



Sustainability Strategy

2026-2027

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 2040.

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 2026.



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.

Our sustainable actions so far to reduce our carbon footprint:

- ✓ Installation of LED lighting throughout the building, reducing energy usage by 57%
- ✓ Installation of roof insulation exceeding thermal performance targets
- ✓ Installation of solar panels across the College roof
- ✓ Introduction of recycling facilities across main College areas, including food and liquid waste streams
- ✓ Installation of more efficient ventilation systems
- ✓ Trade-in of old IT equipment in exchange for carbon credits
- ✓ Extension of equipment lifecycles beyond the standard 3–5 years
- ✓ Fruit trees being planted - pollinators
- ✓ Investment in indoor plants to improve wellbeing and air quality
- ✓ Building Management System (BMS) improvements to monitor electrical usage
- ✓ Air Con turned off by default during Spring and Summer months (April to October)
- ✓ Introduction of a 'Switch Off' energy reduction campaign
- ✓ Transition to fully electronic communications, significantly reducing postage
- ✓ Provision of reusable water bottles and installation of additional water fountains
- ✓ Sale of only cans and rPET bottled water in vending machines
- ✓ Reduction of marketing print
- ✓ Introduction of sustainable cleaning products
- ✓ Implementation of Approved Supplier Criteria aligned with the Sustainability Strategy
- ✓ Key staff are trained as Carbon Literacy Champions and can deliver Carbon Literacy Training
- ✓ Delivery of Carbon Literacy training for all staff and students
- ✓ Developed a Sustainability Learner Voice Group and Student Lead

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.



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.



Net Zero by 2040

We have set the ambitious goal for the college to achieve net zero emissions by 2040, including committing to removing all un-avoidable emissions.

Emerging College - Sustainability Action Plan 2026-27

FE Climate Action Roadmap Objective	College Targets	Measure
Gather college views on sustainability	Distribute sustainability-focused annual questionnaires to students, staff, and parents Continue to hold termly focus groups with students and staff to explore ideas and feedback Promote active participation through Learner Voice and the Green Skills Club	Achieve at least 50% response rate across all groups Analyse survey results to identify key sustainability concerns and priorities Host a minimum of three focus groups per academic year Create an action plan based on feedback Increase participation in Learner Voice and Green Skills Club by 10% each year Track and report on the number of initiatives or projects proposed and implemented by Learner Voice and Green Skills Club members

FE Climate Action Roadmap Objective	College Targets	Measure
Establish Sustainability Committee	Continue to lead a staff Sustainability Working Group to drive initiatives and share best practices Continue to support a student Sustainability Working Group to engage learners in sustainability action	Hold regular meetings to discuss sustainability initiatives, with at least 80% attendance from group members Publish an annual Sustainability Strategy Form the student working group with at least 5 active members from across the curriculum Host at least two student-led sustainability projects or campaigns each academic year
Measure college carbon footprint using existing data	Continue to collect and analyse data on energy use, fuel consumption and, where possible, travel and procurement Apply recognised emission factors to calculate total greenhouse gas emissions (tCO₂e)	• Scope 1,2 and 3 tCO₂e emissions • Electricity consumption (kWh) • Gas consumption (kWh) • % electricity from renewable sources • On-site renewable energy generated (kWh), e.g. solar
Meet with leaders to set net zero target	Engage with senior leadership to agree on a formal Net Zero emissions target	Obtain formal agreement from senior leadership on a Net Zero target within 12 months

FE Climate Action Roadmap Objective	College Targets	Measure
Publish targets and related strategies	Publish the Net Zero target in college sustainability communications and strategic documents Publish Sustainability Strategy on the college website	Ensure the Net Zero target is featured on the College website and sustainability pages within 1 month of finalising the target 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
Sign the Race to Zero for Universities and Colleges	Join the Race to Zero initiative, committing to achieving net-zero emissions by 2040 Develop a decarbonisation pathway outlining key actions and milestones Use existing data (e.g., SECR reports) to measure and report on emissions reductions annually	Obtain formal approval from senior leadership for the Race to Zero commitment Complete the development of the decarbonisation pathway within 12 months, with clear milestones for 2030, 2035, and beyond Present the decarbonisation pathway to senior leadership for approval and incorporate feedback before finalising Complete and publish the first annual emissions reduction report within 12 months, tracking progress against the 2040 Net Zero goal
Ensure recycling/signage is available throughout building	Maintain recycling stations in key areas across the building for easy access Raise awareness through staff and student engagement campaigns on proper recycling practices	Ensure recycling stations are monitored and emptied regularly Launch at least two awareness campaigns per year (e.g., during sustainability weeks, Earth Day, etc) targeting both staff and students

FE Climate Action Roadmap Objective	College Targets	Measure
Deliver carbon literacy training to staff and students	Continue with a carbon literacy training programme for all staff and students. Ensure training covers key concepts such as carbon footprints, emissions reduction, and sustainable practices	All staff and students to have received Carbon Literacy training by the end of the 2026/27 academic year
Implement strategies to reduce energy use	• Reducing Heat Loss • Optimising heating and lighting • Move to more efficient lighting • Lighting controls • Turning off unused equipment • Effective maintenance programs of heating/cooling systems	• Total energy consumption (Gas + Electricity) - kWh/year • Electricity Consumption - kWh/year • Gas consumption - kWh/year • Carbon emissions - tCO₂e/year • LED lighting Coverage - % of fittings that are LED • Renewable Energy Generation - kWh/year
Conduct biodiversity survey of estate	Increase biodiversity opportunities across the College estate year-on-year through appropriate planting and habitat improvements, recognising the limitations of our urban, landlocked site.	Indoor/Outdoor Planting where appropriate. Bird/Insect habitats where practical. Biodiversity considerations included in future refurbishments and estate projects.

FE Climate Action Roadmap Objective	College Targets	Measure
Negotiate with food suppliers for sustainable food options	Continue to engage with food supplier to source sustainable, locally produced ingredients with a greater focus on plant-based options Ensure food supplier provide recyclable or compostable packaging, eliminating single-use plastics Prioritise suppliers who adhere to ethical sourcing practices and support sustainable farming methods	Increase the percentage of plant-based menu options by at least 20% within the next year Transition to 80% recyclable or compostable packaging for all food items within 6 months Set criteria for ethical sourcing, such as fair-trade certification, animal welfare standards, or environmental certifications
Complete a single use plastics and takeaway cup audit.	Complete six-monthly single use plastics and takeaway cup audits.	Reduce usage by 25% annually.
Engage teaching and learning community with ESD	Ensure that all students in the first and the second year have basic sustainability education through two tutor group sessions. All pastoral staff to receive basic training from a Senior Leader. Students will complete individual pledges and feedback to their tutor.	Greater engagement from learners throughout the College with sustainability initiatives e.g. Green Club, Sustainability enrichment, successful recycling, Green Careers Week etc. Measure participation in these activities.

FE Climate Action Roadmap Objective	College Targets	Measure
Include sustainability in learner progression IAG	Careers team to embed sustainability and green careers within learner progression IAG. Green Careers Week in November will provide a particular focus, with a programme of events and activities exploring how environmental and sustainability issues are influencing different sectors, careers and future employment opportunities.	By the end of their programme of study, learners will be able to articulate how sustainability is relevant to their intended destination and identify the skills, knowledge and opportunities required to progress within their chosen sector.
Modify estates strategy in-line with net zero target	Reduction in estate-related carbon emissions and energy consumption.	• Scope 1 and 2 tCO₂e emissions • Electricity consumption (kWh) • Gas consumption (kWh) • % electricity from renewable sources • On-site renewable energy generated (kWh), e.g. solar
Join communities of practice and network groups	Careers to attend relevant employer engagement events, communities of practice and networking groups throughout the academic year to develop and strengthen relationships with employers and professionals working in sustainability and the green economy.	The College will develop a wider network of employers and professionals across a range of sectors linked to the green economy, creating opportunities to strengthen sustainability-related careers education, employer engagement and learner progression.