

The Impact of the Low Carbon Economy on FE Colleges and Skills

Elaine McMahon: AoC Sustainable Futures Portfolio
Group Chair and CEO/Principal Hull College

What is the Impact of Low Carbon Economy on FE Colleges and Skills?



The impact is two fold:

- Externally imposed headline carbon reduction targets and schemes
- Response from Colleges – development of curriculum to stimulate/address demand for training/skills needed by a growing low carbon economy

The Political Context



- Government - working towards the EU commitment to achieve a 30% reduction on 1990 levels – at least
- BIS set a target of 7% reduction for the FE sector by 2020
- Colleges required to make commitments for carbon reduction whilst dealing with abandonment of BCF and implementing spending cuts

Clarity is now required on:

- specific targets
- future operation of revised CRC scheme
- availability of Government funding for refurbishment/renewal

Government Carbon Reduction Targets



Colleges are radically rethinking estates strategies.....

- Consolidation/rationalisation of estates
- Total place agenda, sharing community assets and aligning common interests
- A move away from ownership – Hull College agreement with KC Stadium
- Sale and Leaseback arrangements

Government Carbon Reduction Targets



- More consideration to be given to estates renewable/refurbishment projects, e.g. solar energy, wind turbines, ground source heat pumps
- CRC scheme will encourage comprehensive energy monitoring and targeting *'You can only manage what is measured'*

Carbon Trust and Colleges



- In June 2009 Leicester College won a Green Gown Award on the basis of what it has achieved in reducing its carbon emissions.

In partnership with the Carbon Trust it was able to reduce the college's carbon footprint by 438 tonnes CO₂ saving nearly two million kWh of energy annually

- The Carbon Trust has launched a new service for FE Colleges

Colleges addressing training/skills needed for a growing low carbon economy



- Developing a low carbon economy is creating new 'green economy' jobs which Colleges are increasingly addressing through a responsive curriculum
- Colleges are the anchors in their communities for skills development; job and wealth creation

Colleges addressing training/skills needed for a growing low carbon economy



- Colleges play a supporting role in encouraging low carbon jobs and skills
- For start-up companies, Colleges provide technical training and business and management skills
- For existing organisations - environmental management tools and systems; audits; life cycle analysis etc.
- Curriculum for 'Green Jobs'
- Funding flexibility

Colleges addressing training/skills needed for a growing low carbon economy



- Industry Guidance – LSIS and NIACE roles
- Best practice – case studies
- Technology – enabling ‘Green IT’

Colleges addressing training/ skills needed for a growing low carbon economy



Colleges play a critical role in the 'Big Society' as they educate and train the workforce and can enable a 'greener' culture to flourish and support development of a low carbon economy