

# East Down Colleges



## 1. Asset information

East Down Colleges consists of three colleges in Northern Ireland. Ballynahinch, Downpatrick and Newcastle colleges located in East Down have been designed to be energy efficient and environmentally friendly, as well as providing a teaching and learning experience which is exciting and progressive. The Campuses offer full-time and part-time educational course for students aged 16 years plus.



## 2. Impact

- College providing c. 2,000 pupils with access to secondary and adult education in an effective learning environment.



## 3. Awards and certifications

- ISO 14001 accreditation, which is the international standard that specifies requirements for an effective environmental management system (EMS)
- BREEAM 3 star rating
- B rating for the Display Energy Certification (DEC)

## 4. Environment

### GHG emissions

East Down Education Partnership is actively advancing its sustainability agenda through multiple strategic initiatives. The institution has commissioned feasibility studies for solar PV installations at Downpatrick Campus, along with hybrid heating solutions at Ballynahinch and Newcastle facilities. To establish baseline metrics, a comprehensive utility monitoring system is being implemented and a carbon baseline with a net-zero roadmap is being developed. It shows a strong commitment to reducing the environmental impact and transitioning to sustainable energy solutions.



### Climate risk

The project was screened to evaluate the potential physical impacts from climate change based on 'Paris-aligned' (RCP2.6 ~+1°C) and 'High emissions' (RCP8.5 ~+3.7°C) scenarios across three time periods (2020, 2050 and 2100). The project maintains a Very Low physical climate risk score under both scenarios, except for coastal inundation which is a High risk in the area.

### Waste & Water

The management services provider continues to monitor waste and water consumption and is actively exploring opportunities to reduce them wherever possible.

### Biodiversity

The asset is built in compliance with local environmental regulations.

During the concession period, the Portfolio Company focuses on promoting restoration efforts to improve degraded or removed ecosystems that act as natural carbon sinks and can improve resilience to climate-related damages.



## 5. Social

### Health & Safety

Health and safety is on the agenda each board meeting. Our asset managers work actively with the Portfolio Company or its management service providers, to promote a strong health and safety culture, facilitate the sharing of best practices.

We endorse a zero-tolerance approach to occupational health and safety incidents. Additionally, the Portfolio Company has a Health & Safety policy in place and regularly conducts a fire or health and safety audit.

## Diversity

Not applicable as the Portfolio Company does not employ any staff.

## Impact for local communities

South Eastern Regional College, as a Further Education College, is a primary delivery arm for government to ensure that the Northern Irish workforce has the skills to build a successful economy. It operates 8 campuses across Northern Ireland of which the three colleges in the eastern part of County Down from this project: Ballynahinch, Downpatrick and Newcastle colleges.



## 6. Governance

### Delegation & oversight

The Portfolio Company directors review on a quarterly basis comprehensive board report, including both general project management and financial management. The project has a rigorous governance structure in place with quarterly board meetings, ad-hoc meetings when required and an authority delegation matrix to the management services provider.

The Portfolio Company has robust ESG policies and procedures in place and clear board-level responsibility to monitor their application. The ESG standard policies include:

- Biodiversity policy
- Code of Conduct, including anti-bribery, anti-corruption and non-discrimination
- Conflict of interest
- Cyber-security
- ESG
- Health and safety (workplace accident prevention)
- Anti-slavery & Human Trafficking policy (Modern Day Slavery)
- Rapid escalation
- Responsible contractor
- Tax
- Whistleblowing

The Portfolio Company holds frequent meetings with the public sector client to promote collaboration, coordination and integration of operations.

### Reporting

The Portfolio Company uses a quarterly board pack, reporting to the board of directors on the operational and financial performance of the project and compliance with its obligations and regulation/legislation, including the policies.

Additionally, the Portfolio Company reports annually into BBGI's ESG KPI survey, which composed of 100+ data points, covering all aspects of ESG oversight.

## Cyber security

Portfolio Company and its subcontractors continuously monitor that the cyber security policy is in place and perform information risk analysis and develops mitigating measures. They have a robust and comprehensive IT backup system in place. Additionally, the Portfolio Company has a Cyber security policy in place.

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