



# Blackpool Sixth Eco Schools Committee Meeting Minutes

<b>Time and Date</b>	30.09.24
<b>Attendees</b>	<p>Elise Cox (Student)          Angel Dunlop (Student)          Jenny Xie (Student)          Vlad Basiuk (Student / Young Climate Activist in Residence)          Haider Butt (Student)          Amanda Crumblehulme (Assistant Principal)          Nick Andrews (Staff)          Danny Topping (Staff)          Laura Bently (Staff)          Jon McLeod (Staff / Eco Schools Coordinator)</p>
<b>Apologies</b>	<p>Bella Beaton          Kurtis Kirby          Steve Beesley</p>



## Key Points

### Item 1:

New and returning members of the Committee were welcomed.

### Item 2: Introduction to the Eco Schools Programme for 2024-25

Jon introduced the [Eco Schools](#) programme to those who are new to the committee with this [presentation](#). He emphasised that the idea of the programme was that it was led as much as possible by students and that it involved the whole college community.

Last year - the college's first year of running the programme in this format - the college (led by the Eco Committee) achieved a Green Flag with Distinction Award (the highest level of Eco Schools award).

This year the Committee is looking forward to further expanding the positive impact of the Eco Schools programme and to involving as many students and staff as possible in Eco Schools-related activities and initiatives.

It was noted that students in the Committee will benefit from the programme by gaining very valuable skills, knowledge and experience for the future, as well as contributing directly to positive environmental change in the college and outside of it.

### Item 3: Carbon Footprint Report

Nick Andrews, Head of Estates, presented the college's carbon footprint report for the college (Aug 23 - July 24).

Some key findings were that:

- Electricity consumption continued to fall, as in recent years with a fall of 54,987 kWh
- Gas consumption went up by 22,809 kWh
- Overall energy use fell by 32,178 kWh (1.9%)
- Our carbon footprint fell very slightly as measured in terms of tCO<sub>2</sub>e per staff/student (-0.002)
- We generated some electricity from our solar panels but this amounts to less than 1% of our consumption



- We increased our recycling and no waste now goes to landfill - however such waste is a relatively small part of our carbon footprint.
- The only transport included in the report is the college's own minibus transport. Student/staff transport to/from college is not included nor are college trips (but these will be included next year).

The Committee discussed with Nick what would make the most difference in terms of cutting our carbon footprint in the coming year. He said that although the college is looking at technical solutions and grants relating to energy management and further solar panels, these solutions are costly and may not be practical/affordable in the short term. He advised that the Committee focus on encouraging behavioural changes such as:

- Wearing another layer in winter so that we can turn the heating down further
- Switching off lights/devices
- Further focus on avoiding waste and maximising reuse/recycling
- Switching more to plant-based food options
- Cutting journeys by car

The Committee thanked Nick for his very informative report which will contribute greatly to our Environmental Review this year (the first stage of the Eco Schools action cycle).

The full carbon footprint report can be accessed here:

[Carbon Footprint Report 2023-24.doc.pdf](#)

**Item 4: Lancashire Youth Climate Conference 2024**

The college is hosting the first ever Lancashire Youth Climate Conference at the college on Wednesday 30th October. The conference is being put together by Vlad and Josh Brayshaw, a former student and a fellow Youth Climate Activist in Residence, supported by Jon and by the Head of Youth Services at Blackpool Council.



We are looking for 6 Blackpool Sixth students to attend as delegates. Several student members of the Committee have expressed an interest and Vlad/Jon will follow this up.

**Item 5: Initial thoughts and ideas on areas to focus on in 2024/25**

We will need soon to conduct our annual Environmental Review and this will help shape what we focus on for our Eco Schools work this year. However, Jon asked Committee members to reflect on what they felt were areas they would particularly like to address during the year. The following points were raised.

- More tree planting (Jenny and Haider)
- Better labelling of recycling bins / more recycling bins (Elise)
- More work on wildlife habitat creation and growing a wider variety of plants (Elise and Vlad)
- Shifting to more sustainable transport to college, cutting car usage e.g. through restricting permits to those who live furthest away (Angel)
- Behaviour changes, promoting the '5 A Day for the Environment' campaign (Nick)
- Holding an 'energy saving week' (Nick)

**Item 5: 'Cut Your Carbon' month (November)**

Jon briefly mentioned that Eco Schools at a national level are once again holding a 'Cut Your Carbon' month in November.

<https://www.eco-schools.org.uk/cut-your-carbon/>

This involves encouraging school/college students and staff to take practical actions in school/college and at home to cut their carbon footprint following a list of around 9 suggested actions. These are logged and the number of actions is recorded and celebrated nationally.

Last November the Eco Committee ran this campaign with great success, having more than 1500 individual carbon-cutting actions recorded. There was a competition element between the groups for each Progress Mentor and prizes were awarded.



	<p>There was general agreement that it would be good to run this again and that it would give a useful early focus to the work of the Eco Committee in seeking to get everyone involved.</p> <p>This will be discussed more at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Item 6: Meetings and student roles</b>  The Committee will meet every three weeks or so throughout the year. Jon will share a list of meetings soon. The next one will be Monday 14th October, 4-5 pm in the Committee Room.</p> <p>There will be opportunities for student members of the Committee to take on specific roles e.g. Chair, Vice Chair, Project Leads (for the 3 key projects), Communications Officer etc. This will be discussed at the next meeting.</p>
<p><b>Next Steps</b></p>	<p>The next key steps for the Committee are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carry out a new Environmental Review, comparing it against last year's to gauge progress and help to decide which three key Eco Schools topics to focus on in the 2024-25 Action Plan</li> <li>• Further grow the number of students involved in the Committee and elect/allocate responsibility roles</li> <li>• Set up the college's own 'Cut Your Carbon' month for November drawing on the materials and ideas provided by Eco Schools.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Next Meeting</b></p>	<p>14.10.24, 4 - 5 pm Committee Room</p>