



CHELTENHAM
COLLEGE

Climate Action Report

2023-2024

Green



Growing

Climate Action Report 2023-2024

REVIEW OF ACTIVITY AND PROGRESS ACROSS THE YEAR

Introduction

Following on from our first year of dedicated sustainability action, 2023-2024 has seen further development of our founding objectives and the completion of a range of successful projects in support of our Sustainability Strategy.

It has been fantastic to start to see the tangible positive effects of our direct action, achieved not only through operational improvements but equally by increasing education and engagement opportunities for our community.

We are delighted to have made progress in many areas against our Climate Action Plan, as detailed in the following pages.



Renewable Futures

Working to reduce our direct impact on the environment through physical changes to our estate and operational improvements



Highlights and progress:

- Our Energy Management Committee continues to bring together key stakeholders to actively and responsibly manage our energy consumption and procurement. As well as scrutinising our consumption data and identifying optimal opportunities for intervention, the Committee provides a forum for capturing sustainability initiatives within our works programme and making transparent the decision-making processes behind these.
- A new Building Management System has been installed across the site which now allows us to remotely control our heating systems on a granular level for each building. This is a significant step forwards from a more manual process which we have historically relied on, and will help us to minimise energy wastage, particularly over the holiday periods.
- New sub-meters have been installed in a number of Boarding Houses to allow us to accurately track gas and electricity consumption on a building-by-building basis. We have begun to capture this baseline data so that it can be used from January 2025 to help drive meaningful behaviour change through inter-house competitions and engagement events.
- A significant focus this year has been on the completion of our mandatory ESOS submission (Energy Savings Opportunity Scheme), which has involved data analysis and site audits to report on our energy consumption over the Phase III period. We have taken an active role in this process, working alongside our Lead Assessor, to really engage with our own data so that we can actively use this going forwards to implement some of the suggested opportunities for improvement, such as voltage optimisation and insulation projects.
- Over the past year, Cheltenham College has been involved in the Active Businesses Gloucestershire network, allowing us to learn about and contribute to local initiatives in support of active and sustainable travel.

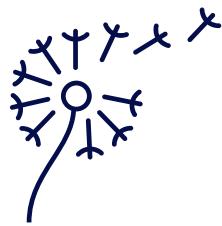


Next steps:

- ⇒ Rolling out the installation of automated smart-metering, to improve the accuracy and regularity of how we capture our energy consumption data.
- ⇒ Pursuing opportunities for the installation of Solar PV on or near our Sports Centre, to provide renewable energy to this high-use building.
- ⇒ Beginning to review requirements for the renewal of our energy contract in 2026, including scrutiny of suppliers' sustainability credentials.
- ⇒ Following our final ESOS submission, creating our ESOS Action Plan and meeting further compliance requirements for progress updates.
- ⇒ Instigating pupil-led behaviour change initiatives for energy reduction.

Giving Back to Nature

Evolving our policies and practices towards a sustainable model which celebrates, nurtures and protects our beautiful gardens and grounds



Highlights and progress:

- Bird boxes which have been specifically designed to support hole-nesting birds have been installed across College at each of our Boarding Houses, to help attract wildlife to our urban site. We have also begun a project to roll-out specific swift nesting houses at key locations across College and The Prep to provide a vital habitat for this declining species.
- At the outdoor classroom area of The Prep we also have some new homemade habitat boxes, crafted from trees felled from College's own land, housing various creatures from bats and owls to birds and insects.
- Our Gardens team have chosen a few strategic areas to manage as low-nutrient input lawns. This means that they are cut on a less frequent rotation and use no fertilisers or chemical weeding to allow the plants a chance to flower and set seed, in turn benefitting invertebrates. For example, the lawn between Senior Science and Languages has been overseeded with a low growing mix of flowering native plants including ox eye daisy, birdsfoot trefoil and red fescue.
- We are delighted to see our Rain Garden at the Sports Centre in bloom this Summer, following its construction and planting last year with the help of the Prep Sustainability Super Squad. The new water storage and distribution system allows us to harvest rainwater directly from the building's roof, helping to reduce our consumption of this vital resource. The sensory planting scheme has been designed to provide a habitat for varied wildlife and attract pollinating insects.

- At College, the Prefect team were responsible for instigating a sustainable remembrance poppy project. They used poppy badges, crafted from wildflower seed paper, have been planted along the boundary on Sandford Road. When they bloom in the years to come, they will provide a spectacular display of colour and help to create a biodiversity highway through our urban site.

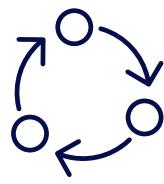


Next steps:

- ⇒ Identifying further sites for the installation of rainwater capture and irrigation systems across College and The Prep.
- ⇒ Providing further opportunities for pupils to get involved in creating and maintaining green spaces around the site, through curricular and co-curricular activities.
- ⇒ Continuing to adapt our operational policies and practices towards a more sustainable model.
- ⇒ Collaboration with others as a stakeholder for the Science Garden Redevelopment project.

A Circular Movement

Using resources considerately and effectively to meet our present and future needs, whilst reducing our impact on the environment



Highlights and progress:

- As we continue to reduce our use of disposables, we have introduced a new reusable option for cold drinks in College Coffee and switched to bamboo straws. Holroyd Howe have also been increasing the range of homemade cakes on offer, to reduce the volume of bought-in pre-packaged goods.
- The roll-out of new recycling facilities in boarding houses continues, with new units in place in Queens and Christowe this year and plans for three further houses in 2024.
- We have introduced a new dedicated recycling stream for batteries, with new receptacles at both Senior and The Prep, which will bring both environmental and safety benefits.
- This year, College has partnered with the social enterprise British Book Rescue to donate 40 boxes of books that were no longer needed here, which will now be given a new home. These books may support education and spark a love of reading in other institutions around the world including schools and prisons, where books may otherwise be inaccessible. Others may be used to raise funds to support the work of charities.
- Last Summer a group of College pupils gathered a total of 300kg of unused Cheltenham College and Cheltenham Prep sports kit. Rather than being disposed of, these items were sent to the Mango Tree Charity in Tanzania and Kenya so that they can continue to have a useful life.



Next steps:

- ⇒ Continuing the roll-out of our new recycling infrastructure across College boarding houses, and extending to classrooms and common spaces.
- ⇒ Continuing to reduce our use of disposable products in our catering outlets, particularly looking at takeaway containers in Valens in conjunction with refurbishment of this space.
- ⇒ Implementing a 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' scheme to ensure that we are extending the life of everyday products used throughout College and The Prep, such as stationery, furniture and old uniform.
- ⇒ Identifying further steps to reduce paper usage in teaching and learning environments.



Inspiring Tomorrow's Leaders

Embedding sustainable learning and engagement opportunities in everything we do, raising awareness and fostering lasting behaviour change



Highlights and progress:

- This year we have been delighted to work with our newly appointed Sustainability Prefects at College to develop a range of education and engagement initiatives which are peer-led. A highlight was our speaker event with Hugh Pearson of Oceanic Films, a marine biologist and wildlife filmmaker. The event was organised by Ella, one of our Prefects. It was fascinating to hear from Hugh about his career journey and to get a behind-the-scenes look at the production of some of our favourite blockbuster series including *The Blue Planet* and *Africa*. It was also important to hear Hugh's first-hand experience of how our oceans are changing due to the impact of climate change and human activity, and the challenges facing the future health of our seas.
- There have been over 1500 page views from Cheltenham College pupils and staff of the Resurgence & Ecologist online publication over 2023, which we subscribed to last year, and this has now been renewed for 2024. The educational magazine addresses a range of environmental and social challenges and opportunities, from the future of food to ethical fashion.
- Our Sustainability Newsletter continues to be very well received by pupils and staff, providing updates on initiatives alongside relevant global news.



Next steps:

- ⇒ Continuing to utilise the Sustainability Working Group to drive forward projects in all areas of school life and operations, with a particular focus on tying in with academic subjects.
- ⇒ Working with our next College Sustainability Prefect to provide more opportunities for pupils to become involved in sustainability activities, developing a network of sustainability champions across the Boarding Houses.
- ⇒ Establishing a schedule of sustainability practices that each pupil can implement daily during the school day.
- ⇒ Working closely with our Marketing Team to ensure that we are effectively communicating our objectives and sharing positive progress.
- ⇒ Exploring partnership opportunities for pupils to become involved in local collaborative educational and activities and networks



For any further information, or to get involved in our sustainability work, please contact us on
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