



Help shape the future of Sustainability Training

Carbon Literacy at West Suffolk College

West Suffolk College (WSC) has embedded Carbon Literacy training across its curriculum, leadership, and wider community, creating a culture of climate action. The college's proactive approach has influenced culture change and sustainability practices both internally and externally, earning them recognition and awards for environmental leadership and Bronze Carbon Literate Educator status.

Creating a culture of climate action

Starting with a desire to align with national policy in 2022 and become a 'Carbon Literacy' centre, West Suffolk College moved from externally supported training to internal delivery, embedding Carbon Literacy and climate action across leadership, curriculum, and operations.

Building confidence & capacity to deliver Carbon Literacy



- Partnered with **Groundwork East** for initial training.
- Key staff attended Delivering Successful Carbon Literacy sessions and then Groundwork East's **Train-the-Trainer course**.
- In-house training using the Carbon Literacy **Further Education Toolkit**, expanding delivery across vocational areas on the 16-19 programmes as well as to Sustainability Student Ambassadors, staff, leadership team and local community.
- Staff experienced in Carbon Literacy delivery gained **Carbon Literacy Facilitator (CLF)** status, preparing to apply for **Carbon Literacy Trainer (CLT)** status.
- Developed an accredited online Carbon Literacy course for **apprentices**.

Staff

"Excellent course content and facilitators, very informative, relevant and well-paced."

"Everyone should take a course like this."

Training stats

14

sessions in one term

120+

staff, managers, & stakeholders trained

Students

"[I enjoyed] learning what we can actually do as an individual or community to help combat climate change and reduce the amount of carbon emissions we produce."

Empowering students to become sustainability leaders

- **100% Carbon Literacy certification** among Student Sustainability Ambassadors.
- Group actions empowered students to lead **carbon reduction initiatives** and **awareness-raising campaigns**, including clear signage at recycling stations, researching alternative food services, and attending Youth Climate Conferences and 'Students Operating Sustainably' events.

Impact



Student-led recycling initiative led to **36% increase**, saving **85kg CO₂e**



A student **published and read a children's book** on waste reduction to primary children across Suffolk.



Student ambassadors delivered the **Skills Escalator Training** to primary schools

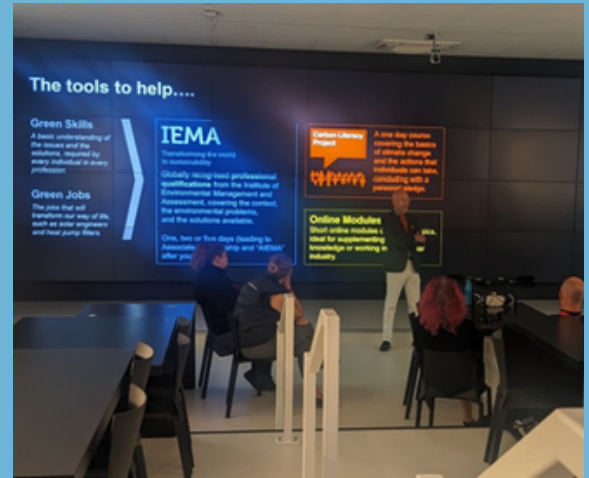


Becoming a sustainability leader

Scaling its reach across departments and into the community has transformed WSC from a participant in climate education to a regional leader and shaper of national sustainable education policy.

Engaging local employers

- Delivered immersive VR-based sustainability focus group to **8 local employers**.
- Offered **free Carbon Literacy training** places to engaged businesses.
- Local employer engagement generated **strong interest and participation** in Carbon Literacy training.



Recognition for sustainability leadership

- Awarded the **Greenest County Award** for Education.
- Achieved **Emerging status** on the Climate Action Roadmap for FE Colleges.
- Contributed to national education policy via the **Education and Training Foundation**.
- Achieved **Bronze Carbon Literate Educator** status.



Next steps

1

Progress to Established status on the Climate Action Roadmap

2

Expand employer engagement programme and training delivery

3

Support Ambassadors to co-deliver workshops and publish more learning materials

4

Explore new student-led initiatives for carbon reduction and community outreach



Lydia Gaskell,
Carbon Literacy
Project, HFE
Coordinator

"It's inspiring to see how West Suffolk College have used Carbon Literacy training as a catalyst for culture change and climate action across the college. They deserve the recognition of the awards they have received including the Bronze CLE status and I look forward to seeing where they take Carbon Literacy next."