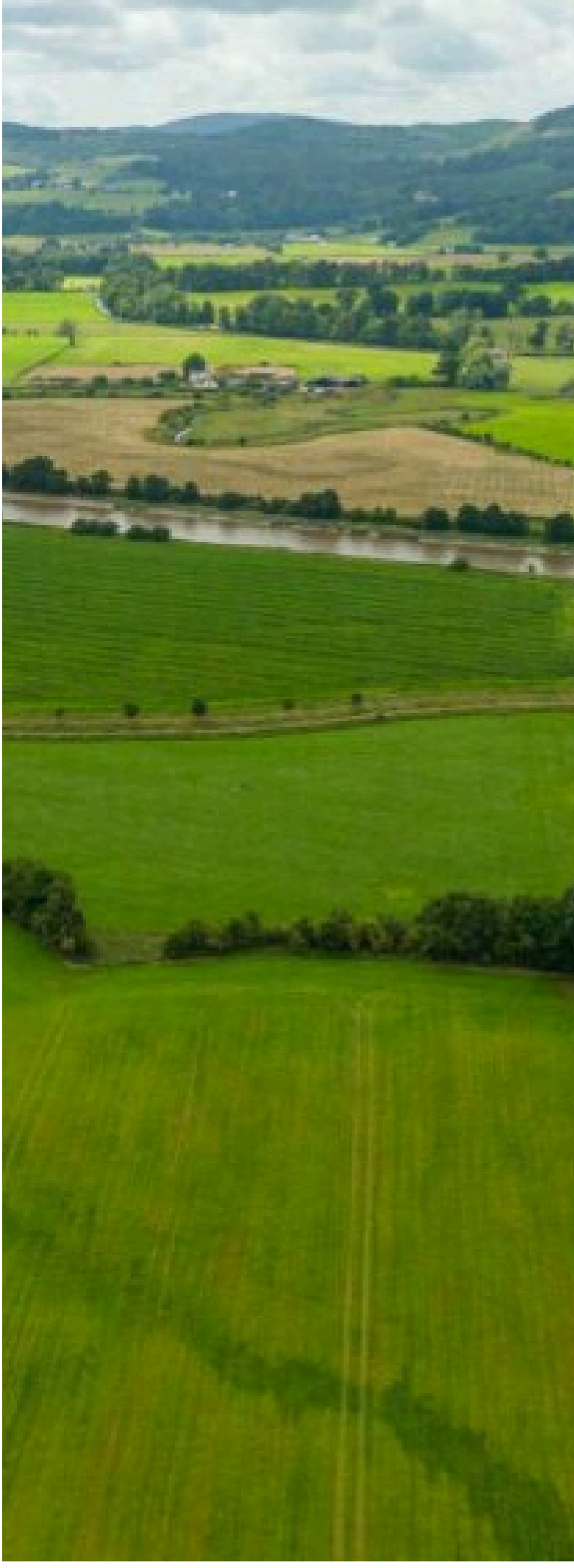
SRUC

Climate Change Action Plan

Annual Environmental Report 2025



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Introduction

Welcome to our third **Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) Annual Environmental Report.** This report covers all 59 Climate Change Actions (CCAs) outlined within our Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25 (CCAP) and will summarise our CCAP environmental progression during 2025.

SRUC are committed to fostering positive environmental performance and dedicated to minimising our organisational environmental impact. Furthermore, we have the expertise to help address the climate crises and contribute to building a more sustainable planet.

The biggest global challenge is the reduction of carbon and reliance on fossil fuels. Therefore, this must remain a key focus if we are to remain on schedule to deliver our net zero obligations. Through the ambitious delivery of our CCAP CCAs we will achieve our mission whilst contributing to the wider global UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Climate change and biodiversity loss are accelerating. Each of us can play a part either individually or as staff, students, groups and departments to develop innovative and collaborative solutions to tackle the toughest challenges and biggest threats facing the future of our planet.

Our hope is this report will inspire and motivate you to take positive environmental action on climate change, whatever your role is within SRUC.

Principal and Chief Executive Letter

Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) is an institution working hard every day to share knowledge and discover solutions to the some of the world's most wicked challenges particularly around climate change, biodiversity loss and sustainable food production.

For SRUC to be a leader in this area – as an enterprise university at the heart of the natural economy – we must meet and indeed 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 Climate Change Action Plan that will set us on course to net zero by 2040. A plan that will set us on a path to follow while allowing us to seize new opportunities, ideas, and innovations as they present themselves.

I'm delighted to introduce you to our third Climate Change Action Plan Annual Environmental Report. This report goes far beyond focussing solely on carbon emissions. And while reducing our carbon emissions are still vital, we need to do more about adaptation and develop a holistic approach to a changing climate.

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.

Through our Climate Change Action Plan, we will benefit from the positive reputation and financial saving it will create. But, most of all, the actions in our 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 Environmental Team and Campus and Estates Services.

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

Professor Wayne Powell Principal and Chief Executive
December 2025

SRUC Environmental 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 to support careers that contribute to sustainability both directly and through sparking debate on the complex issues surrounding a sustainable world.

Being a member of Adaptation Scotland Public Sector (PSCAN) contributes our understanding as 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 enhance 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 including action to meet the Scottish Government's target date for new zero emissions of all greenhouse gases by 2045. To meet this challenge our 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 are committed to maintaining ISO 14001 Certification at the SAC Consulting: Environment Team by securing and supporting resources required to maintain this internationally recognised environmental accreditation. Our consultants deliver end-to-end sustainability solutions for our clients and help them rise to the challenge of climate change, biodiversity loss, food security and sustainable land use.

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

Wayne Powell.

Professor Wayne Powell
Principal and Chief Executive
Policy Expiry Date – 31/01/2026

SRUC: at the heart of the natural economy

Printed copies of this document should be considered uncontrolled EMS-CES-EnvP-0004-02

Our Vision

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

- Culture
- Relationships
- Creativity
- Solutions

Our Values

RESPECT
INNOVATE
SUPPORT
EXCEL

Employer of Choice

SRUC is an organisation we should be proud to be part of. SRUC will continue to measure and progress our organisational environmental impacts and how these can be minimised or improved.

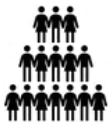
SAC CONSULTING | Part of Scotland's Rural College (SRUC)

SRUC | SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Corporate Social Responsibility

SRUC strives to be socially responsible within our organisation activities, our work with communities and in response to environmental issues. We will continually improve being a sustainable well-resourced organisation with exemplary environmental credentials and ownership amongst our staff, students and stakeholders.

Our Stakeholders 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, equality and be a leading, innovative institution.

United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

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. These 17 goals are designed to address our most critical global challenges.

SRUC has proudly adopted these 17 SDGs and are committed to upholding these principles which include human rights, labour, environmental and anti corruption.

Our CCAP Annual Environmental Report showcases our contribution and response to these goals. Throughout this report the relevant SDGs are highlighted within each CCAP "Theme" to illustrate alignment.

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

Sustainability

Sustainability, conservation and protecting the environment is now of prime importance. SRUC proudly adheres to the "Three Pillars of Sustainability" principles.

Our staff and students are at the heart of everything we do and supporting our people to achieve their full potential is key to our 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 progressed and supported.

We have a wide 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 that are 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.

Pillar 1

Environmental

- Reducing our carbon footprint.
- Increasing our energy efficiency and reduce our energy costs.
- Investment and greater use of renewable energy.
- Supporting biodiversity and the protection of water reserves.
- Resource conservation and recycling.
- Staff and student sustainable training and awareness.
- Working with "Sustainable Partners of Choice"

Pillar 2

Social

- Equal opportunities to enable staff and students to lead more sustainable lives.
- Access to land and natural resources.
- Embedding sustainability within education and training.
- Supporting Fair Work First (FWF), Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.
- Addressing Modern Slavery.
- Staff and student wellbeing including Mental Health Officers and First Aiders.

Pillar 3

Economic

- Satisfying demand without utilising natural resources needed by future generations.
- Thinking and reacting on a long-term financial basis.
- Maintaining high Health and Safety standards.
- Environmentally efficient organisational processes.
- Engaging and developing our staff and students.
- Fair employment and supporting the living wage.

Theme 1 - Climate Impacts Adaptation
5 CCAP Climate Change Actions

Theme 2 - Energy Carbon Management
16 CCAP Climate Change Actions

Theme 3 - Circular Economy
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Theme 4 - Sustainable Procurement
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Theme 5 - Sustainable Travel
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Theme 7 - Farming and Agriculture
8 CCAP Climate Change Actions

We outlined a 2025 Roadmap Strategy within our 2024 CCAP Annual Environmental Report as a strategic and aligned approach to the 59 Climate Change Actions (CCAs) performance targets.

During 2025 we made significant progress and delivered predominantly most of these KPIs to support our Climate Change Action Plan net zero journey. SRUC will continue to proactively engage and progress with our Climate Change Action Plan commitments and have outlined a 2026 Roadmap Strategy further in this document.

2025 Roadmap Strategy KPI Progress

Achieved

Partly Achieved

To Commence

15% Partly Achieved
85% Achieved

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1. Waste Management Tender

Work with Procurement to ensure best organisational waste management contract award.

CES and procurement teams completed official tender process and BIFFA were re-awarded SRUC Municipal waste contract.

2. EV Charge Point Infrastructure Tender

Continue to work with Procurement regarding our organisational EV Charge Point Strategy.

CES and Procurement conducted an extensive tender exercise for a "fully funded" EV charge point contract. Regrettably, SRUC received no tender submissions. Due to the current financial recovery, the project is currently on hold.

3. Waste Management Plan

Composition and publication of new organisational Waste Management Plan.

Presented and approved by ELT November 2025

4. Main Campus BMS Upgrades

Continue ongoing project development of our main campus BMS System upgrades.

Due to the organisational financial recovery, the next phase of this project was delivered but remaining phases are currently on hold. We conducted site survey of RAVIC and are awaiting financial management authorisation to proceed.

5. Teams Energy Bureau Service Provider

Training and understanding of new energy data platform software to ensure improved monitoring of Estate utility cost and consumption billing.

Training complete and migration of software systems underway.

2025 Roadmap Strategy KPI Progress

Achieved

Partly Achieved

To Commence

15% Partly Achieved
85% Achieved

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6. Energy Efficiency Projects

Continue to research and evaluate energy efficiency projects such as:

- Elmwood Golf Course energy reduction
- Oatridge Solar Panels
- TECA District Heat Network (DHN)

Oatridge solar panel maintenance completed with both solar systems operational and performing well. Elmwood Golf Course energy feasibility study complete and discussions have concluded with ACC re TECA DHN. For the foreseeable future, TECA DHN is not an option for Craibstone Campus.

7. Climate Change Action Plan 2025-2030

Review processes for the composition of SRUC's second edition 2025-2030 Climate Change Action Plan. Envisaged this will take two quarters to complete.

Departmental head discussions complete. Graphics Design team scheduled late January 2026 to commence CCAP 2025-2030 revision design processes.

8. Adaptation Plan

Complete composition process and raise climate resilience measures to the Executive Leadership Team to safeguard SRUC Estate from future Climate Change Adaptation.

This is an extensive challenge and large-scale project that will require additional resources and executive management buy in.

9. Environmental Emergency Response Planning

Evaluate processes and implement a new Environmental Emergency Response system to achieve reportable environmental pollution incidents.

This KPI will be carried forward into 2026 KPI's. Other projects took priority and not enough resources available to deliver. We hope to execute this KPI during Quarter 3 2026.

2025 Roadmap Strategy KPI Progress

Achieved

Partly Achieved

To Commence

15% Partly Achieved
85% Achieved

10. Environmental Management System (EMS)

Continuous improvement and maintenance of Environmental Management System (EMS) in alignment with CCAP CCAs mirrored to the standard of ISO 14001:2015. To ensure organisational environmental compliance for the purpose of audits and, that our campuses are operated in an environmentally sustainable way, with continual improvement at the core.

Continuous improvement and will be carried over into 2026 KPIs.

11.Mandatory Annual Environmental Reporting

Mandatory Scottish Government Pubic Bodies Report
Organisational Annual Environmental Report
SDG Times Higher Ranking

Mandatory Scottish Government and part of our Environmental compliance. To be continued for 2026 KPIs.

12. Introduction of new "Scottish National Adaptation Plan" statutory legislation reporting

Training and understanding of mandatory Scottish Government "Adaptation" public bodies reporting measures. Effective December 2025.

CES Environmental team participated in several training courses during 2025 and obtaned the knowledge and understanding of the colossal challenge ahead of SRUC's estate.

13. Environmental Policy

Conduct review process of annual environmental policy.

This KPI always remain as continuous improvement and will be carried into 2026 as part of our continued Environmental compliance.

Theme 1

Climate Impacts Adaptation

5 Climate Change Actions

Theme 1 – Climate Impacts Adaptation

40% Partly Achieved
60% 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		• The CES environmental team attended "The Institute of Asset Management (IAM) Climate Risk Register training where it became apparent a requirement to recommence composition of the document after completion of Adaptation Risk Register processes of our main campuses and farms. This is an ongoing CCA and will be carried forward into the next CCAP revision.
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 continue to engage with Adaptation Scotland (PSCAN) Network. Adaptation Scotland have revised their Framework, Benchmarking and Risk Register documentation, we will research these and PSCANs' 42 updated 'Adaptation Tasks' during 2026. Ongoing continuous improvement CCA that will be carried forward into next CCAP revision.

Theme 1 – Climate Impacts Adaptation

40% Partly Achieved
60% Achieved

Achieved Partly Achieved To Commence

CCAP Action	CCAP Objective		CCAP Progress
CCA 1.3 Work with colleagues and students to develop specific Biodiversity Strategy for all main campuses.	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		• CES executed an extensive 2 year composition and research process to compile our organisational Biodiversity Strategy. The Strategy was approved by ELT December 2025.
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.		• Further success with a **Woodland Trust** funding and secured an additional 420 trees for Craibstone Campus. • Reapplied to the **Apache Tree Grant Programme** funding for Barony Woodland Phase 2 project. • Continued partnership programme with the **National Hedgehog Monitoring Programme for** Oatridge and Craibstone campuses. • £2.6k of funding from Aberdeen Charitable Foundation for Craibstone Botany garden. • £7k of funding achieved by Tree Council for Craibstone "Wee Forest II", intentions are to include Elmwood student curriculum.

Theme 1 – Climate Impacts Adaptation

Achieved

Partly Achieved

To Commence

40% Partly Achieved
60% Achieved

CCAP Action	CCAP Objective	CCAP Progress
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.	• Cala renovated the Lillian Sutton Gardens opened summer 2025 for all of Craibstone Estate to enjoy. • As part of our new Biodiversity Strategy we have recommended a future resource requirement to allow the progression and development of this CCA in alignment with our new Biodiversity Strategy and new organisational Biodiversity Principles. • All new build projects include maximising outdoor spaces. • After discussions with Oatridge WCM lecturers, where feasible, we will apply for any 2026 "community garden" funding applications for Oatridge Campus. • After discussions with Barony Forestry lecturers, where feasible, we will apply for funding in relation to tree planting projects within the campus to be located beside the River Ae as future "Climate Adaptation" campus resilience measures. We will also continue discussions how best CES can support Barony Woodland CCF restoration project.

Theme 2

Energy Carbon Management

16 Climate Change Actions

Theme 2 – Energy Carbon Management

19% Partly Achieved
69% Achieved
12% To Commence

Achieved Partly Achieved To Commence

CCAP Action	CCAP Objective	CCAP Progress
CCA2.1 Implement energy conservation measures.	Reduce carbon emissions and save on energy costs. Consider initiatives such as LED lighting, motion sensors, heating controls etc.	• This CCA will be carried over into the next CCAP revision and we will continue to explore energy conservation initiatives and apply for any available energy funding opportunities. During 2025, due to the current organisational financial recovery, we were constraint applying for several energy funding applications as we were unable to achieve 50% match fund criteria.
C**CA 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.	• During 2024, an extensive "Barony Campus Net Zero Feasibility Study" project was completed. Evaluations were taken from this report to establish what future energy efficiency methods can be implemented at the campus and the potential to mirror actions at others. • CES are currently constraint to implementing any significant scale energy conservation projects. **Example Case** - During summer 2025, CES achieved a free insulation site survey of Kings Building and Craibstone campuses with "Scot Foam". Kings Building quotation received (not including scaffolding) for this large scale project is estimated at £132k + VAT.

Theme 2 - Energy Carbon Management

19% Partly Achieved
69% Achieved
12% To Commence

Achieved | Partly Achieved | To Commence

CCAP Action	CCAP Objective	CCAP Progress
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. Due to the current financial position of the organisation we were unable to allocate funding to kick start the project during 2025. This CCA will be carried over into next CCAP revision.
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 continue to project manage Teams Energy new software database migration for monitoring better organisational utility cost and consumption.
- During 2024 we published SRUC's new Water Management Plan as estate water conservation awareness and we continue to install 'Rain Harvesting Systems' within new projects such as GreenShed. We also installed plumbed water dispenser at our main campuses to reduce SUPs and alignment with UN SDGs.
- We continue to work closely with Business Stream to deliver the remaining automated meter reading (AMR) at our main sites, to enable more accurate data of our water consumption and, ensure improved response times when water leak alerts are detected.
- During 2025 we received a unique opportunity to partnership with Scottish Water regarding a water consumption project of Oatridge Campus residential blocks. Unfortunately, the residential shower facility equipment is vastly outdated that Scottish Water's conservation equipment could not be installed. As a result, we are now attempting to run a student water conservation awareness campaign.
- We met with Oatridge WCM lecturers to discuss how feasible a "water butt" project at the campus and we will continue to apply for funding opportunities that will allow us to execute this water conservation initiative.

Theme 2 - Energy Carbon Management

19% Partly Achieved
69% Achieved
12% To Commence

Achieved Partly Achieved To Commence

CCAP Action	CCAP Objective		CCAP Progress
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 completed which outlines 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 that is scheduled to commence 2026. This CCA will be carried over into next CCAP revision.
CCA 2.7 Develop green lease scheme for SRUC commercial tenants.	Encourage energy efficiencies within leased properties.		• Light Green Lease is scheduled to be investigated during 2026. This CCA will be carried over into next CCAP revision.
CCA2.8 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" and we continue liaisons with EDF regarding our estate upgrade project involving smart meters and sub meter installations.

Theme 2 – Energy Carbon Management

19% Partly Achieved
69% Achieved
12% To Commence

Achieved Partly Achieved To Commence

CCAP Action	CCAP Objective	CCAP Progress
CCA 2.9 Develop heating control strategy and review building management systems.	Ensure that space heating is operated at optimum efficiency.	

We actively continue to reduce organisational energy use and deliver our commitment to reduce associated energy emissions.

- 2023 - **Phase 1** of our Building Management System (BMS) upgrade programme was initiated commencing with Craibstone Campus.
- 2024 - **Phase 2** initiated. This phase included, Oatridge Campus, RAVIC, and Craibstone Clinical Skills.
- 2025 - **Phase 3** - **RAVIC** - a further site visit was executed due to the BMS not operating as per original system installation objectives. A consider amount of upgrade works are required in order to achieve full system performance. Awaiting authorisation to this £41k project. **King's Building** - site visit was executed and quotation received. Awaiting authorisation for this £40k project. **Dairy Nexus** BMS system compatibility will also require investigation to determine feasibility connection to our BMS system central point data software platform. RAVIC BMS is a similar issue project to Dairy Nexus so we envisaged approximate project quotation of £40k.

Our BMS upgrades are crucial to our carbon reduction efforts as we will be able to monitor heating temperatures remotely, manage our heat demands and control heating operational core hours from our central **Priva** data software platform.

Theme 2 - Energy Carbon Management

19% Partly Achieved
69% Achieved
12% To Commence

Achieved Partly Achieved To Commence

CCAP Action	CCAP Objective	CCAP Progress
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.	• Now adopted and embedded within new build specifications. A recent example is our Dairy Nexus project which achieved Bronze Scottish Sustainable Buildings Standard. Bronze was achieved by the use of solar photovoltaic panels (PV) and air source heat pumps. Dairy Nexus Air Tests are approaching Passivhaus standards and the project EPC rating is carbon neutral.
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.
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 during 2026. This CCA will be carried over into next CCAP revision.

Theme 2 - Energy Carbon Management

19% Partly Achieved
69% Achieved
12% To Commence

Achieved Partly Achieved To Commence

CCAP Action	CCAP Objective		CCAP Progress
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 and successfully migrated employee locally stored and on-premise file storage to the Microsoft Cloud. This resulted in a reduction in carbon footprint impact of storing our files.

Theme 3

Circular Economy

6 Climate Change Actions

Theme 3 - Circular Economy

Achieved

Partly Achieved

To Commence

17% Partly Achieved
83% Achieved

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.	• New Waste Management Plan composed and approved by ELT November 2025. Key waste and financial reduction projects executed during 2025 included:-

- Ensured all our waste management contractors operate "zero to landfill" processes and externally audited BIFFA waste facility operations.
- Commenced farms PPE contractor recycling discussions with our procurement specialists and PPE contractor.
- Analysed organisational annual waste streams volumes and emissions to establish baselines.
- Collaborated with charity "Somebody Cares Scotland" that resulted in approximately £50k of circular economy savings of office furniture to relocate 80 staff members within our Edinburgh campus.
- Implemented canteen waste reduction initiatives in efforts to eliminate over 80,000 single use disposable items across our main campuses.
- Recycled the equivalent of over £30k of office furniture from Elmwood to Craibstone campus.
- Standardised compulsory internal and external recycling stations across our main campuses.
- Regulatory compliance removal of two large scale inherited hazardous/chemical waste projects.
- Collaborated with Glasgow University (GU) and recycled a transit van's worth of small-scale catering equipment for Glasgow University student eco-hub supplies.
- Collaborated with charity "The Preshal Trust" to allow them to retrofit their kitchen with some of Elmwood's industrial hospitality equipment, resulting in them opening their soup kitchen facilities on a daily basis.
- Commenced discussions with "ACM Auctions" to understand recycling opportunities of Elmwood industrial hospitality equipment.
- Publication of waste management campaigns in relation to cigarette butts and chewing gum.
- Implemented "GumDrop" bins across our main campuses https://gumdropltd.com/
- Currently initiating vape bins across our main campuses including a collaboration with "BIFFA Community Project" for one complimentary bin under our contract sustainable T&Cs at Kings Building.

Theme 3 - Circular Economy

17% Partly Achieved
83% Achieved

Achieved Partly Achieved To Commence

CCAP Action	CCAP Objective	CCAP Progress
CCA 3.2 Promote understanding and influence positive behaviour change.	Behavioural change campaign advocating the need to reduce, reuse and recycle and, promote understanding and influence positive behaviour change.	

- An extensive week long awareness and communication campaign was conducted during **Scotland's Climate Week 2025**. Furthermore, we composed and published communication campaigns during World Energy Efficiency Day, Food Waste Action week, Global Recycling Day, UN International Day of Zero Waste, World Bee Day, World Peatlands Day World Environmental Day, World Oceans Day, World Rainforest Day, Wildlife Conservation Day and World Soil Day.
- During 2024 CES implemented an internal Staff Environmental e-learning course to promote positive behavioural change. CES composed the course and, in doing so, saved the organisation almost £35,000 in annual licencing fees (had a third party provider been selected). A significant milestone and great achievement, one that will contribute towards our organisational environmental credentials, whilst advocating our staff make positive sustainable decisions at home and at the workplace.
- We worked with Procurement to ensure organisational PPE was sustainably manufactured and produced. Our PPE provider Guthries use 2 suppliers **Portwest https://fliphtml5.com/ostrk/xzgx** and **Uneek https://uneekdata.blob.core.windows.net/resources/GreenByUneekTheStory.pdf**. We will continue to liaise with Procurement regarding 2025 PPE tender review process to ensure sustainable PPE manufacturing and production remains an integral part of the tender scoring process.
- New organisational Waste Management Plan communications published November 2025 to promote staff adhering to organisational waste management processes, policies and procedures.

Theme 3 – Circular Economy

Achieved Partly Achieved To Commence

17% Partly Achieved
83% Achieved

CCAP Action	CCAP Objective		CCAP Progress
CCA 3.3 Review and update waste collective contracts.	Ensure compliance, improve standards and better monitoring and reporting on waste.		• We analysed organisational annual waste streams volumes and emissions to establish baselines and reported these within our new Waste Management Plan. • New organisational Waste Management Plan approved by ELT and communications published November 2025 to achieve outined objectives. • Waste Management municipal waste contract tender process completed early 2025 and we continue to work with procurement to ensure packaging is minimised and factored into respective tenders.
CCA 3.4 Plastic use reduction plan.	Reduction in the use of harmful plastics.		

- We implemented two canteen waste reduction initiatives (Loyalty Drinks Scheme and paper bags instead of disposable containers) in efforts to eliminate over 81,000 single use disposable items across our main campuses.
- Our Canteen Contractor (Baxter Story) has implemented many sustainable initiatives such as; promoting the use of crockery, eliminating sauce sachets, the introduction of **Mossgiel Milk** (who do not use SUPs* and deliver in recycled plastic containers which are washed and returned for reuse), reusable cup discount scheme, reductions of compostable disposable containers and recycling crisp packets. All SUP's have been revised to compostable alternatives. Furthermore, Baxter Story have also implemented **Ground to Ground** coffee bean recycling **https://groundtoground.org/about/** and are currently investigating the **Too Good To Go** App **https://www.toogoodtogo.com/en-gb** they also recycle all our cooking oils for biofuels with **Olleco https://www.olleco.co.uk/**

Theme 3 - Circular Economy

Achieved

Partly Achieved

To Commence

17% Partly Achieved
83% Achieved

CCAP Action	CCAP Objective	CCAP Progress
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, including developing an APUC tool: FNT2030 Commodity Management Plan. Commencing with furniture then IT. Cleaning and Catering pilots will also be conducted.
CCA 3.6 Develop frame work/policy to utilise recycling scheme for all redundant furniture and equipment (such as UniGreenScheme).	Reduce waste and associated disposal costs and reduce emissions. Give back to the community by redirecting financial resources to other sustainable projects.	• SRUC will continue to liaise with **Recycle Scotland** regarding future furniture recycling opportunities. • We were successful with the Dairy Nexus Project by obtaining furniture through **South of Scotland Enterprise** (SOSE) • We collaborated with charity **Somebody Cares Scotland** resulting in approximately £50k of circular economy savings of office furniture to relocate 80 staff members within our Edinburgh campus. • We recycled the equivalent of over £30k of office furniture from Elmwood to Craibstone campus. • We collaborated and donated to **Glasgow university Student Eco Hub** and **Preshal Trust** charities.

Theme 4

Sustainable Procurement

5 Climate Change Actions

Theme 4 - Sustainable Procurement

100% 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.		• FNT2030 will be reviewed and updated in line with tendering activity, with a view to implementing new initiatives based on the Scottish Government's next climate change plan for 2026 to 2040.
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 projects.

Theme 4 - Sustainable Procurement

100% Achieved

Achieved Partly Achieved To Commence

CCAP Action	CCAP Objective	CCAP Progress
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.	• Carbon reporting is now fully embedded in contracts for business travel, student education travel, leased and hired vehicles, student campus transport, PPE, general waste, and clinical waste. Other areas to be developed include laboratory test kits, laboratory equipment and consumables, and farm related haulage and contracting.
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.	• SRUC's Agricultural Supplies framework continues to offer administrative and cost benefits for peer organisations. Use of HE sector and wider public sector frameworks remains a key means for SRUC to support collaborative opportunities. For 2025 the total value of benefits obtained through use of frameworks increased by 8% to an overall total of £785k.

Theme 5

Sustainable Travel

12 Climate Change Actions

Theme 5 - Sustainable Travel

Achieved

Partly Achieved

To Commence

33% Partly Achieved
67% Achieved

CCAP Action	CCAP Objective	CCAP Progress
CCA 5.1 Develop Sustainable Travel Guidance and Policies to support better decision making.	Cost savings and contribution to emissions reduction targets by means of organisational change.	• We combined CCA 5.1 & CCA 5.12 and developed SRUCs' new **Sustainable Travel Framework**. This guidance document was composed to centralise current travel documentation, engage staff awareness and to encourage organisational change by highlighting the importance of reducing organisational travel expenditure and associated emissions. An extensive review processes occurred between Finance, Procurement and HR and our new STF was approved by ELT during November 24.
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 mileage and hope to implement CBS reporting process improvements during 2026.

Theme 5 - Sustainable Travel

Achieved

Partly Achieved

To Commence

33% Partly Achieved
67% Achieved

CCAP Action	CCAP Objective		CCAP Progress
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.		• CES Environmental team and Procurement conducted an extensive tender exercise for a "fully funded" EV charge point contract. Regrettably, SRUC received no tender submissions. Due to the current financial recovery, the project is currently on hold.
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.

Theme 5 - Sustainable Travel

Achieved

Partly Achieved

To Commence

33% Partly Achieved
67% Achieved

CCAP Action	CCAP Objective		CCAP Progress
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.
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.		• During 2023 and 2024 we conducted a "Travel Survey" to understand our Staff and Student emissions in line with Scope 3 reporting obligations. This information is crucial to understand active travel barriers and for organisational emission government reporting.
CCA 5.8 Work with neighbours and local partners to develop sustainable transport networks.	Improved cycle infrastructure, pathways etc.		• Discussions have commenced with regional councils and neighbouring organisations to understand development constraints. We are constrained to local council active travel developments, such as the implementation of new cycling paths and planning permission time periods, but we will continue to expedite updates on behalf of SRUC and will reiterate any positive information to respective main campuses.

Theme 5 - Sustainable Travel

Achieved

Partly Achieved

To Commence

33% Partly Achieved
67% Achieved

CCAP Action	CCAP Objective	CCAP Progress
CCA 5.9 Consider facilities which support active travel in our future estate strategy.	Consider bike sheds, showers to encourage staff and student uptake.	• Through successful 2023 & 2024 funding applications, we installed bike storage units at Oatridge, Kings Building, Elmwood, Craibstone campuses and SAC Perth, bike maintenance kits were provided to all main campuses, an energy efficient shower was installed at Craibstone and active travel events were hosted at Oatridge, Craibstone and KB campuses. With the remaining available funds, we are researching heated lockers for KB and Craibstone campuses. • We actively engage with all available Active Travel networks and regional level platforms.

Theme 5 - Sustainable Travel

Achieved

Partly Achieved

To Commence

33% Partly Achieved
67% Achieved

CCAP Action	CCAP Objective		CCAP Progress
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 performed thorough analysis from our 2023 & 2024 Travel Surveys to understand main campus travel mode constraints and, as a result, we delivered many of these actions as outlined in CCA 5.9. • During 2024, we obtained ten days free consultancy from **Travel Know How Scotland (TKHS). TKHS** created main campuses Travel Plans that outline active travel KPIs for the organisation to perform. We continue to analyse our 2024 Travel Survey results and are currently discussing internal website and student app modifications in relation to having active travel methods more accessible online.

Theme 5 - Sustainable Travel

Achieved

Partly Achieved

To Commence

33% Partly Achieved
67% Achieved

CCAP Action	CCAP Objective		CCAP Progress
CCA 5.12 Develop a Business Travel Policy.	To reduce the emissions created by flights, rail, and petrol/diesel car travel.		• We combined CCA 5.1 & CCA 5.12 and developed SRUCs' new **Sustainable Travel Framework**. This guidance document was composed to engage staff awareness and to encourage organisational change by highlighting the importance of reducing organisational travel expenditure and associated scope 3 emissions.

Theme 6

Engagement & Education

7 Climate Change Actions

Theme 6 - Engagement & Education

Achieved

Partly Achieved

To Commence

14% Partly Achieved
86% Achieved

CCAP Action	CCAP Objective		CCAP Progress
CCA 6.1 Host a series of sustainability workshops.	Raise student and colleague awareness of climate change.		• We continued our extensive annual organisational communication campaign during "Scotland's Climate Week" and other 2025 global conservation key dates. 15 Environmental comms campaigns were published during 2025. • We composed a mandatory staff environmental e-learning course, with hopes to roll out to students.
CCA 6.2 Develop signage strategy linked to behavioural change activities.	Encourage a culture of green thinking and micro actions.		• We liaised with internal, external and student communications department to ensure all departments communicate and are aligned with the same environmental communication campaigns. • We created an annual environmental communications tracker to encourage staff and students behavioural change and to raise awareness. • We actively participate sustainable topics within our new student app. • We continue to communicate new organisational environmental strategies, frameworks and management plans. e.g Waste Management.

Theme 6 - Engagement & Education

Achieved

Partly Achieved

To Commence

14% Partly Achieved
86% Achieved

CCAP Action	CCAP Objective		CCAP Progress
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.		• SEEDABLE is our award-winning curriculum framework to which our four-year curriculum project is working. The SEEDABLE framework comprises 30 criteria that ensures a competency-based approach to education that embeds sustainability, enterprise, equality and diversity enabled through active and blended learning. The project upskills staff in SEEDABLE, supports them to audit their programmes against the framework which is then scrutinised by a panel separate to the team, and then to create and implement a three-year action plan for the full embedding of our approach. It aims to support our learners to develop the competencies and desire to be able to address local and global sustainability challenges.

Theme 6 - Engagement & Education

14% Partly Achieved
86% Achieved

Achieved Partly Achieved To Commence

CCAP Action	CCAP Objective	CCAP Progress
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. • During 2024 and 2025 we discussed with Wildlife and Conservation Management lecturers student curriculum activities in relation to this CCA. Driving climate change reductions through curriculum is best approach.
CCA 6.5 Make SRUC environmental impact data available to students and researchers for use in Academia.	Cross SRUC cohesion and opportunities for innovation.	• During 2023 SRUC data repository was established as part of our digital strategy. Since then we have completed a carbon audit on all our farms and this has been shared with farm mangers for discussion with academic staff. • As part of our ongoing farms review we are establishing environmental KPIs as part of our farm performance monitoring going forward

Theme 6 - Engagement & Education

Achieved

Partly Achieved

To Commence

14% Partly Achieved
86% Achieved

CCAP Action	CCAP Objective		CCAP Progress
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.		• Sustainability is being introduced into the curriculum in three ways: as part of (re)validation activities, where it is a requirement for courses to embed sustainability; through curriculum review action plans (see 6.3); and through extra-curricula activities such as our Enterprising Changemaker course, Enterprise Academy workshops for students (e.g., "Planning a Sustainable Business"), and through our Sustainability Start Up School.
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.		• An ongoing CCA and future discussions to occur between HR and Finance departments.

Theme 7

Farming & Agriculture

8 Climate Change Actions

Theme 7 – Farming & Agriculture

Achieved

Partly Achieved

To Commence

38% Partly Achieved
62% Achieved

CCAP Action	CCAP Objective		CCAP Progress
CCA 7.1 Remove soya from dairy 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. This CCA will be carried over into next CCAP revision.
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. First draft of Farms Strategy being composed. This CCA will be carried over into next CCAP revision.
CCA 7.4 Develop farm estate wide tree and plantation strategy.	Absorb CO2 which can be offset against CO2 and other GHG emissions. Develop a system where all land holdings and planned use types and considers sustainable options.		• This CCA is in connection with our new Adaptation Plan and Biodiversity Strategy, as well as the Estate Strategy. Additional resource will be required to deliver this CCA and this CCA will be carried over into next CCAP revision.

Theme 7 - Farming & Agriculture

Achieved

Partly Achieved

To Commence

38% Partly Achieved
62% Achieved

CCAP Action	CCAP Objective	CCAP Progress
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.	• Feasibility study was carried out and has been further examined within the full Barony net zero technical study.
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.	• All organisational operations involving splash plate spreading was ceased during 2024.
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.	• Continuous ongoing action and is 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.

SRUC

- CCAP “Theme” Historical Comparison Charts.
- Accumulative “Theme” KPIs Charts.
- Organisational Total Scope Emissions Charts.

CCAP "Theme" Historical Comparison Charts

Theme 1 – Climate Impacts Adaptation

2023

100% Partly Achieved

2024

40% Partly Achieved
60% Achieved

2025

40% Partly Achieved
60% Achieved

***All CCAs will** be carried over into next CCAP revision*

Theme 2 – Energy Carbon Management

2023

38% Partly Achieved
50% Achieved
12% To Commence

2024

19% Partly Achieved
69% Achieved
12% To Commence

2025

19% Partly Achieved
69% Achieved
12% To Commence

***CCA 2.3, 2.6, 2.7, 2.9, 2.12** to be carried over into next CCAP revision*

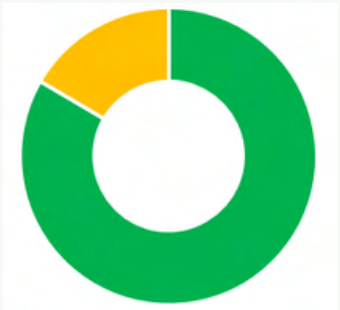
CCAP "Theme" Historical Comparison Charts

Theme 3 – Circular Economy

2023

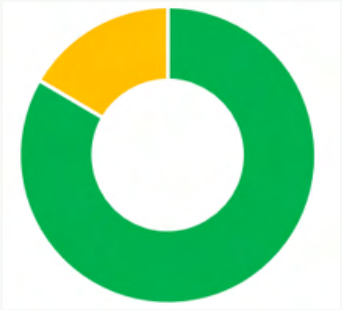
50% Partly Achieved
50% Achieved

2024



17% Partly Achieved
83% Achieved

2025



17% Partly Achieved
83% Achieved

CCA 3.5 *to be carried over into next CCAP revision*

Theme 4 – Sustainable Procurement

2023

20% Partly Achieved
80% Achieved

2024

20% Partly Achieved
80% Achieved

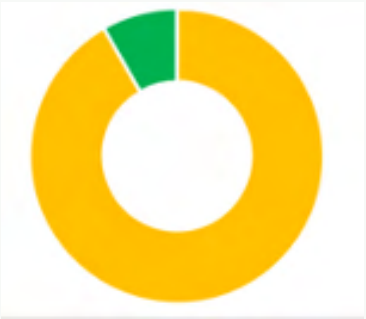
2025

100% Achieved

CCAP "Theme" Historical Comparison Charts

Theme 5 - Sustainable Travel

2023



90% Partly Achieved
10% Achieved

2024

33% Partly Achieved
67% Achieved

2025

33% Partly Achieved
67% Achieved

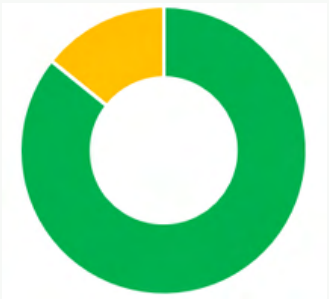
CCA 5.2, 5.4, 5.5, 5.10 *to be carried over into next CCAP revision*

Theme 6 - Engagement & Education

2023

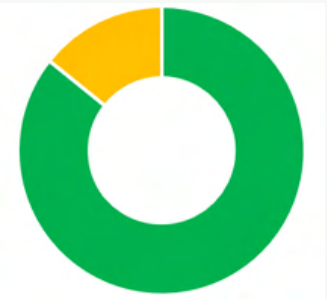
57% Partly Achieved
29% Achieved
14% To Commence

2024



14% Partly Achieved
86% Achieved

2025



14% Partly Achieved
86% Achieved

CCA 6.7 *to be carried over into next CCAP revision*

CCAP "Theme" Historical Comparison Charts

Theme 7 – Farming & Agriculture

2023

80% Partly Achieved
20% Achieved

2024

62% Partly Achieved
38% Achieved

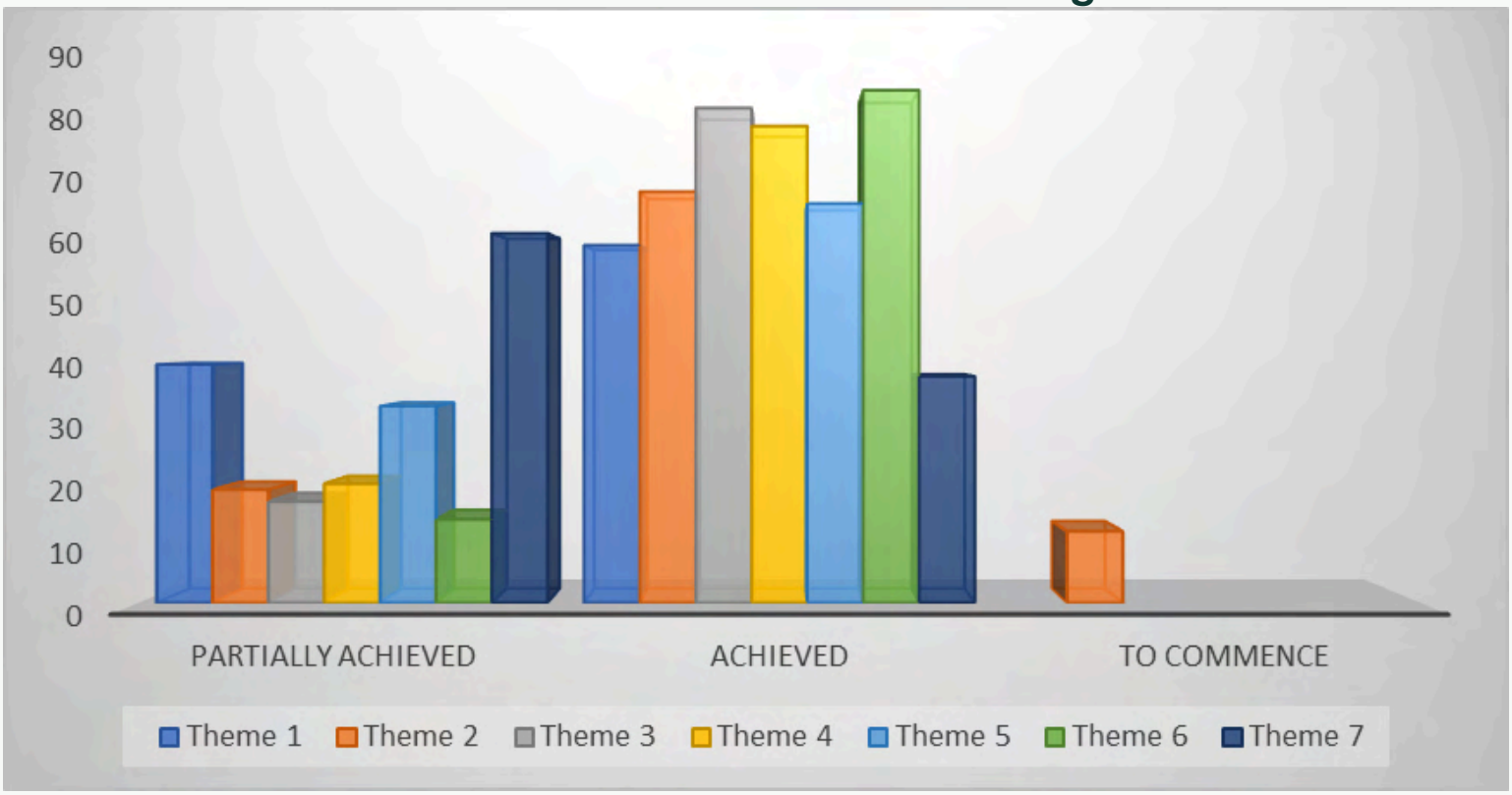
2025

38% Partly Achieved
62% Achieved

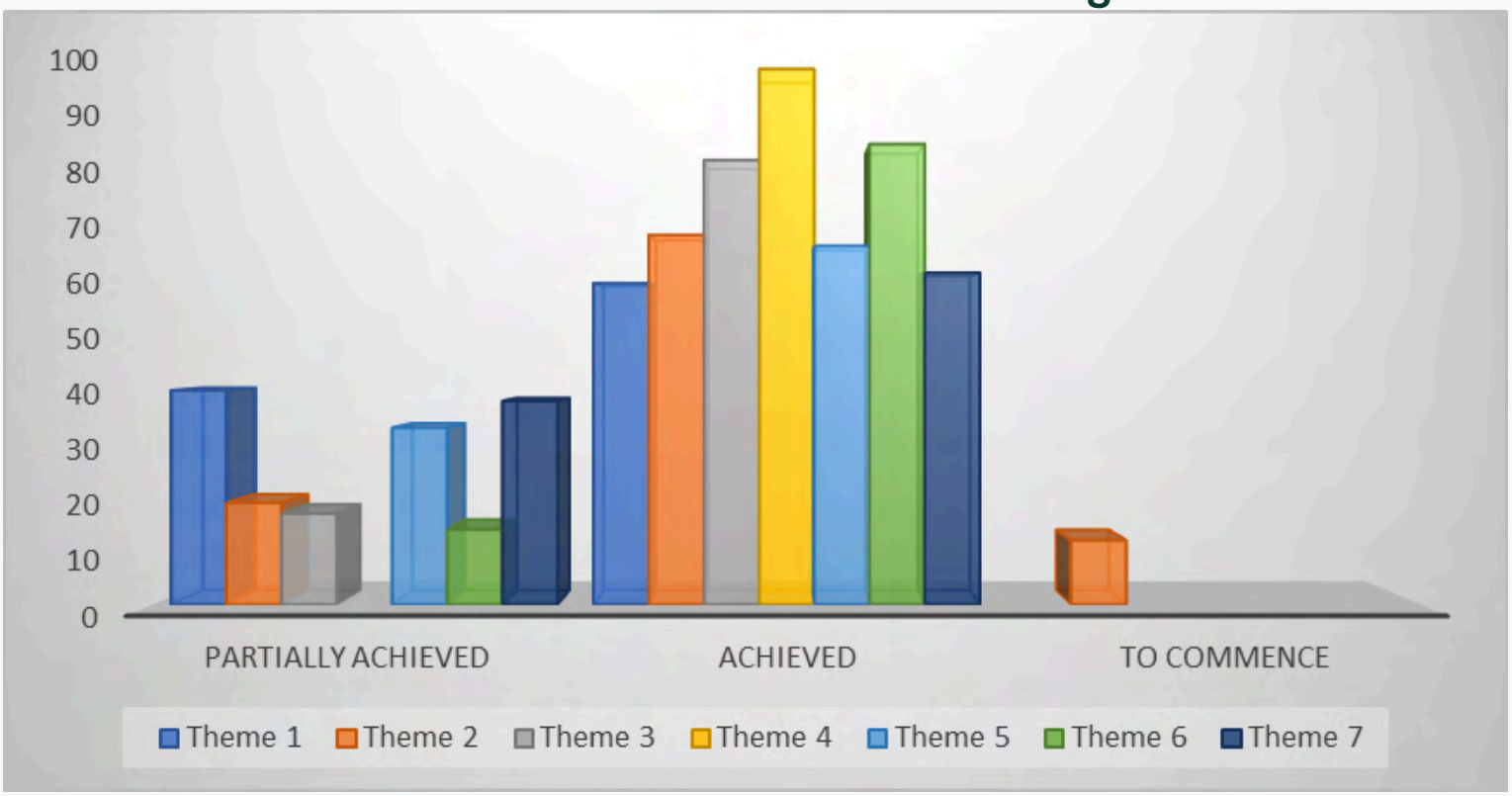
CCAs 7.2, 7.3, 7.4 to be carried over into next CCAP revision

Accumulative “Theme” KPIs Charts

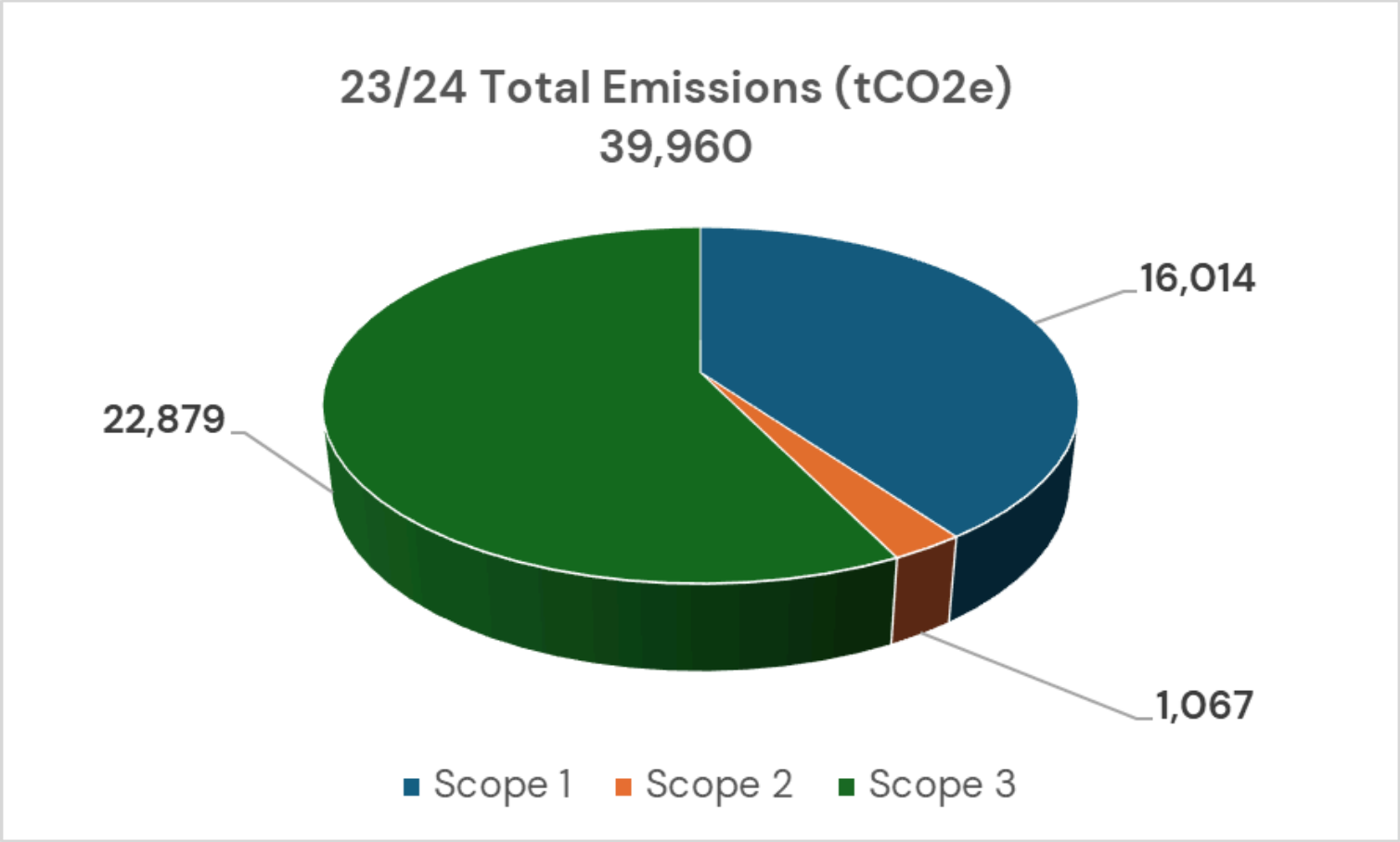
2024 Accumulative Theme KPI Progression

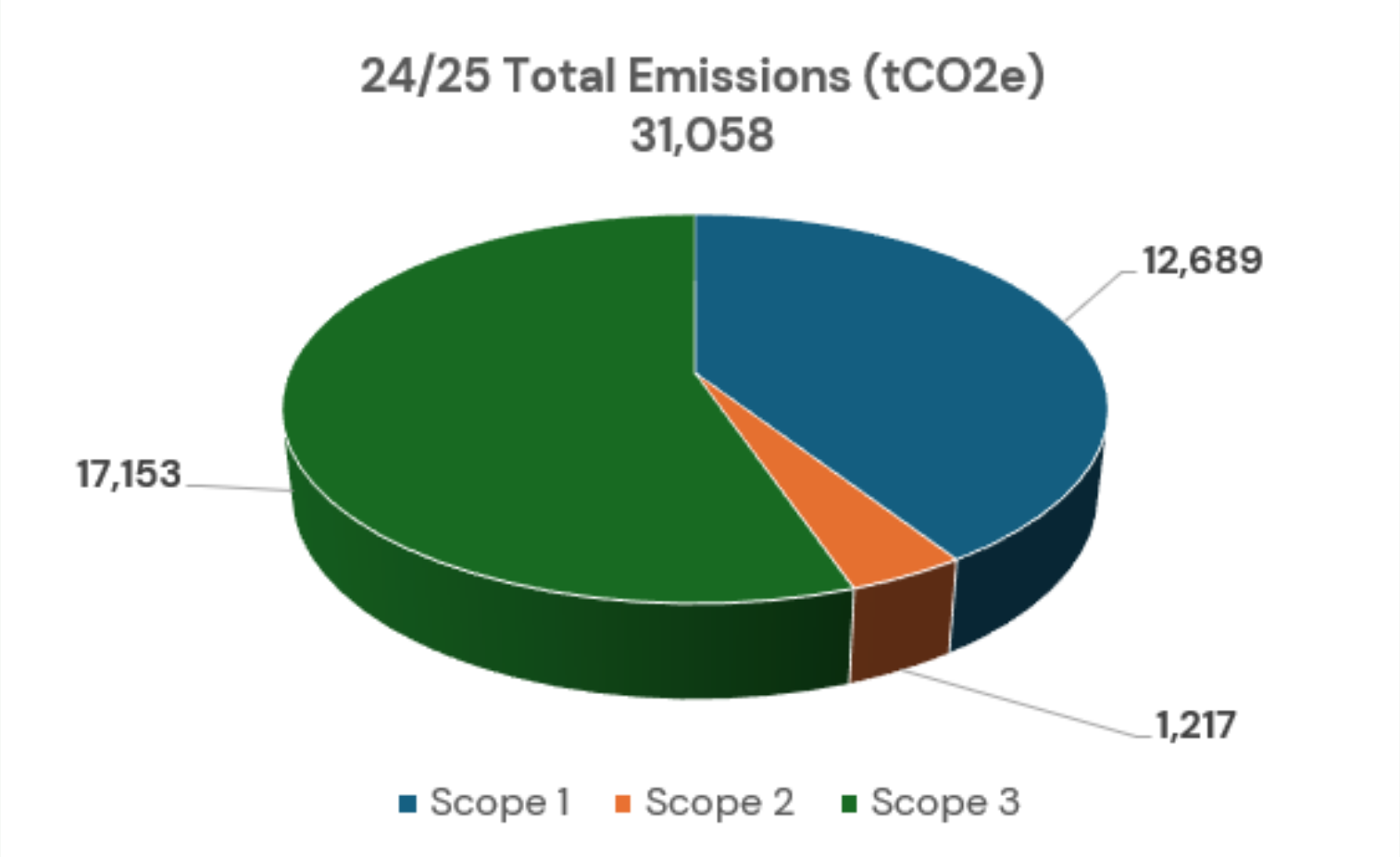


2025 Accumulative Theme KPI Progression



Organisational Total Scope Emissions Charts





SRUC

- 2025 SRUC Innovation Centres.

SRUC Innovation Centre
Dairy Nexus

A transformational project led by SRUC, the Dairy Nexus works collaboratively with the dairy sector to accelerate productivity growth and improve sustainability.

Funded by the UK and Scottish Governments via the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal, with additional support from SOSE, this multi-million-pound initiative at our Barony Campus in Dumfries and Galloway seeks to:

- Boost productivity in one of the UK's key dairy regions.
- Decarbonise the dairy sector.
- Pioneer Digital Twin technology to monitor everything from soil health to cow behaviour.
- Bring together researchers, farmers, advisors, and businesses to solve real-world challenges.
- Support local innovation with our Milk Technology Unit and our "Cool Cows" project.

The Dairy Nexus is the first Scottish project delivered through the Borderlands Deal, and a bold step towards a more resilient, sustainable dairy industry.

https://www.sruc.ac.uk/all-news/ministers-open-multi-million-pound-dairy-nexus/

SRUC Innovation Centre Vertical Farm

SRUC Senior Lecturer Hadi Aliki (left) and Jim Fairlie MSP at the launch of SRUC Vertical Farm Innovation Centre

SRUC has stepped up its commitment to global and local food production and security by becoming the first higher education institution in Scotland to open a commercial-sized vertical farm.

Jim Fairlie MSP, Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity, officially opened the £1.8 million SRUC Vertical Farming Innovation Centre – which has received £200,000 from the Scottish Government – at the Edinburgh Campus of Scotland's Rural College.

SRUC, which gained taught degree-awarding powers in October, will use the six-metre facility to carry out research, as well as educating the food and horticulture scientists, growers and industry experts of tomorrow.

Students will learn how to grow crops more quickly, or with higher nutritional value, as well as how to grow food using less water, with 250 times more water required to grow a lettuce in an open field than in a vertical farm.

The SRUC Vertical Farming Innovation Centre, which will be available to students and researchers, particularly those students studying Advanced Horticultural Production, will support the acquisition of new skills and knowledge of growing a range of plants under controlled growing conditions, including water, nutrients and light, in order to enhance food production in the presence of climate change.

Featuring technology designed by Intelligent Growth Solutions (IGS), the facility is coming into use at a time when the world's population is set to increase by two billion by the year 2050, to ten billion while agricultural land is lost to urbanisation. In this global context providing education and new knowledge in how to use vertically layered space under precisely controlled environmental conditions is an important part of our future sustainability.

he vertical farm is one of SRUC's collaborative innovation hubs, designed to drive place-based innovation, economic growth and creating new jobs and opportunities.

https://www.sruc.ac.uk/all-news/new-vertical-farm-a-first-for-scottish-education/

SRUC Innovation Centre ONE Seedpod

From left: Professor Wayne Powell, Kirsty McNeill, Sir Ian Wood, Kate Forbes, Jennifer Craw, Adrian Gillespie and David Kilshaw at the ONE SeedPod launch.

The ONE SeedPod food and drink industry innovation hub to boost high-value manufacturing has been launched at SRUC's Craibstone Campus in Aberdeen.

The project, led by Opportunity North East (ONE), is the single largest public-private investment in the growth of Scotland's food and drink manufacturing sector.

The £27 million project, part of the Aberdeen City Region Deal, is creating a hub for businesses to scale production, develop new products, test innovative processes, and access industry expertise, entrepreneurial education and mentoring developed by ONE and partners. The new-build includes 11 food-safe manufacturing kitchens, new product development and demonstration kitchens, and pilot plant and process testing spaces, and is the new home for the sector.

ONE SeedPod is led and co-funded by ONE and supported with £5 million each from the Scottish and UK governments as part of the Aberdeen City Region Deal. The Scottish Government has provided an additional £3.1 million through the Just Transition Fund, bringing its total contribution to the project to £8.1 million. SRUC is the strategic partner providing the serviced site for ONE SeedPod at Craibstone.

https://www.sruc.ac.uk/all-news/one-seedpod-to-boost-high-value-food-and-drink-manufacturing/

SRUC

- Further Organisational Sustainable Achievements.

Paludi4All

Peat moss harvester with the prototype of a remote-controlled lightweight harvester.

A major new project launched to tackle greenhouse gas emissions from drained peatlands.

SRUC is the UK lead in the EU-funded Horizon Europe project 'Socio-Economic and Climate and Environmental Aspects of Paludiculture' (Paludi4all) – the productive use of wet and rewetted peatlands.

Paludi4All aims to support the EU's climate, nature restoration, and carbon farming goals by promoting the development of paludiculture through innovative solutions emerging from a network of practitioners and researchers.

Some of the options being explored to re-wet peatland include growing cattail and using the plant's fluffy fibre for insulating clothing, growing reed as a building material, growing Sphagnum moss to replace peat in horticulture, and growing niche fruits, such as cloud berries.

Paludi4All is being delivered by seven research organisations with extensive interdisciplinary expertise in managing wet and re-wetted peatlands. The project will contribute to the EU's broader environmental goals, including the implementation of the EU Climate Law, which mandates achieving climate neutrality by 2050.

https://www.sruc.ac.uk/all-news/peatlands-project-to-tackle-greenhouse-gas-emissions/

“Wee Forest”

Planting taking place at Craibtone Campus

In an innovative step forward tackling climate change and enhancing local biodiversity, staff and student at SRUC’s Aberdeen campus planted a ‘Wee Forest’, with funding secured for a second project scheduled to be planted early 2026. Both projects are being led by SRUC’s Sustainability Officer, Mike Raby.

These densely packed mini-woodland are designed to rapidly sequester carbon and reduce campus carbon footprint.

Planted in early 2025, Craibstone campus first “Wee Forest” comprises of 420 native trees donated by Woodland Trust.

This project is part of an ongoing study into whether Miyawaki Forests, also known as “Wee Forests” in Scotland, can be successfully established on degraded sites without traditional ground preparation or protective measures against herbivores. Miyawaki Forests sequest carbon up to 30 times faster than traditional planting methods and showed growth rates of up to 1.2 metres per year.

These projects are intended to act as future carbon sinks much sooner than conventional woodland and provide a host of additional benefits, including flood mitigation, biodiversity boosts, reduced urban heat effects, and improved opportunities for outdoor curriculum opportunities.

https://www.sruc.ac.uk/all-news/wee-forest-to-boost-carbon-capture-and-biodiversity/

Tackling climate resilience and water scarcity

An SRUC scientist was awarded over £100,000 from the British Academy for a 12-month Fellowship to address climate resistance and water scarcity in southern Africa.

Research Associate Dr Rosie Everett, based at SRUC's Edinburgh Campus, will work with the Global Water Partnership in Lesotho to co-produce culturally sensitive policy recommendations for sustainable agriculture and water management, in alignment with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

The opportunity is one of seven new Fellowships granted as part of the ODA Global Innovation Fellowships funding scheme, all of which will "address challenges that require innovative approaches and solutions to create new and deeper links beyond academia".

Dr Everett, whose Fellowship funding forms part of a £337 million International Science Partnerships Fund (ISPF) said: "The Fellowship will facilitate new research interdisciplinary approaches to cultural heritage and land use management with key partners such as the Global Water Partnership. I'm grateful for this unique opportunity to seek solutions to some of the most challenging issues the world is facing today and, particularly, for the chance to address the problem of climate resilience in one of the countries most immediately impacted by it.

https://www.sruc.ac.uk/all-news/sruc-s-dr-rosie-everett-to-tackle-climate-resilience-and-water-scarcity-with-a-british-academy-fellowship/

Rob's Garden – A living legacy of learning, sustainability, and community

SRUC Senior Lecturer Alex Hilton

A new "living laboratory" garden will help students learn more about crop agronomy and how they can sequester carbon, support biodiversity and provide renewable energy.

Named in honour of a former SRUC lecturer, Rob's Garden has been awarded a grant from The Mains of Loirston Charitable Trust - set up to support the education of school children or students and promoting research in the practice of agriculture or the science of agriculture in Scotland.

The garden has also been supported by Aberdeen Airport's ABZ Propeller Fund and Corteva Agriscience.

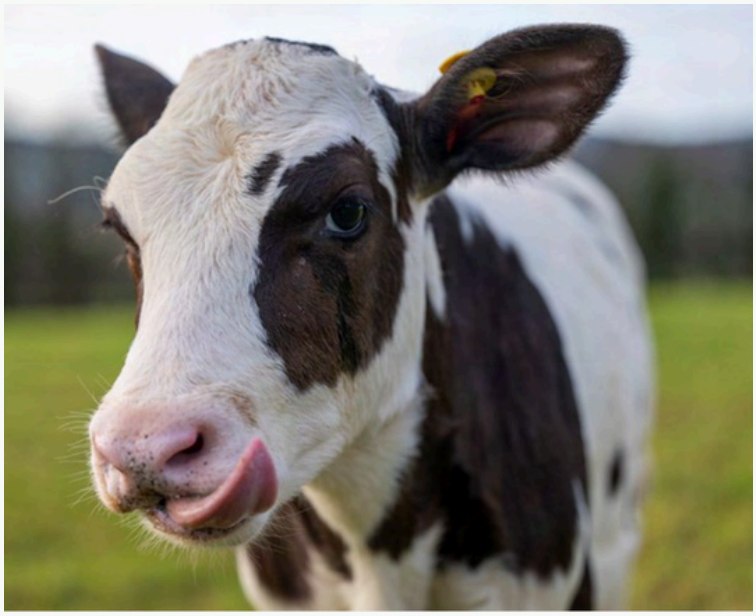
SRUC's School of Natural and Social Sciences created Rob's Garden, a dynamic new space on campus dedicated to hands-on student learning, environmental experimentation, and community engagement was established in memory of its colleague, mentor, and friend, Rob Fuchs.

Rob's Garden is far more than a collection of plants. It is an evolving living laboratory, where students will explore how crops can sequester carbon, support biodiversity, provide renewable energy and Agronomy. The space will help equip Agricultural, Wildlife and Conservation and Rural Business Management students with practical skills and insights that are crucial to Scotland's agricultural and environmental future.

The research focuses on a range of biomass and carbon-sequestering species, including Short Rotation Coppice (SRC), Miscanthus, Winter Rye & Perennial Ryegrass, Energy Mix and Miyawaki "wee forest" (rapid-growth tree planting for carbon capture).

https://www.sruc.ac.uk/all-news/rob-s-garden-a-living-legacy-of-learning-sustainability-and-community/

“Cool Calf” could help accelerate dairy journey to net zero



Hilda may look like an ordinary calf, but the sprightly, Scotland-born animal represents an historic moment for the world’s longest-running livestock genetics project and could help accelerate the dairy industry’s journey to net zero.

The calf is the first of the 16th generation of the famous Dumfries-based Langhill Herd – a vital source of data for the UK dairy industry for more than half a century – and, significantly, she is the first member of the herd to be born through IVF.

Hilda is the first Langhill Herd calf to be born through IVF

Hilda is part of the Cool Cows project, which aims to establish a nucleus of highly methane-efficient animals.

Fertilising Hilda’s mother’s eggs in a lab means the next generation of the Langhill Herd has arrived eight months earlier than previously possible.

With the process set to be repeated, it means that researchers are doubling the rate of genetic gain and thereby accelerating the accumulation of data to breed more efficient dairy cows.

The partnership between SRUC, Cumbria vets Paragon and Semex has received £335,000 from the Digital Dairy Chain’s Collaborative Research & Development Grant Competition. The competition is managed and awarded independently by the UK’s national innovation agency, Innovate UK.

First established in 1970, the Langhill Herd – which led to a Queen’s Anniversary Prize for SRUC in 2017 – has contributed to the development of the Profitable Lifetime Index, which benefits all dairy farmers in the UK.

Over the last five years, the dairy feed intake records collected at Langhill have been used by EGENES to create national genomic breeding values for feed efficiency available to all farmers who genotype their cows.

https://www.sruc.ac.uk/all-news/cool-calf-could-help-accelerate-dairy-journey-to-net-zero/

Sustain Sheep Project

Texels have been measured as part of the Sustain Sheep project.

Livestock experts from around the world have been working together to try to reduce the environmental impact of sheep.

SRUC and the Texel Sheep Society have teamed up with partners from New Zealand, Ireland, and three other key sheep-breeding nations to provide a platform for national and global comparison of methane and carbon dioxide emissions for the purpose of selective breeding for lower-emitting animals.

Methane is a natural byproduct of the digestive process of ruminant animals, where microbes in the rumen ferment feed and produce methane as a waste product (known as enteric methane production). Globally, there are an estimated 1.2 billion sheep, producing around seven million tonnes of methane into the atmosphere, approximately 6.4% of the total enteric methane from livestock.

Sustain Sheep builds on research from New Zealand which suggests that, by exploiting the natural variation in methane emissions between individual sheep, selective breeding could reduce emissions by 1-2% per year, without compromising genetic improvement in other traits.

Building on existing and previous project collaborations at home and abroad, the SustainSheep project, which has just reached the end of its first year, uses portable accumulation chambers across all countries for individual animal methane measurements.
In the UK, hill sheep from SRUC's Hill and Mountain Research Centre near Loch Lomond (approximately 450 lambs measured over four years), as well as performance-recorded Texel sheep flocks (around 500 lambs measured over two years) are participating in the research, which will run to 2027.

It is expected the research will provide tools and knowledge to help steer the direction of future breeding programmes and related government policies, so that UK sheep producers can see clear benefits from reducing methane emissions from their flocks.

Sustain Sheep is carried out under the Green ERA-Hub, a Coordination and Support Action (CSA), funded through the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation (R&I) programme. To find out more, visit the Green ERA-Hub website.

https://www.sruc.ac.uk/all-news/sheep-experts-team-up-to-reduce-emissions/

SRUC launches world's first open-source digital twin for dairy farming

SRUC's Dairy Research Centre, has unveiled farm-twin, a world's first open-source Digital Twin platform designed specifically to transform dairy farming.

Made possible through funding from the Digital Dairy Chain, part of the SRUC-led UKRI Strength in Places programme, this project explores the use of Digital Twin technology in dairy farming.

A Digital Twin is a virtual representation of the entire farm system from individual animals to infrastructure created using real-time data from sensors, telemetry and other digital tools.

One of the standout features of farm-twin is its ability to integrate multiple streams of data from different vendors and visualise data through intuitive dashboards, giving farmers an at-a-glance view of their entire operation. The platform also supports predictive analytics, allowing early detection of health issues or productivity drops before they escalate. For example, the system can combine milk yield trends with live health data to detect early signs of illness, triggering alerts or automated responses.

In fact, farm-twin can even automate on-farm decision-making. If an animal is flagged as potentially unwell, the system can trigger a shedding gate to isolate the cow, while notifying the farmer and providing context for the action.

By replicating the physical environment in a digital space, it enables farmers to monitor operations in real time, make data-driven decisions, and optimise the use of resources.

From optimised feeding and proactive health monitoring to enhanced environmental management, a digital twin plays a vital role in precision agriculture, advancing productivity, operational efficiency and sustainability in the dairy sector.

Beyond day-to-day use, the depth and breadth of data within farm-twin support advanced simulations, enabling more precise modelling of farm conditions and animal health status. The platform is built with scalability and performance in mind, suitable for farms of all sizes and tech setups. It also offers backward compatibility with legacy systems, allowing historical data to be imported and used.

Perhaps most importantly, farm-twin is completely open-source. This means anyone can freely download, use, modify, and distribute the code. Developers and researchers are encouraged to build adapters for new technologies and customise the platform to meet their needs.

https://www.sruc.ac.uk/all-news/sruc-launches-world-s-first-open-source-digital-twin-for-dairy-farming/

£3m project to examine digital innovation in livestock sector

A new multinational project will highlight how digital technologies – and other innovative ways to collect livestock and environmental data – could be better tailored to the needs of livestock managers and wider communities in moorland areas.

Known as rangeland outwith the UK and Ireland, moorland covers over a third of the globe and provides the forage resource for a range of extensively managed grazing systems, where the livestock convert the vegetation into meat and dairy products suitable for human consumption.

SRUC is the UK partner in a £3 million EU-funded project called DIGI-Rangeland (Digital innovation and data technology network for rangeland livestock farming systems), which is led by the French Livestock Institute with partners from organisations, in addition to the UK, in Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Greece, Iceland, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and Romania.

The project will also involve SRUC's Rural Policy Centre, working with wider rural communities in upland areas.

https://digirangeland.eu/

https://www.sruc.ac.uk/all-news/3m-project-to-examine-digital-innovation-in-livestock-sector/

Campus and Estate Services (CES) Environmental team proudly hosts EAUC

Showing the very best of SRUC, CES Environmental team were delighted to have been given the unique opportunity to host EAUC (The Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges) Scottish team at our Craibstone campus. Fellow environmental and sustainable professionals from Aberdeen University and Robert Gordon's University were also in attendance.

The event was a fantastic opportunity to showcase SRUC's work in sustainable food production, biodiversity, research, consultancy, crop and field trials, animal care, and our ongoing CCAP climate action objectives.

A highlight of the day was a guided tour of ONE SeedPod, which brought the event to a fitting close

eauc
The Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education

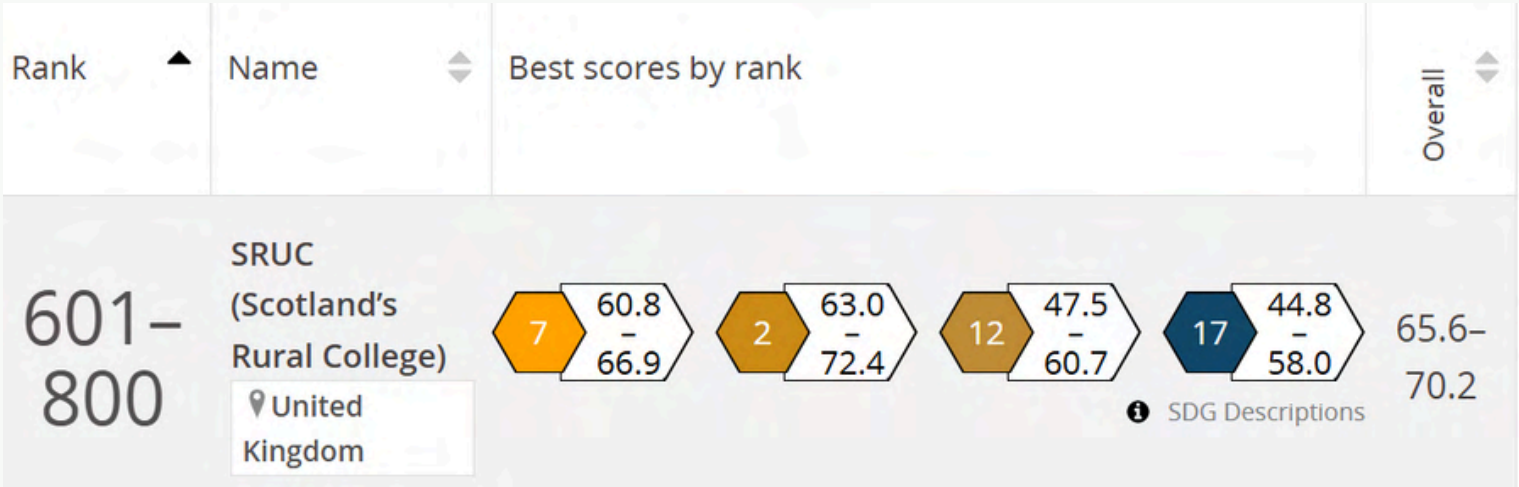
https://www.eauc.org.uk/home

University Rankings

SRUC's high teaching quality, student satisfaction, and graduate employability ratings have led to SRUC being ranked fifth for studying **animal science** and **agriculture** in Guardian University 2025 Rankings

University Impact Rankings 2025

THE Impact Rankings 2025, shows our commitment to the UN SDGs, including ranking on contributions to affordable and clean energy, zero hunger, responsible consumption and production and, partnership for the goals. This reflects our ambitions to creating positive change for society and the environment.



SRUC

- Organisational External Award Achievements.

Award winning SRUC Wildlife and Conservation Management Course

SRUC's Wildlife and Conservation Management MSc course has secured a coveted position as Higher Education Programme of the Year at the 2025 Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) Awards.

The awards, whose past recipients include Sir David Attenborough, grant the Higher Education Programme of the Year Award to courses which prepare students for their future careers and which demonstrate high standards of teaching.

The achievement recognises SRUC's commitment to supporting students in developing skills which make a difference in the field of wildlife and conservation. The commendation highlighted the support offered by the course in "empowering career changers and industry professionals seeking to upskill" and lauded the course for "not only equipping the next generation of conservation professionals - but shaping the future of the sector itself".

The winning nomination for SRUC's MSc Wildlife and Conservation Management course, which is a distance learning course delivered by the School of Natural and Social Sciences, cited the programme's development of passionate students who thrive in professional settings and the way the course draws on SRUC's range of expertise that goes beyond most higher education providers.

https://cieem.net/about-cieem/cieem-awards/2025-cieem-awards/

https://www.sruc.ac.uk/all-news/sruc-wildlife-and-conservation-course-wins-top-prize/

Top Award for Consultant who Champions Women in Agriculture

SAC Consulting's Mary-Jane Lawrie was named 'Agricultural Advisor of the Year' at a glittering ceremony in London.

Judges at the National Women in Agriculture Awards recognised her outstanding dedication and contribution to helping the advancement of women in the sector.

The awards, now in its second year, were established to 'honour the trailblazing, innovating, and leading women across the UK's agri-sectors'.

Since joining SAC Consulting in 2011, Mary-Jane has supported more than 270 farm businesses across the Lothians and Peeblesshire, advising on agri-environment schemes, carbon reduction, business planning, and biodiversity. But it is her groundbreaking work empowering women in agriculture that truly set her apart.

Mary-Jane has played a pivotal role setting up a network across the country, from Orkney to the Borders, bringing women together to exchange knowledge.

In 2016, Mary-Jane recognised women were not equally represented at farming events and training courses.
She set out to establish a network of groups that could encourage women to come together for knowledge exchange, peer-to-peer learning, and confidence building.

After securing funding through Scotland's Farm Advisory Service (FAS) which is delivered by SAC Consulting on behalf of the Scottish Government, Mary-Jane set up women in agriculture groups across Scotland.

There are now 12 successful local groups established right across the country and an online group for women who are unable to attend the in-person events as well as a Women in Agriculture Facebook group with over 2200 members.

The highlight of Mary-Jane's efforts then came in 2024 when she organised the first National Women in Agriculture Conference for FAS, held at Murrayfield Stadium in Edinburgh.

https://nationalwomeninagriculture.co.uk/LIVE/en/page/2025-winners

https://www.sruc.ac.uk/all-news/top-award-for-consultant-who-champions-women-in-agriculture/

Digital Dairy Chain honoured with Knowledge Exchange Award

The Scottish Knowledge Exchange Awards celebrate the partnerships between business, third sector, and public sector organisations and academia. Now in its 11th year, this flagship event recognises and rewards exceptional collaborations that deliver economic, environmental and social benefits for Scotland.

From left to right, Jamie Flower from Business Gateway presents Pauline Murray from the University of Strathclyde and Viki Nocker and Stuart Martin from SRUC with the Place-based Impact award for Digital Dairy Chain. Picture: Martin Shields Photography

The SRUC-led Digital Dairy Chain was among the winners at this year's Scottish Knowledge Exchange Awards in Edinburgh.

The UKRI Strength in Places-funded programme took the Place-based Impact award (sponsored by Business Gateway), which celebrates collaborative initiatives that bring together partners from across Scotland to deliver targeted, positive outcomes for specific regions or local communities.

Applications were invited from all Scottish universities, research institutes and colleges, as well as businesses and organisations, demonstrating research and development and innovation-led partnerships which have had a positive impact on the economy, society, and the environment.

SRUC's Digital Dairy Chain partners are the University of Strathclyde, the University of the West of Scotland, First Milk, Lactalis, NMR, SmartSTEMs, Kendal Nutricare, CENSIS and Cows & Co.

https://www.digitaldairychain.co.uk/

https://interface-online.org.uk/news/scottish-knowledge-exchange-awards-2025-finalists-revealed/

https://www.sruc.ac.uk/all-news/impact-of-digital-dairy-chain-honoured-with-knowledge-exchange-award/

SRUC farm recognised in global FAO Award for sustainable livestock innovation

SRUC's Kirkton and Auchtertyre upland research farms, near Crainlarich

SRUC has been recognised on the global stage as a core contributor to the Global Farm Platform (GFP).

The award honours GFP's leadership in Sustainable Livestock Transformation, One Health, Animal Health, and Reference Centres and has received a prestigious Technical Recognition from the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO).

The award was presented to Dr Jordana Rivero, Chair of the GFP, at the FAO Global Technical Recognition Ceremony on 15 October 2025 at FAO Headquarters in Rome, as part of the organisation's 80th anniversary celebrations and the World Food Forum.

SRUC's Kirkton and Auchtertyre upland research farms, located near Crianlarich, have been part of the GFP network since 2018. These farms are pioneering new approaches to livestock production in marginal upland environments, integrating precision technologies and low-emission genetics to improve productivity while reducing environmental impact.

At SRUC Kirkton & Auchtertyre, researchers are using technologies such as GPS collars and electronic weighing systems to breed sheep with traits for parasite resistance and lower methane emissions, achieving 1–2% annual reductions. These innovations are part of the GFP's hub-and-spoke model, in which research farms act as testing grounds for sustainable livestock practices, with commercial farms and smallholders adopting and adapting them for local use.

The global nature of GFP is further reflected in the work of Kenya's Kapiti Research Station, another core GFP member. Situated in semi-arid rangelands, Kapiti supports pastoralist communities by providing genetically improved livestock and promoting evidence-based grazing practices. These initiatives help boost herd resilience and productivity in challenging climatic conditions, highlighting GFP's capacity to deliver tailored, region-specific solutions.

https://www.fao.org/events/detail/global-technical-recognition-ceremony/en

https://www.sruc.ac.uk/all-news/sruc-farm-recognised-in-global-fao-award-for-sustainable-livestock-innovation/

It’s not just SRUC staff achieving the incredible!

Students from SRUC scooped a record-breaking 15 trophies at this year’s Lantra Scotland Awards for Land-based and Aquaculture Skills (ALBAS).

With a presence across 11 categories, every SRUC nominee went on to win their respective prize at the ceremony, continuing a recent tradition of big wins at the awards.

SRUC sweeps Lantra Scotland ALBAS Awards with a record-breaking 15 gongs!

Over 200 finalists, event supporters, employers, training providers and industry leaders, including Agriculture Minister Jim Fairlie, attended a glittering awards ceremony, hosted by Dr Jenna Ross OBE and Mike Duxbury of Inclusive Farm.

Industry awards were made for agriculture, aquaculture, equine, game and wildlife, horticulture, land-based engineering, trees and timber and veterinary nursing.

The winners and runners-up for ALBAS 2025 were chosen by an independent judging panel made up of influential figures from across the land-based and aquaculture sector, chaired by Rebecca Dawes, Agri and Rural Communicator at JCM&Co and trustee of The Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth.

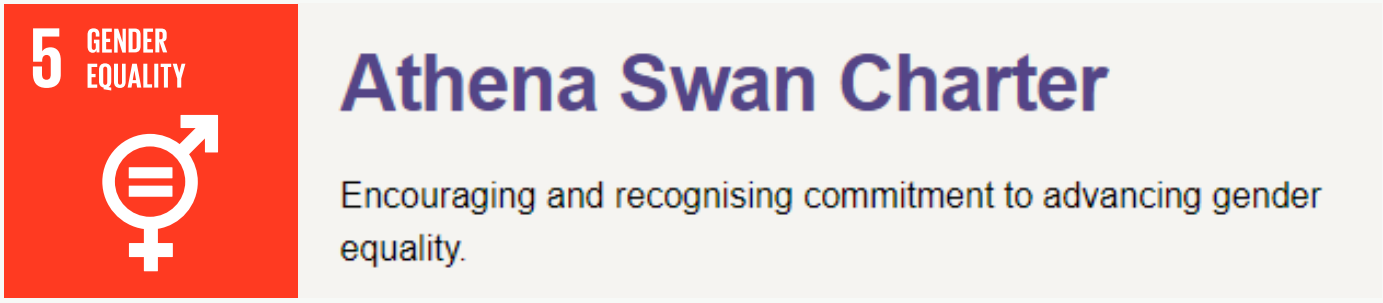
SRUC was highly commended for its partnership with Borders College, supported by the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) and South of Scotland Enterprise (SoSE).

https://www.scotland.lantra.co.uk/news/lantra-scotlands-albas-2025-winners-revealed-glittering-ceremony

https://www.sruc.ac.uk/all-news/sruc-sweeps-lantra-scotland-albas-awards-with-record-breaking-15-gongs/

During 2024, SRUC was recognised for its commitment to advancing gender equality and inclusivity with a Bronze level Athena Swan award.

The Athena Swan Charter is a framework which is used across the globe to support and transform gender equality within higher education (HE) and research. Established in 2005 to encourage and recognise commitment to advancing the careers of women in science, technology, engineering, maths and medicine (STEMM) employment, the Charter is now being used across the globe to address gender equality more broadly, and not just barriers to progression that affect women.



The Athena Swan Charter:

- helps institutions achieve their gender equality objectives.
- assists institutions to meet equality legislation requirements, as well as the requirements and expectations of some funders and research councils.
- uses a targeted self-assessment framework to support applicants identify areas for positive action as well as recognise and share good practice.
- supports the promotion of inclusive working practices that can increase the retention of valued academics and professional and support staff, demonstrating an institution's commitment to an equitable working environment.

Campus and Estate Services (CES) Environmental team win national environmental award and announced finalists in another

Winner

Finalist

SRUC has won a Scottish National Green Apple Environment Award in recognition of our Climate Change Action Plan.

The Scottish National Green Apple Awards, which are run by The Green Organisation, “recognise, reward and promote environmental best practice around the world”.

Winners receive Green World Ambassador status, which includes the opportunity to be published in The Green Book, a reference on environmental best practice provided free of charge to organisations, environment professionals, universities, governments, libraries and the media.

This achievement of the Green Apple Award reflects a tremendous amount of hard work, dedication, and collaboration. The CES environmental team are very much looking forward to attending the award ceremony in January 2026 at The Scotsman Hotel in Edinburgh.

Reflecting upon 2025, it has been a remarkable year for external environmental recognition as, earlier in the year, SRUC became a finalist for the Green Awards UK in their largest category “Green Large Organisation of the Year” - a significant achievement given the competition included both private and public sectors.

https://scotrural.sharepoint.com/teams/SRUCClimateChangePlan-Intranet/SitePages/SRUC-wins-Green-Apple-Award.

SRUC

- 2026 KPI Roadmap Strategy.

2026 Environmental Compliance Roadmap Strategy

Quarter 1

1. Climate Change Action Plan 2025-2030

Complete "Theme" review processes and collate gathered information to forward to internal Graphics Design team to compose SRUC's second edition 2025-2030 Climate Change Action Plan.

2. Main Campus BMS Upgrades

Continue ongoing project development of our main campus BMS System upgrade projects.

3. Teams Energy Bureau Service Provider

Continuation of new energy data platform software to ensure improved monitoring of Estate utility cost and consumption billing. Quarterly main campus cost/consumption reporting to be issued to CES management team.

4. Elmwood Campus Auction Project

Compose ELT NCM Auction Business Case regarding industrial Elmwood Campus equipment.

Quarter 2

5. Adaptation Risk Assessments

Continuation of main campus and farms asset management climate risk assessments and new Adaptation electronic systems.

6. Adaptation Plan

Complete composition process and raise climate resilience measures to the Executive Leadership Team to safeguard SRUC Estate from future Climate Change Adaptation.

7. Energy Business Cases

- Craibstone Campus - alternative renewable energy heating system
- Kings Building - building insulation upgrade analysis

8. Waste Non Conformance System

Implement a non conformance audit and reporting system for sites not adhering to organisational waste management protocols

2026 Environmental Compliance Roadmap Strategy

Quarter 3

9. Environmental Emergency Response Planning

Evaluate processes and implement a new Environmental Emergency Response system to achieve reportable environmental pollution incidents.

10. Waste Management Organisational Waste Matrixes

Coordinate with departmental leads and their respective waste stream (i.e clinical, electronic etc) to compose an organisational waste matrix template. Departments will be responsible for population, CES to be responsible for central storage within CES EMS system.

11. Waste Management Organisational Waste Registers

Coordinate with departmental leads the respective waste stream (i.e clinical, electronic etc) to compose organisational "Aspects/Impacts" waste registers. Departments will be responsible for population, CES to be responsible for central storage within CES EMS system.

12. Environmental Award Application

Enter Green Gowns 2026 "Nature Positive" category for SRUC's new Biodiversity Strategy

Quarter 4

13. Environmental Policy

Conduct review process of annual environmental policy.

14. Executive & CEO Environmental Statement

Conduct review process of annual environmental statement.

15. Environmental Management System (EMS)

Continuous improvement and maintenance of CES Environmental Management System (EMS) in alignment with CCAP CCAs. To ensure organisational environmental compliance for the purpose of audits and, that our campuses are operated in an environmentally sustainable way, with continual improvement at the core.

16.Mandatory Annual Environmental Reporting

Scottish Government Public Bodies Climate Change Report
Organisational Annual CCAP Environmental Report
SDG Times Higher Ranking

Contact Details

Please get in touch if you are working on any sustainability projects so we can highlight organisational achievements within future annual environmental reports.

Everyone has a role to play in reducing our environmental impact and creating a more sustainable planet.

Thank you for your continued support in our efforts to delivering our Climate Change Action Plan goals.

Arlene Barclay
Environmental Manager
Campus and Estates

Climate Change Action

climatechangeaction@sruc.ac.uk

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