



Lanarkshire
CLIMATE ACTION HUB

CASE STUDY



Low Carbon Learning Spaces

By South Lanarkshire College

South Lanarkshire College has followed three key aims in the design and installation of its new buildings and teaching spaces with a focus on sustainability and inclusion. These are (i) to motivate staff, students, visitors and other users of the college buildings to consider changes for more sustainable behaviours while taking climate action. (ii) for the fabric and technologies in the low carbon buildings to be a teaching resource for students and (iii) to inspire other organisations to adopt similar sustainable approaches to construction design and building, for new builds as well as retrofit projects.

In 2011 with the support of a range of industry sponsors, the college constructed on its campus the first affordable low-energy low-carbon house for the mass market, using the latest available technologies. As well as featuring the innovative materials and techniques for the future of construction, the house was also a prime example of how to combat fuel poverty. It achieved this through a “fabric first” approach, ensuring minimised heat loss to zero heat loss and maximised heat input. Technologies installed included solar photovoltaics (PV), solar thermal, heat recovery systems, ground source heat pump and rainwater harvesting.

Find out more at

<https://www.slc.ac.uk/about-us/sustainability/>



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In 2016, the college embarked on a similar project on a larger scale when designing and constructing a new net zero teaching building. It was the first building in the UK to receive the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) Outstanding award under the new 2014 regulations. Over the years, the college has also invested significantly in its campus estate to reduce its carbon footprint, adding a range of resource efficient features and renewable energy sources to its main buildings.

Alongside the new buildings, the college curriculum has evolved to meet the needs and demands of the emerging green skills economy. Partnerships with key national and local stakeholders, suppliers and employers have led to the development of innovative teaching and learning environments. Skills in insulation and building treatments, and renewables installation are taught in simulated working environments supported by the most advanced technologies. The latest addition to its innovative approach to upskilling and reskilling is a new mobile heat pump training and assessment facility. South Lanarkshire College is one of 6 college innovation centres in the Glasgow City Region. It will be the regional lead as the Sustainable Development Innovation Centre.

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