

Greenmount Campus



Loughry Campus

Resilience



Biodiversity

College Estate Strategy

Sustainability



2021-2030

Welfare



Environment

Enniskillen Campus



Productivity



DAERA

Department of Agriculture,
Environment and Rural Affairs
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

The College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) is a Division of the Food and Farming Group within the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).

Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone

CAFRE's programmes are delivered against the key DAERA policy objectives and contribute to the achievement of the DAERA Vision of, "Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone" by improving the competitiveness of the local agri-food industry.

A key outcome in achieving CAFRE's overarching aim is the development of highly competent, qualified, confident and responsible graduates who are ready to commence rewarding careers in the agri-food industry.

Through CAFRE's education provision, learners are exposed to cutting edge innovation, which is also demonstrated to the industry through the Knowledge Advisory Service.

Fundamental to the achievement of the CAFRE aim is using the Estate as a learning platform, which serves to demonstrate the implementation of Government Policy to the agri-food industry. This is achieved through the demonstration of productivity, sustainability, environmental stewardship and resilience to all learners.

CAFRE's overarching aim is:

To be a knowledge centric organisation delivering high quality education, knowledge transfer and innovation programmes to those entering and those working in the Northern Ireland agri-food industry, to support its sustainable growth.

CAFRE Estate Strategy Objectives 2021 - 2030



We will demonstrate highest quality environmental practices in all our activities across the CAFRE Estate.

Sustainability will be at the heart of everything we do. We will decarbonise our estate as we travel towards net zero.

Our farms and built estate will invest in new technology to ensure that we make a positive contribution to air quality, water quality and the natural environment.

We will adopt integrated farm management techniques to more efficiently utilise home-sourced nutrients thus reducing our requirement for purchased inputs and we will manage our soils to enhance soil health status.

We will ensure that our management practices enhance the biodiversity habitats in our locality and we will improve the biodiversity within the CAFRE Estate.

We will prioritise recycling and reducing waste and we will eliminate the use of problem plastics from our supply chains.



We will demonstrate best practice in resilient, productive agricultural, horticultural and equine systems.

The performance of our agricultural systems will be benchmarked with the aim of achieving the top quartile in physical, financial, and environmental performance.

We will focus on using resources more efficiently and sustainably.

We will develop innovative IT solutions to measure performance and disseminate data more widely.



We will demonstrate industry leading plant and animal health and welfare standards in our production systems.

We will manage our animals to meet the highest welfare standards. We will eliminate anti-microbial usage where welfare allows across our cattle, sheep and equine enterprises. We will also implement preventative strategies to reduce and eliminate key diseases from our animals and plants.

We will adopt new and effective techniques to assist with the control of pests and diseases in our plants and crops.



We will produce high quality, market-focused agricultural, horticultural and equine outputs.

We will demonstrate to farmers, growers and business owners the benefits of vertically integrated, high-value supply chains in our systems and management practices by negotiating and agreeing high specification market-led contracts.



We will develop a sustainability ethos in our staff and customers and we will collaborate with others to improve human health outcomes.

We will collaborate with other Government Departments and stakeholders to ensure the work that we do has a positive human health outcome.

We will build upon existing work incorporating equines to promote mental, emotional and physical well-being and ensure that our agricultural and horticultural produce contributes specific benefits to the human diet.

We will continue to work to enhance the experience of our residential students.

We will promote healthy and sustainable lifestyles in our own staff and in the provision of public access through our estate.

CAFRE Estate Strategy Targets

2021 - 2030

1 CAFRE to be 50% Carbon Neutral by 2030

2 Eliminate the use of peat in horticulture by 2025

3 CAFRE air quality to not impact on local habitats and health by 2030

4 Reduce anti microbial usage by 95% by 2030

5 CAFRE water to be of “Good” quality status by 2030

6 CAFRE productive land to be in “Good” soil health status by 2030

7 Eliminate CAFRE land fill waste by 2025

8 CAFRE habitats to be in favourable condition by 2030

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