zero emissions and improve our environmental impact. They are categorised under the headings of: Leadership and Governance; Learning, Teaching and Research; Estates and Operations; Partnerships and Engagement and Data Collection.

So far, HCA has a new [Sustainability Statement](#) approved by the Governors. Also, as part of this roadmap, we have created our Sustainability committee, carried out informal audits of energy use by departments, carried out a survey of sustainability in the curriculum with course leaders and carried out a survey about sustainability with staff and students.

Moving forwards, we hope to start mapping our carbon footprint, setting a target for when we will be Carbon Neutral and improving recycling, awareness of energy use and biodiversity across the college.

We will update you further with what we aim to achieve and our more progress so far in next month's newsletter!

GOOD NEWS!

Here are just a couple of recent successes...

RECYCLED PLASTIC PUPPETRY

The brilliant example of Sustainability in the curriculum this term with FE Performing Arts students who are telling digital stories through puppetry, dance, set design and new writing delivered straight to camera. "Stars in the Sky" speaks of the horrors of marine pollution using the methods of Puppetry and Object manipulation; all props and puppets are being made and operated by the students and created from recycled plastics.

BERYL BIKES @ CRC



College Road now has its own Beryl bike bay to pick up or drop off bikes for HCA staff and students, organised by Jo McGreevy. During 2020, Herefordshire saw 55,000 trips and 182,118 kilometres ridden on Beryl Bikes which saved 30 tonnes of CO₂!

Try a greener way to get to campus by hiring a Beryl Bike! Users can download the free Beryl app from the [App Store for iOS](#), and the [Google Play Store for Android](#). Bikes can then be picked up and dropped off in any marked 'Beryl Bays' which are visible both on the app and from the street.

COMPOSTABLE KITCHENWARE & VEGETARAIN DISHES



Our fabulous new caterer, Ed Pitts, who is using local fresh produce in his kitchens, is using compostable cutlery and biodegradable cartons for takeaway food! We hope to start using china plates for lunch and metal cutlery to reduce waste on-site. However, until then, Ed is happy to fill up your own lunchboxes and cups at the cafes in Folly Lane and College Road!

Also, there are always plenty of hot or cold vegan options, and Thursdays are meat-free across the whole menu! This is great news as by replacing meat with vegetarian sources of protein, we can reduce carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions. The whole food production process of farm-to-plate totals [30% of all global greenhouse gas emissions](#).

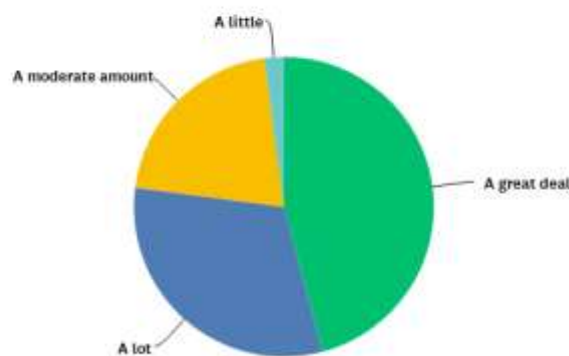
SURVEY RESULTS

Last term, we sent out a survey to all staff and students asking about their awareness and attitude to sustainability at college. Thank you very much to everyone who took the time to complete it! We had 144 responses which was the largest response to a HCA survey to date!

Here are just a few of the key results:

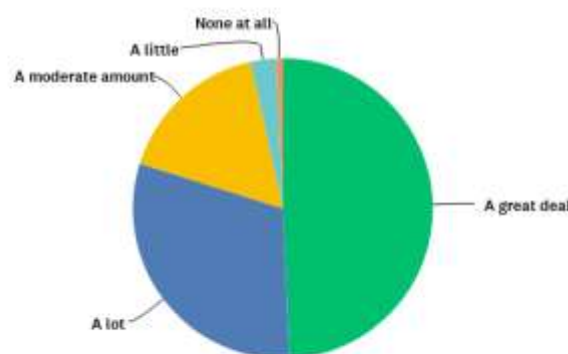
- **46% of respondents are concerned a great deal about environmental issues. 31% said a lot, and 21% a moderate amount. Only 2% said they are concerned a little.**

Q1 How concerned are you about environmental issues?



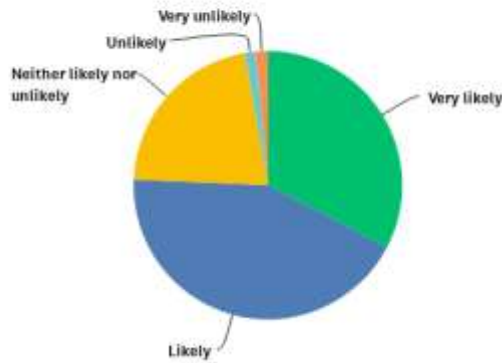
- **How important are sustainable efforts at HCA for you? 80% - a great deal and a lot.**

Q3 How important are sustainable efforts at HCA for you?



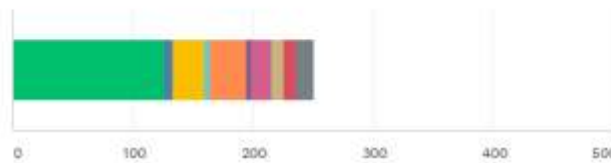
- How willing are you to participate in sustainability activities on campus? 76% likely or very likely

Q6 How willing are you to participate in sustainability activities on campus?



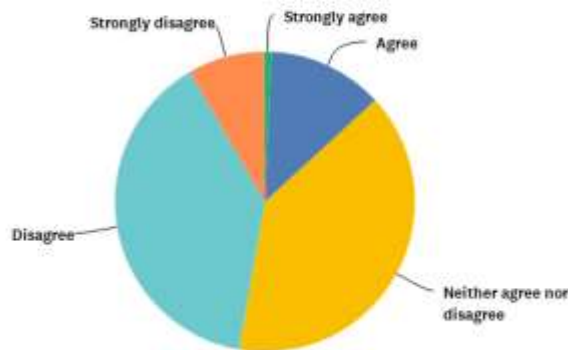
- Which of the following sustainability efforts are you aware of at HCA? 88% aware of recycling.

Q7 Which of the following sustainability efforts are you aware of at HCA?



- My campus community is well informed about what is being done to make the campus more sustainable - only 12% agree.

Q8 My campus community is well informed about what is being done to make the campus more sustainable.



We also had over 134 great suggestions for making HCA greener and we will be looking at these in detail over the coming weeks...

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

SUSTAINABILITY STICKER COMPETITION



We are calling all students who would like to give it a go, to design the HCA Sustainability team some stickers! We're looking for a design/s which will remind users to switch off lights, electronic devices and consider their energy usage. The winning logo will be printed onto biodegradable stickers and utilized in every department on both campuses.

Please submit your design by email to sustainability@hca.ac.uk before Monday 22 February, 5pm. The winner will be announced in our next newsletter and on our [Instagram](#) page.

JOIN THE TEAM

We are looking for FE students to join our team, and have their voices heard, help us action changes and represent students at Folly Lane! If you're interested in becoming a member of our team, please email sustainability@hca.ac.uk to register your interest.

STUDENT VOICES

Members of our Student sub-committee have written a few words to introduce themselves as student reps and talk about what Sustainability means for them in their work and their time at HCA...

Charlotte Crossley



Hello, if we haven't already met, nice to meet you! I'm Charlotte and currently I'm a third year Textile Design Student. In my recent projects, I have explored ways of reusing waste created by PPE and experimented with yarn making techniques that offer waste fabric a new life. Throughout my course I've been determined to find use for items considered 'waste' and challenge myself to produce designs that fit into a circular system.

I have joined the Sustainability team because I identify with the majority of student's eagerness to be a part of a more sustainable campus and community. I value HCA's dedication to hearing student voices and believe this will empower us to make quick and effective changes to the college that will help us to meet our carbon zero goals.

Ian Pennell



I'm Ian Pennell and I am a part time BA Fine Art student, currently Level 5. I am interested in ways of living more sustainably and I am keen to see the College begin to progress towards an eventual position of being carbon neutral, so that in all its processes and functions, it does not contribute to the climate emergency that we all face. This will be a complicated and difficult task but it is important to start now.

We know from the results of the survey that many students are interested in contributing to ideas of sustainability in College, and the College sees the student voice as important. We will act as a focus for your views and through social and other media, keep you up to date about the College's plans for the future.

USEFUL RESOURCES

Try using a different search engine...



Ecosia is a search engine that works just the same as Google or Bing and runs entirely on renewable energy sources – every search you make removes 1kg of CO₂ from the atmosphere! They use the profit they get from ad revenue to plant trees all over the world - on average, it takes around 45 searches to fund enough to plant a tree. Some current projects are taking place in Brazil, Kenya, Ethiopia, Peru, Spain, Colombia, Indonesia, and Burkina Faso, where they are already making the desert more fertile, making it a more habitable place for wildlife, and helping the agriculture there, providing jobs and food for local people.

You can [add Ecosia](#) to your current internet browser on any device. However, if you're a big fan of Google, it's not all bad news - [the company now has carbon footprint of zero...](#)

We suggested HCA change to use Ecosia on campus but since most of our resources are developed for use with Chrome/MS Edge/Safari, this may cause some problems for our systems. Nonetheless, since we are working from home so much at the moment, try using Ecosia on you own devices and start planting your own trees!



Calculate your own carbon footprint...

Did you know the average person living in the UK has a carbon footprint of 6.5 tonnes per year? You can calculate your own carbon footprint using [this free calculator](#). You can also start offsetting your carbon footprint support carbon offsetting projects that tackle both climate change and support impoverished communities around the World.

Sustain an area of tropical rainforest the size of



Herefordshire...

['The Size of Herefordshire'](#) is supporting two brave indigenous peoples, the Wampis and the Awajun, in their ancestral rainforest in north-eastern Peru. Local people in the county, knowing how wonderful are our own woods and trees, are campaigning to raise enough money to protect tropical rainforest the size of Herefordshire. [Use the interactive map](#) to see how the project is getting along - each square represents 10 hectares and costs £5 to sponsor. You can sponsor as many squares as you like!

GET IN TOUCH

If you would like to send us a suggestion, raise an issue, or tell us about news/events/resources to include in next month's newsletter, please contact the team!

Email us - sustainability@hca.ac.uk

Instagram [@hca.sustainability](https://www.instagram.com/hca.sustainability)

TALK TO THE TEAM

Staff:

Jo McGreevy – College Facilities and Health & Safety Manager
Jess Bugler – Print Workshop Technical Demonstrator (CRC)
Lily Morris – Business Assistant (FL)
Nicholas Thomas – BA Textiles Course Leader (CRC)
Alex Gordon – FE Music Tutor (FL)
Kathryn Ayres – Graduate Ambassador and Student Experience Officer (CRC)
Alison Sloggett–Earl - Print Workshop Technical Demonstrator (FL)
Oliver Cameron-Swan – Digital Skills Demonstrator (CRC)
Fenella Lloyd – Academic Mentoring Team (College Road)
Mandy Pritchard – Foundation & Portfolio tutor (CRC)
Rachel Sayer – FE Learning Support Assistant (FL)
Laura Jones – HE Operations Manager (CRC)
Jenny Roberts – Student Finance Officer
Letty Noonan – Level 3 Art & Design and Foundation & Portfolio Tutor (FL)
Ian Berrill – 3D Workshop Technical Demonstrator
Katie Hammonds – Level 3 Art & Design Teaching Assistant

Students:

Charlotte Crossley – L6 Textiles
Ian Pennell – L5 Fine Art
Hannah Jones – L5 Illustration & SU President