



Sustainability Strategy 2023 - 2025

Vision: To become a model for sustainability in education by integrating sustainable practices into our operations, curriculum, and culture, and empowering our staff and students to become environmentally responsible whilst also investing in our estate, facilities and infrastructure to support this aim.

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1. Summary

Climate change and ecological destruction are some of the biggest challenges of our time and the college has a responsibility to address this and meet the UK government's target to reach net zero emissions by 2050.

Net zero means reducing emissions as far as technically possible and balancing the residual emissions by removing greenhouse gases from the environment.

A green, sustainable education estate that is resilient to the impacts of climate change will normalise and inspire young people to live sustainable lives, with impact felt widely in their families and communities. By improving the physical environment in and around our education setting, we can impact positively on both the physical and mental wellbeing of children and young people.

Climate adaptation and decarbonisation activity in colleges, can provide powerful learning opportunities. Young people can:

- participate in the implementation of climate adaptation measures;
- learn in buildings designed for net zero;
- find out more about the impact of energy and water use.

Seeing sustainability brought to life in the buildings around them will allow young people to gain experiences which will enhance and contextualise their learning.

2. Strategic aims

This strategy outlines the progress that the college has made over recent years and our ambition to achieve further progress over the next three years, aligned to the following aspirations:

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions: Implement measures to decrease greenhouse gas emissions. This could include energy conservation measures, moving away from gas for heating, renewable energy installation, promoting sustainable travel and carbon offset initiatives.

Waste reduction and recycling: Achieve a reduction in waste generation and increase recycling rates. This could include implementing waste reduction measures, further improving waste separation and collection systems, and promoting waste reduction and recycling awareness among students and staff.

Curriculum integration: Integrate sustainability into the curriculum across all subjects, promoting sustainability literacy and empowering students to become environmentally responsible citizens. This could include incorporating sustainability-related topics and projects, organising sustainability events and workshops, and fostering a culture of sustainability awareness and action among students and staff.

Enhancing our environment: Continue to enhance our grounds and raising awareness around protecting local biodiversity by empowering our staff and students to make a positive difference to both their and nature's future by having a positive interaction with the natural world.

Promoting responsible digital practices: Educate our students and staff on responsible and sustainable digital practices. This includes encouraging the responsible use of electronic devices, promoting digital literacy, and discouraging electronic waste. Also assessing and reducing the environmental impact of our digital infrastructure and adopting eco-friendly hardware and software solutions.

Increasing stakeholder engagement: Foster a culture of sustainability by engaging and empowering students, staff and the local community and taking a prominent and proactive role in helping to build relevant networks and partnerships. This could include organising sustainability campaigns, competitions, and events, creating opportunities for stakeholder input and feedback, and involving stakeholders in the development and implementation of sustainability initiatives.

3. [Department for Education strategy](#)

The DfE vision is for the United Kingdom to be the world-leading education sector in sustainability and climate change by 2030.

In England, we will achieve this through the following strategic aims:

1. **Excellence in education and skills for a changing world:** preparing all young people for a world impacted by climate change through learning and practical experience.
2. **Net zero:** reducing direct and indirect emissions from education and care buildings, driving innovation to meet legislative targets and providing opportunities for children and young people to engage practically in the transition to net zero.
3. **Resilience to climate change:** adapting our education and care buildings and system to prepare for the effects of climate change.
4. **A better environment for future generations:** enhancing biodiversity, improving air quality and increasing access to, and connection with, nature in and around education and care settings.

A [National Climate Education Action Plan](#) has also been developed with the following goals.

1. Everyone involved in the education of children and young people in school and college settings should be encouraged and supported to access accredited continuing professional development (CPD) to improve their personal understanding of up-to-date data and science of our changing climate and the impacts of these changes.
2. All teachers and those training to become teachers should be able to access training that empowers them to effectively incorporate climate education within their teaching across all levels and subjects.

3. Teachers and school leaders should be encouraged and empowered, both at a national and local level, to ensure time and space within and beyond the teaching day is included for climate education.
4. Every school and college should identify a senior staff member to lead on climate education and provide them with support and funding.
5. A structured programme or climate award for schools, colleges and youth organisations should be developed, providing a national focus to a range of extra-curricular activities and supporting resources to aid delivery.
6. A national scheme of quality assurance of teaching resources for climate education should be developed.
7. A regular national meeting of the dynamic, well-supported national networks of educators, scientists and young people should be held, to share ideas and promote collaboration among representatives of these groups.
8. Professionals working in climate research and policy, from science and non-science disciplines, should pledge a proportion of their working time to providing help to teacher-led climate education initiatives.
9. A national, guiding framework for all educational providers that outlines compulsory climate education for all young people via schools and colleges should be developed and implemented.

4. Local strategy

Blackpool aims to make Blackpool Council net zero by 2030, and to work towards achieving the same across the whole town.

To deliver the comprehensive approach needed to change, they have identified ten key themes:

- Housing
- Buildings and the Built Environment
- Transport, Getting Around and Digital
- Power and Heat
- Cleansing, Food, Water and Waste
- Community Leadership, Communication and Involvement
- Working With Others
- Business
- Natural Environment
- Building Knowledge, Capacity and Financial Resources

These actions cover “scope 1, scope 2 and scope 3” emissions:

- **Scope 1** emissions are where someone causes emissions by burning a fuel to provide power or heat
- **Scope 2** is similar, but is where someone buys power or heat from someone else, known as “indirect” emissions

• **Scope 3** emissions are all other indirect emissions – for example making a product then disposing of it at the end of its life, investing in a petrol company, even travelling on business and the miles which people drive to commute to work would be included in an organisation's or town's scope 3 emissions.

5. Principles

The development of our strategic aims will be underpinned by the principles of:

- **Inspire** by working closely with stakeholders to raise awareness and understanding of action needed for sustainable education and setting an example by living, extending and amplifying existing good practice and initiatives.
- **Share** our progress, systems and processes to allow information to be accessed and used to make decisions, communicate and bring about positive outcomes. Planned actions must lead to more sustainable efficiencies, where information and communication is made easier and therefore leads to greater engagement and impact.
- **Learn** from others who share our objectives and are working to improve sustainability and mitigate against climate change, including local and national groups and our own staff and students.

6. Background & context

One of the college's strategic priorities is to develop a roadmap to net zero and to operate, work and educate in a sustainable manner. Whilst we have achieved a great deal over recent years, there is still much to do.

In order to do this the college must invest in our systems, our staff and students to train and create a greater awareness and our practices to ensure that they are sustainable. In order to do so we will:

- assess our current position in terms of our carbon footprint;
- understand what our next steps can be to improve this;
- create a roadmap to net zero including a climate action plan;
- seek advice, guidance, support and funding to realise our ambitions.

7. What have we done already?

The college already has several areas where our net zero ambition is being progressed and has been working towards this for some time.

Achievements to date (2010 - 2023)

- Blackpool Civic Trust award for conservation for Eco Action
- Reviewed our carbon footprint
- Energy Performance Certificate rating of B or above for all buildings
- Investment in renewable energy
- Continued investment in energy-saving equipment such as new more efficient boilers and led lighting
- Waste monitoring programme to reduce the amount of waste and increase the

percentage being recycled. No waste goes to landfill in partnership with our nationally recognised waste contractor.

- Reduction of paper usage
- Work on 'digital footprint' with a training package created for staff and students
- Reduction of catering packaging and use of recyclable / compostable containers
- Work in college grounds – tree planting, created an orchard, and establishment of a vegetable/wildflower growing scheme, allowing areas to grow 'wild' to create additional habitats, put up nestboxes with plans for bat boxes and hedgehog shelters. Introduction of a bee hive
- Fair Trade products sold in all catering outlets
- Commissioned an energy survey and decarbonisation plan to help us make informed decisions in the future
- Active student-led eco group (Eco Action) who host and run an annual Youth Climate Conference and undertake sustainable actions and initiatives across college.
- Launched in January 2023 of '5 A Day for the Environment' initiative which was developed by Eco Action students in consultation with the student body and SLT.
- Adopting the Eco Schools framework - establishing a committee (May 2023), carried out an environmental audit (June 2023) and working towards Green Flag status by July 2024
- The college is an active member of the Blackpool Climate Action Partnership and the new Lancashire Climate Action network with the Head of ALM attending these meetings
- Promotion of environmental volunteering in the community by students and staff

8. What are our next steps?

It is important to ensure that in all that we do we are inspirational, influential and inclusive, ensuring that we raise awareness, create sustainable environments and monitor our progress.

As part of our roadmap we will develop a climate action plan covering the following areas, to align with [DfE's sustainability and climate change strategy](#):

- **decarbonisation**, for example calculating and taking actions to reduce carbon emissions, such as becoming more energy efficient and investing in alternative ways to heat the building.
 - **adaptation and resilience**, such as taking actions to reduce the risk of flooding and overheating
 - **biodiversity**, for example engaging with the [National Education Nature Park and enrolling in the Climate Action Award](#) and continuing to enhance our grounds and raising awareness around protecting local biodiversity
 - **climate education and green careers**, such as ensuring the education we provide gives knowledge-rich and comprehensive teaching about climate change, and that our staff feel supported to offer this. Link with local employers and organisations who can offer work placements, internships, projects and eventual job opportunities linked to sustainability
- **Understand our current position**

It is important that we conduct a comprehensive sustainability assessment to identify areas for improvement and prioritise initiatives by considering the following:

1. Undertaking a site survey which considers heating, lighting & water solutions and the opportunities for solar and electric vehicle charging installations.

2. Undertaking a wider environmental review as part of the [Eco Schools framework](#)

- **Develop our roadmap**

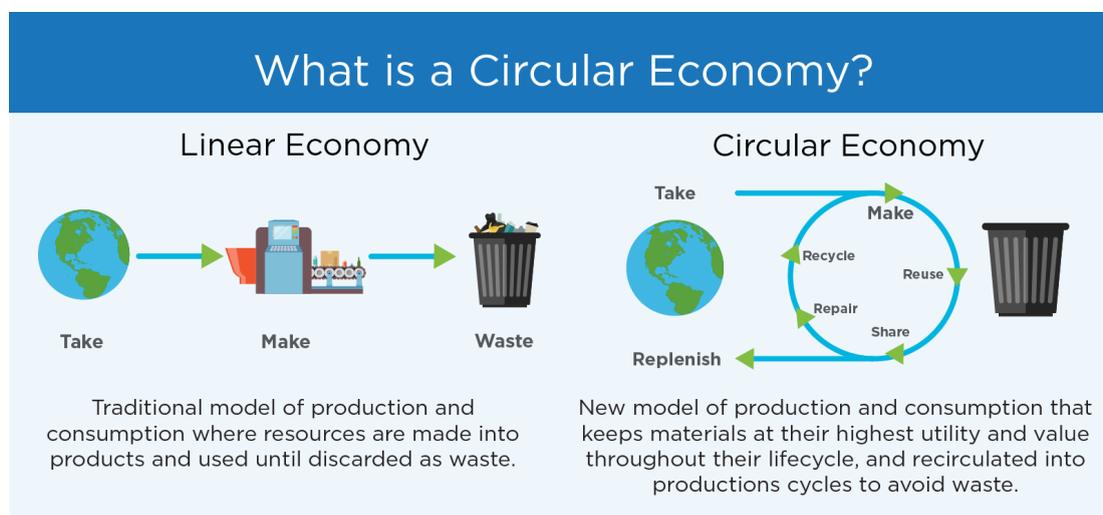
1. Develop and implement an action plan with specific steps, timeline, responsible parties, and resources needed to achieve the sustainability goals.
2. Establish a sustainability committee to oversee the implementation of the sustainability strategy and monitor progress. In line with government action plans we will nominate a sustainability lead and develop our climate action plan
3. Provide sustainability training and education to students, staff, and faculty to increase awareness and knowledge about sustainability.
4. Develop and implement sustainable procurement policies and practices to prioritise environmentally and socially responsible products and services..
5. Promote sustainable transportation options among students and staff, such as walking, cycling, public transit, and carpooling (staff only).

- **Measure impact - collaboration & communication**

When considering the success of the action that we have taken we will create opportunities for staff, students and other stakeholders to engage in discussion around their impact.

We will collaborate with local organisations, businesses, and government agencies to leverage resources, share best practices, and promote sustainability initiatives.

By 2030 the goal is that education settings will be supporting a circular economy through their participation in the Climate Leaders Award and National Education Nature Park and we will use such measures to evaluate our progress.



9. Governance & reporting

The sustainability strategy will be implemented and managed by the SLT with the support of the Eco Schools Committee and the Sustainability Group. It will reported on termly to the SLT and regular updates will be provided to the Board of Directors based on the six key aims:

- **Reduce greenhouse gas emissions**
- **Waste reduction and recycling**

- **Curriculum integration**
- **Enhancing our environment**
- **Promoting responsible digital practices**
- **Increasing stakeholder engagement:**