



# ECO SCHOOLS REPORT

2024 - 2025



# WHAT IS ECO SCHOOLS?



Eco Schools is an international programme designed to help schools, colleges and nurseries become as 'green' and sustainable as possible. The idea of Eco Schools is that the programme is led by young people and that they work with staff and others through the means of an Eco Committee. At Blackpool Sixth, we also have the Eco Action enrichment group which works on practical environmental action and links closely with the Eco Committee.

## WHAT HAVE WE DONE AT BLACKPOOL SIXTH IN 2024-25?

- Carried out an environmental review of the college covering the 10 Eco Schools topics.
- Developed an action plan with projects focused on three topics: Biodiversity, Marine and Healthy Living.
- Run the 'Cut Your Carbon' campaign in November 2024 with the whole college community. We logged an amazing 431 carbon-cutting actions by students and staff. We ran an inter-PM group competition to see who could carry out the most actions.
- We have planted a further 400 trees in the college grounds, including creating a new mini-woodland area. We have planted over 1500 trees in the past 5 years.
- We cut the college's energy consumption - electricity down 6% (Sept - Jan) and gas down by 15% (Sept - May), substantially reducing our carbon footprint.
- We continued to promote our '5 A Day for the Environment' Eco Code.
- We organised and hosted the first ever Lancashire Youth Climate Conference and had 98 attendees from 17 schools/colleges/youth groups.

# PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



## BIODIVERSITY

- New mini-woodland area created
- Nest boxes installed and used by birds
- Long grass and wildflower areas created
- Became a release site for rescued hedgehogs
- Roe deer seen in college grounds for the first time



**Research by our A Level Biology students showed that the long-grass areas we had created were 3 times more plant species diverse, with an average of 7 species per square metre compared to 2 in the mown areas.**



## MARINE

- We held a 'Love Our Oceans Week' in college, featuring fundraising for a marine protection charity (£315 raised) and an 'Oceans Fair' with stalls from organisations offering volunteering and career opportunities
- We encouraged students and staff to cut their use of single-use plastics



## HEALTHY LIVING

- We promoted 'active travel' and swapping meat for plant-based days as part of our 'Cut Your Carbon' month in November 2024
- We held 'wellbeing' planting and nature-connection sessions for students
- We grew our own fruit, vegetables and herbs and shared the produce

# SUSTAINABILITY IN THE CURRICULUM



**A key part of our Eco Schools work is helping to ensure that sustainability and environmental topics are covered in the college's curriculum. Here are some examples:**



As part of the national Eco Schools 'Cut Your Carbon' week, Pastoral Mentor groups learnt about how individuals and families can take effective action to cut their carbon footprints.



BTEC Level 2 Personal Growth and Wellbeing students planted trees in college and did a litter pick as part of their community-focused module.

A Level Environmental Science students visited ENVECO in Blackpool to take part in a consultation on the new food waste regulations and to learn about how the area deals with its waste and recycling.



We are applying to maintain our Green Flag award to recognise the progress we have made together this year.



Our Eco Schools Committee will soon look at what our key projects should be for 2025-26. We want your ideas to help us shape those plans.



# WHAT'S NEXT?



We are looking for more students and staff to join our Eco Committee and Eco Action group and help us make next year our greenest yet!



Current and former members of our Eco Committee have now set up a Lancashire wide climate action group for 16-25 year olds, as part of the Lancashire Climate Action Network.



For more information contact the college's Eco Schools Co-ordinator, Jon McLeod

[jon.mcleod@blackpoolsixth.ac.uk](mailto:jon.mcleod@blackpoolsixth.ac.uk)

[www.blackpoolsixth.ac.uk/eco-committee](http://www.blackpoolsixth.ac.uk/eco-committee)



# BE THE CHANGE!

Great opportunities to make a difference and learn new skills

## ECO ACTION

Part of the 6Xtra programme.  
Meets weekly on Wednesdays.  
Practical, hands-on environmental activities, including:

- Wildlife conservation
- Growing fruit, veg and herbs
- Improving recycling in college
- Awareness campaigns
- Guest speakers / workshops / visits

SCAN ME



## Interested?

Come to one of our sessions on  
Wednesdays between 11.30 and 12.45.

Please contact

[jon.mcleod@blackpoolsixth.ac.uk](mailto:jon.mcleod@blackpoolsixth.ac.uk)  
before attending (as the venue and  
times sometimes changes) and let us  
know if you have any questions.



**TREE PLANTING**

**PLEASE RECYCLE THIS LEAFLET :)**



# Blackpool Sixth is an Eco School

## Eco Schools Committee

- Helping to lead the college's Eco Schools programme
- Maintaining 'Green Flag' status for the college
- Build your knowledge about sustainability
- Research and project management skills
- Communication, marketing and media skills
- Ideal experience for a wide range of careers and university courses

### Interested?

Contact our Eco Schools Co-ordinator, Jon McLeod,  
[jon.mcleod@blackpoolsixth.ac.uk](mailto:jon.mcleod@blackpoolsixth.ac.uk)



**Eco-Schools  
Green Flag Award**

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*PLEASE RECYCLE THIS LEAFLET :)*





## Close of the Conference

Our email: [lycc@blackpoolsixth.ac.uk](mailto:lycc@blackpoolsixth.ac.uk)

Our hashtag: #LYCC24

Additional information will be sent out through the staff members who came with you today.



SCAN  
ME!

