

Introduction

At The Sixth Form Bolton we are committed to sustainable actions. Sustainability encourages us to protect natural resources, reduce waste, and create systems that are environmentally friendly, economically viable, and socially fair.

In simple terms, sustainability is about making choices that are good for the planet, people, and the economy, both now and in the future. For us, sustainability is also about empowering young people to develop an appreciation of the environment and its relationship to their worlds.

In April 2022, the Department for Education published their Sustainability and Climate Change policy, which aligns with UK legislation to meet net zero by 2050. The Sixth Form Bolton encourage ambition and leadership, and as such we have set the ambitious challenge for The Sixth Form Bolton to achieve net zero by 2035.

Our Sustainability Working Group is currently working with the whole college community to evaluate and reduce our environmental impact. The College aims to align with the **'emerging College'** strategy to meet the DfE targets for the end of 2025.



Our environmental journey so far

The college established a Sustainability Working Group who meet regularly to work with the Senior Management Team on environmental matters, and to collaboratively facilitate further progress. The college is currently working with a Sustainability Consultant with the knowledge and experience to lead and develop a further ambitious strategy. The Sustainability Working Group will continue to be imperative to the successful implementation of this strategy.

Our sustainable actions so far to reduce our carbon footprint:

- ✓ Installation of LED lighting throughout the building, reducing energy usage by 57%
- ✓ New roof insulation which exceeds thermal targets
- ✓ Introduced recycling into all areas of the College
- ✓ Installed more efficient ventilations systems
- ✓ Old computers/laptops are traded in for carbon credits
- ✓ Extend the lifespan of equipment beyond the normal 3/5 year expected lifecycle
- ✓ 'Switch off' campaign to reduce energy
- ✓ Reduced postage costs
- ✓ Reusable water bottles and water fountains are used
- ✓ Introduced 'Approved Supplier Criteria' that aligns with our Sustainability Strategy

Student led projects in 2024-25 include:

- ✓ Green Skills Club - Enrichment
- ✓ Community Clean Up - Enrichment
- ✓ Eco Factory Experience - STEM
- ✓ Oxford Saïd Global Climate Change Challenge 2025 – STEM
- ✓ Sustainability Pathway designed by Suez Waste Management - PGP



Our Sustainability Goals



Knowledge

We are committed to empowering every B6 student with the environmental knowledge and skills needed to take meaningful action against climate change.

We ensure that all our students—regardless of their chosen subjects—leave B6 prepared to be informed, responsible, and proactive environmental champions wherever life takes them.



Curriculum

We are committed to embedding sustainable development principles across every aspect of our curriculum.

By providing resources and encouraging our academic staff to integrate sustainability into all subjects where possible, we aim to ensure that every course at B6 reflects our commitment to a more sustainable future.



Net Zero by 2035

We have set the ambitious goal for the college to achieve net zero emissions by 2035, including committing to removing all un-avoidable emissions; this is in line with the commitment made by Bolton Council and 15 years ahead of UK Government targets.



Environmental Impact

We are dedicated to reducing The Sixth Form Bolton's environmental impact through meaningful, responsible action.

We are actively reviewing and challenging all internal processes, making necessary changes to minimise our environmental footprint—while continuing to deliver the exceptional standard of education our students deserve.

Emerging College - Sustainability Action Plan 2024-25

FE Climate Action Roadmap Objective	College Targets	Measure
Gather college views on sustainability	<p>Distribute sustainability-focused questionnaires to students, staff, and parents</p> <p>Hold termly focus groups with students and staff to explore ideas and feedback</p> <p>Promote active participation through Learner Voice and the Green Skills Club</p>	<p>Achieve at least 70% response rate across all groups</p> <p>Analyse survey results to identify key sustainability concerns and priorities</p> <p>Host a minimum of three focus groups per academic year</p> <p>Create an action plan based on feedback</p> <p>Increase participation in Learner Voice and Green Skills Club by 25% each year</p> <p>Track and report on the number of initiatives or projects proposed and implemented by Learner Voice and Green Skills Club members</p>

FE Climate Action Roadmap Objective	College Targets	Measure
Establish Sustainability Committee	<p>Form and lead a staff Sustainability Working Group to drive initiatives and share best practices</p> <p>Establish and support a student Sustainability Working Group to engage learners in sustainability action</p> <p>Develop and cost-out potential models for a dedicated Sustainability Lead role</p> <p>Create a detailed job description outlining responsibilities and expectations for the Sustainability Lead</p>	<p>Hold monthly meetings to discuss sustainability initiatives, with at least 80% attendance from group members</p> <p>Develop and publish a Sustainability Strategy</p> <p>Form the student working group with at least 10 active members from across the curriculum</p> <p>Host at least two student-led sustainability projects or campaigns each academic year</p> <p>Present at least three potential models for the Sustainability Lead role to senior leadership for approval</p> <p>Secure budget allocation for the Sustainability Lead role within 12 months</p> <p>Develop the job description ensuring it aligns with college sustainability goals</p>

FE Climate Action Roadmap Objective	College Targets	Measure
Measure college carbon footprint using existing data	<p>Collect and analyse data on energy use, fuel consumption, waste generation, and, where possible, travel and procurement</p> <p>Apply recognised emission factors to calculate total greenhouse gas emissions (tCO₂e)</p>	Employ an external company to calculate Scope 1 and 2 emissions
Meet with leaders to set net zero target	<p>Engage with senior leadership to agree on a formal Net Zero emissions target</p> <p>Set a 2035 Net Zero goal in alignment with Bolton Council's climate commitments</p>	<p>Obtain formal agreement from senior leadership on a Net Zero target within 12 months</p> <p>Develop a Net Zero action plan by the end of the 2025, outlining key milestones and initiatives to achieve the 2035 goal</p>
Publish targets	Publish the Net Zero target in college sustainability communications and strategic documents	<p>Ensure the Net Zero target is featured on the College website and sustainability pages within 1 month of finalising the target</p> <p>Include a visible Net Zero target in key College spaces (physical or digital), such as on campus bulletin boards, digital screens, and the College intranet</p>

FE Climate Action Roadmap Objective	College Targets	Measure
Sign the Race to Zero for Universities and Colleges	<p>Join the Race to Zero initiative, committing to achieving net-zero emissions by 2035</p> <p>Develop a decarbonisation pathway outlining key actions and milestones</p> <p>Use existing data (e.g., SECR reports) to measure and report on emissions reductions annually</p>	<p>Obtain formal approval from senior leadership for the Race to Zero commitment</p> <p>Complete the development of the decarbonisation pathway within 6 months, with clear milestones for 2025, 2030, and beyond</p> <p>Present the decarbonisation pathway to senior leadership for approval and incorporate feedback before finalising</p> <p>Complete and publish the first annual emissions reduction report within 12 months, tracking progress against the 2030 Net Zero goal</p>
Ensure recycling/signage is available throughout building	<p>Install recycling stations in key areas across the building for easy access</p> <p>Ensure all recycling stations are clearly marked with appropriate signage</p> <p>Raise awareness through staff and student engagement campaigns on proper recycling practices</p>	<p>Ensure that recycling stations are placed in areas with clear visibility and accessibility to all. Ensure recycling stations are monitored and emptied regularly</p> <p>Design and install clear, easy-to-understand signage for all recycling stations within 1 month</p> <p>Launch at least two awareness campaigns per year (e.g., during sustainability weeks, Earth Day, etc) targeting both staff and students</p>

FE Climate Action Roadmap Objective	College Targets	Measure
Deliver carbon literacy training to staff and students	<p>Develop and implement a carbon literacy training programme for all staff and students.</p> <p>Ensure training covers key concepts such as carbon footprints, emissions reduction, and sustainable practices</p>	All staff to have received Carbon Literacy training by the end of the 2025/26 academic year
Implement strategies to reduce energy use	<p>Conduct an energy audit to identify key areas for improvement in energy efficiency</p> <p>Develop and implement an energy reduction plan, focusing on high-consumption areas</p> <p>Upgrade lighting, heating, and cooling systems to more energy-efficient alternatives</p> <p>Encourage energy-saving behaviours through campaigns and staff/student engagement</p> <p>Monitor and report energy consumption annually, adjusting strategies as needed to meet reduction goals</p>	To be agreed after the emissions audit is completed.

FE Climate Action Roadmap Objective	College Targets	Measure
Negotiate with food suppliers for sustainable food options	<p>Engage with food supplier to source sustainable, locally produced ingredients with a greater focus on plant-based options</p> <p>Ensure food supplier provide recyclable or compostable packaging, eliminating single-use plastics</p> <p>Prioritise suppliers who adhere to ethical sourcing practices and support sustainable farming methods</p> <p>Monitor and track progress on reducing the College's environmental impact, particularly in relation to food-related carbon footprints and waste</p>	<p>Increase the percentage of plant-based menu options by at least 20% within the next year</p> <p>Transition to 100% recyclable or compostable packaging for all food items within 6 months</p> <p>Ensure that no single-use plastics are used by the end of the academic year</p> <p>Set criteria for ethical sourcing, such as fair-trade certification, animal welfare standards, or environmental certifications</p> <p>Establish a baseline measurement of the College's food-related carbon footprint within the next 12 months, using data such as energy use, food miles, and packaging waste</p>

The Sixth Form Bolton is developing a Sustainability Strategy for 2026 onwards that will continue to meet the needs of the College and the wider community. This will be published in due course.