Environmental and Sustainable Update – Issue #6 Dec 2024

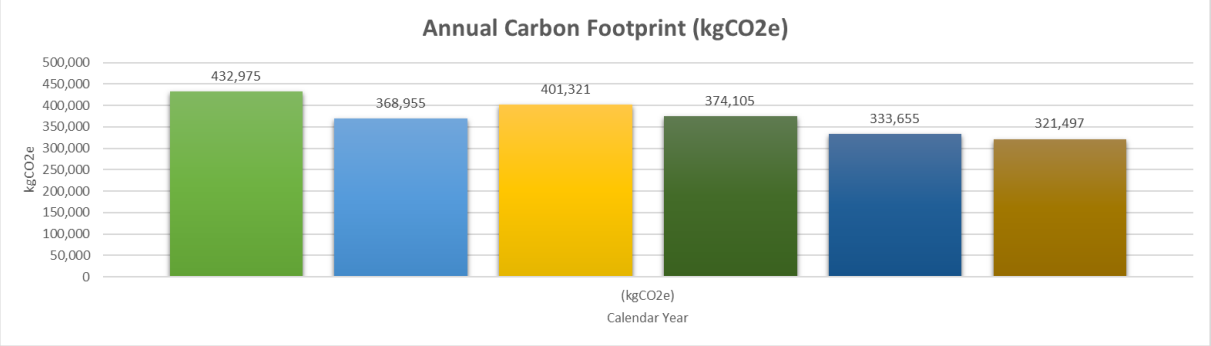
Mission Statement

Bird College is committed to apply sustainable development across college activities, working closely with staff, students and our wider community to help change the world for the better, aligning with the Colleges' core values.

COMMITTEE ➲ Staff and Student Reps ➲ Termly Meetings ➲ Actions ➲ Continuous Improvement Plan ➲ COMMITTEE

If you are interested in joining our committee or have a suggestion, please contact Our Green Champion, Paul Mancini

Carbon Footprint



Based on a combination of parameters, our current Carbon Footprint is in line with industry standards **(Carbon Trust, 2021)**

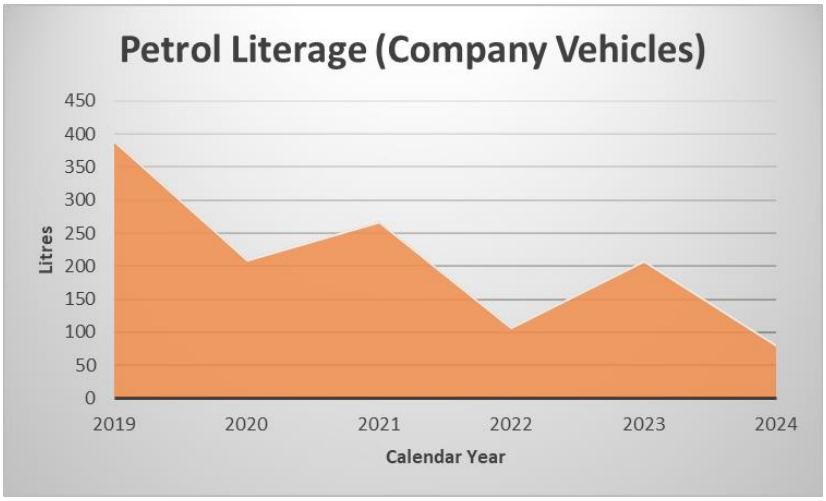
Our mid-year prediction was 5.11% overall footprint reduction by end of 2024 which we have fallen just short of, largely due to a huge surge of gas during the installation of new equipment. **Leading to an annual decrease of 3.64%**

This is still a massive reduction of 25.7% since 2019!!

The above include 12 months' consolidated figures (combining Gas, Electric, F-Gas and Diesel)

Our annual target is to reduce by 5%.

- **Petrol Usage: We are tracking staff travel to work (respective CO2 (Kg) and litres used by our company vans**



- The recruitment of our experienced set builder, sale of non ULEZ-compliant large van has led to a steep decline in mileage. **Since 2019,** the mileage has dropped by whopping **79%**
- There has been an increase in raw materials (due to set building) and an un-verified increase in deliveries to support this reduction in collection of materials and props in particular.

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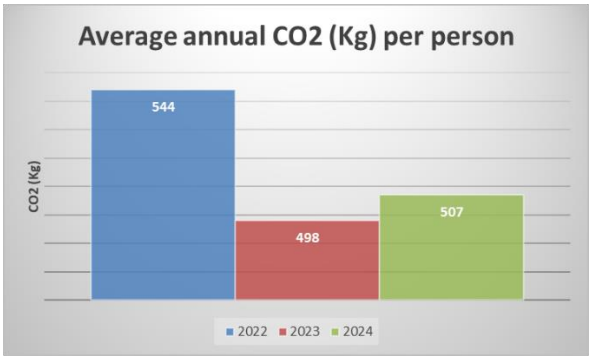

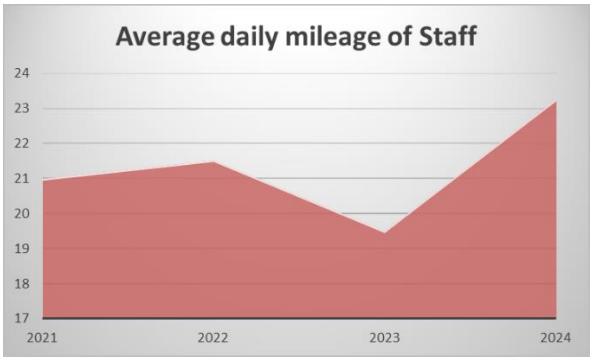

- Driving/recruitment appears to be changing as staff live from further away, reflected in 19.3% more miles
- STAFF: Have your driving to work habits changed recently? Do you use public transport or cycle more?

1 Day per week using foot, train, bus or bike = 108 x **saved per year**

- The college has struck up a deal with Halford and Salary Extra's to help staff acquire discounted deals on bikes and e-bikes. Speak to HR today @ HR@birdcollege.co.uk for more information

Utilities

ELECTRIC

1. Standing item in staff meeting (MTD / Yr on Yr comparison discussed)
2. Green Champion Year on Year tracking and updates to teams weekly
3. Rooms 15 and 126 both changed from flourescent and reduced
4. Plant room refurbishment include a massive reduction in electric demand

GAS

A. Installation of new plant room x 2 condensing boiler, buffer tank and heat exchange (Nov and Dec impact)
B. Active management of thermostats
C. Weekend efficiency behaviours /zonal use

NOTE: Electric savings have become more challenging given the influx of new assets related to HVAC replacements and Air Conditioning throughout the site – however, versus 2023 we achieved a reduction **of** **circa 4.9%**

- ✓ **Since 2019, there has been a total decrease in electricity of 23%!!**

Target 16: Replace office old fluorescent lighting in 15 and 126 with high efficiency LED panels - COMPLETED

- ✓ *In late June 24 we upgraded the lighting in offices 15 and 126 to LED panel 600x600 from old fluorescents and reduced the wattage in each room by 50% and 75% respectively.*

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- **Continue to replace standing lamps upon failure with LED upgrade, as and when.**

NEW TARGET* - *Target 20: Replace old fluorescent lighting in 128 with high efficiency LEDs* - *NEW TARGET

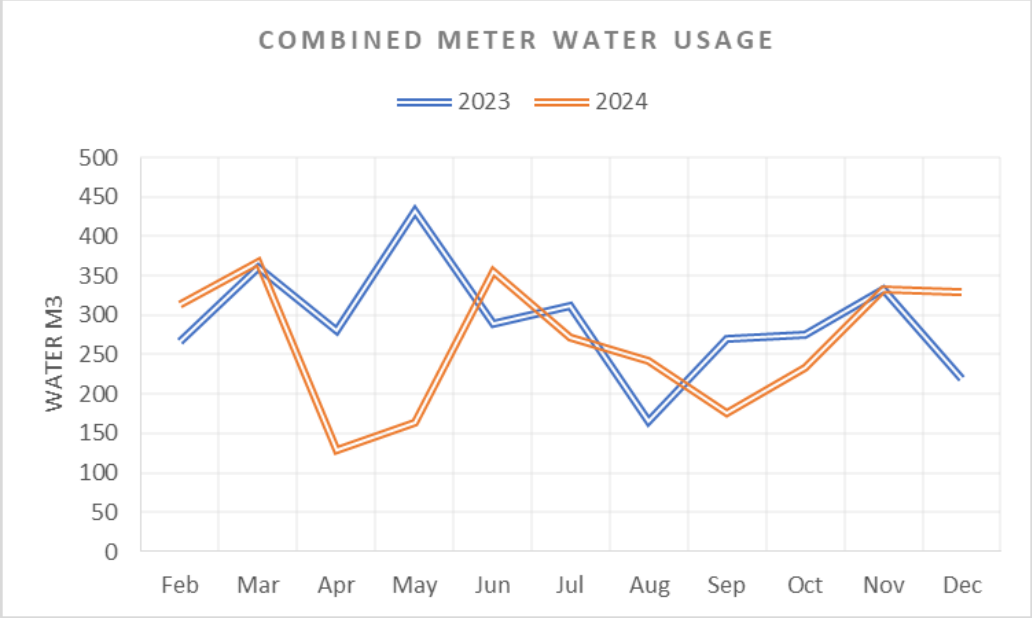
Target 15: Complete South Block Plant Room Gas Boiler Upgrade - COMPLETED

- The main plant room instal was 30 years old, inefficient, and as of Jan 24 only operating at 25% functionality.
- A full new schematic system has been installed including 2 x condensing boilers connected to a buffer tank & heat exchange to protect water quality and prolong boiler life cycles while meeting current regulations.
- This huge investment will safeguard the college heating for 20-25 years, but the equipment will immediately behave at circa 30% higher efficiency than the previous system. This will achieve financial and carbon savings.

✓ **Versus 2023, we achieved a total annual Gas reduction of circa 28.4%**
✓ **Versus 2019 the total reduction is a whopping 52%**
- **In 2025, we hope to complete the above Plant Room upgrade and achieve another 10% Gas reduction**

Target 14: Target a college-wide decrease in water usage by 5% versus 2023 - COMPLETED

- Our Current total combined usage is **2914 m3 (Jan-Dec)**
- **This is a drop in usage of 9.1% overall versus 2023**



- **Alongside ensuring we analyse how our usage is affected by our other contributor, Birkbeck Primary**
- **We are liaising monthly with Birkbeck Primary on their sub-metering totals**

Water Regs UK, 2024 – Check HERE for more tips to help save water

NEW TARGET* - *Target 21: Introduce water-efficiency training for some staff to help continued water reduction* - *NEW TARGET

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Suppliers and Procurement

Target 17: Work with 2/3 existing, trusted suppliers who have not yet shown policy/accreditation - COMPLETED

- ✓ The volume of audited suppliers has increased to 39 from 32 in 2023
- ✓ 2 long term existing suppliers have now produced proof of policy / accreditation
- ✓ **Our goal to achieve >85% of current suppliers is currently achieved @ 89.7%**

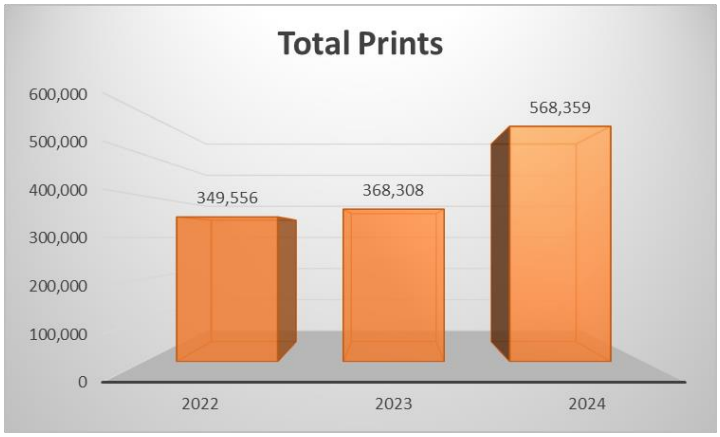
NEW TARGET - Target 22: Move onto discussions with all Theatre suppliers to establish accreditation - NEW TARGET

Target 6: Find cost effective eco-alternatives to current clear and black bin bags and general consumable stock. - ARCHIVE

- **We are working within our current budgetary restraints and stock requirements to order as sustainably as possible. We have found it difficult to change this over the last 24 months' but we will review this in 12 months**

Recycling / Waste

Printing drastically escalated this year sadly, in part due to Ofsted, inclusion of all 2025 musicals x 6 scripts and behaviour.



- ❖ All scripts are now printed which takes the bulk of this process.
- ❖ Our Outstanding Ofsted inspection is recognised to have contributed heavily to the increase particularly in January, which was almost 50% higher than last January.

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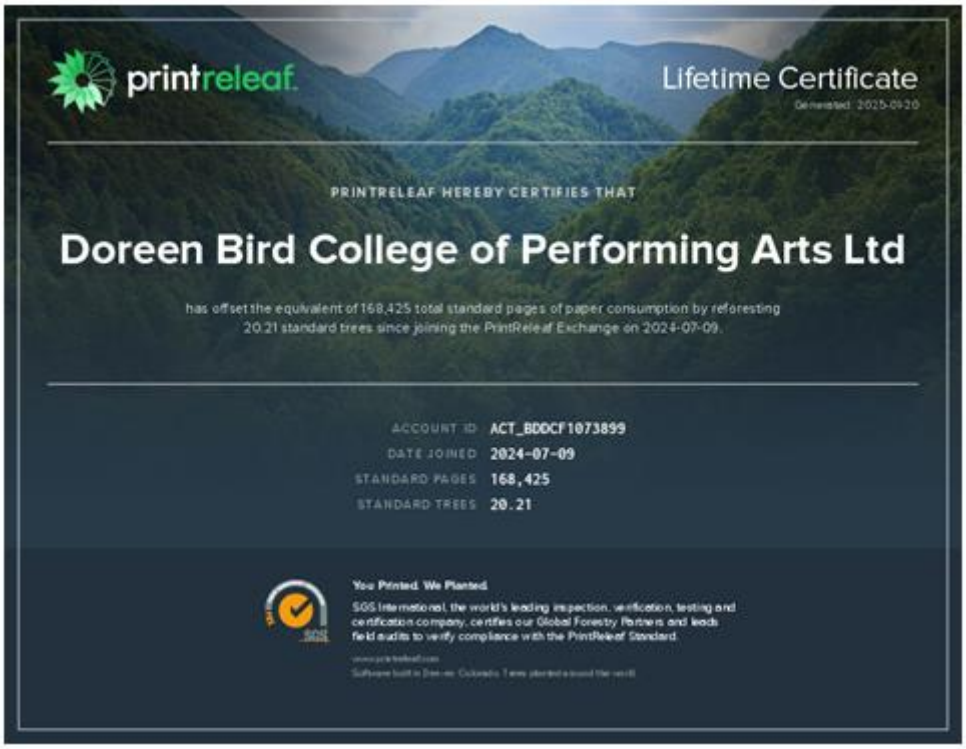
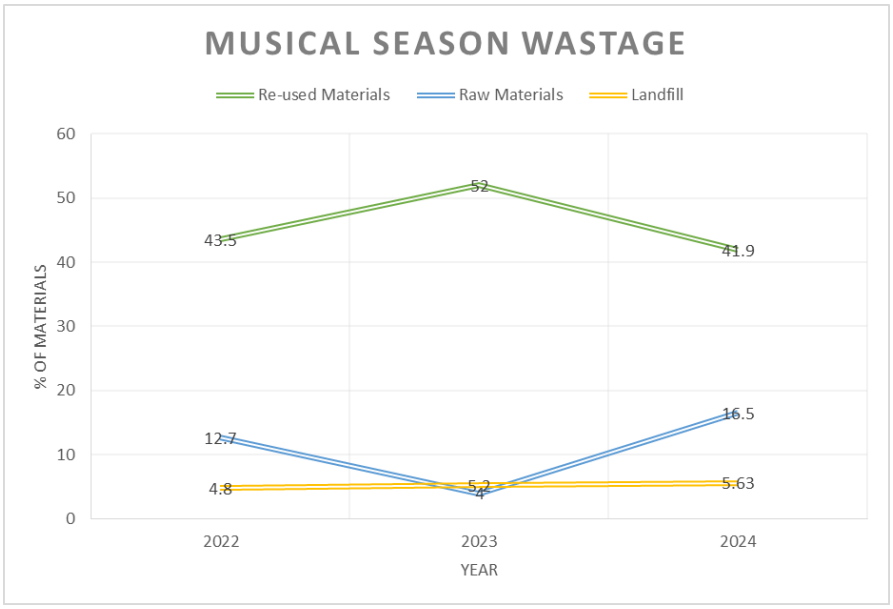
- ❖ As a small positive note, our ratio of prints in colour has decreased by another 0.5% down to 12.7% which helps the college financially, albeit overall costs have increase by £1k annually.
- ❖ To combat this – we are lucky to be working with a provider partners with Printreleaf, certified by (SGS International) who are helping to offset our print volume by planting trees (currently 11.24)



- ✓ In line with our Climate Crisis Working Group and framework provided in **The Green Book** by the National Theatre



- ❖ 2024 Musical Season saw a huge increase in raw materials as our new set builder developed core parts of sustainable staging to use across multiple shows.
- ❖ During set production we are still making as many sustainable choices as we can with our purchases and builds:
- ✓ Sourcing as much material as possible from reclamation
- ✓ Pass on set and scrap material which we have finished with and can't store to local production companies
- ✓ Huge summer clearance of redundant materials stock (1 x tonnes) wood to recycling plant in Erith, not landfill
- ✓ Re-using set piping in the production workshop for extraction

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- Our core goals for 2025 season will be to:
  (A) Return land fill materials to under 5%
  (B) Increase re-used materials above 2023 high of 52%
  (C) Decrease Raw Materials below 10%

- The theatre climate crisis goals are now shared with producers and creatives for the show season, and this process is aimed at producing deeper planning and consideration to sustainable elements of each production

NEW TARGET* - *Target XXXXXX: Sustainable Show resources Targets* - *NEW TARGET

- **We are attempting to more accurately apportion the different elements/props in each set to more fairly analyse**
- **We are hopeful to understand from industry equals how this analysis is performed accurately (Rose Bru/National Theatre) by this is a resource and time intensive exercise requiring the correct relationships**

Do you know anyone in the industry (production/set-building) who works in sustainability?

PLEASE GET IN TOUCH!!

Target 7: To widen recycling to include: Dance wear, shoes, metals, bags, f-gas contaminants, furniture and water bottles'

Range of recycled materials now in 2024 includes: Batteries, Florescent bulbs, shredding, computer parts, IT equipment (securely), printer cartridges and now Textiles (RagBag Collections)

- ✓ Water bottles are collected in abundance and are recycled in mass at our local refuse centre in Sidcup.
- ✓ We are now also working with another charity who has helped re-purpose old summer camp beds for short courses that we run and water bottles (**Mothers of Africa Cry Out Ltd**)

- **We are continuing to investigate our approach to recycling general furniture and metals**
- **We are hopeful of achieving a more structured approach to recycling metals with Bexley Council**

Target 8: To create a dedicated recycling hub within the site.

- **We have a provisional budget to provide 2 sets of dedicated / purpose-built recycling hubs.**
- This remains an operational target for us this financial year and is again included into 24/25 budget book

Target 10: To show an increase in core recycling materials as a percentage of the total volume of waste produced (Paper, Plastics and Food). - ARCHIVE

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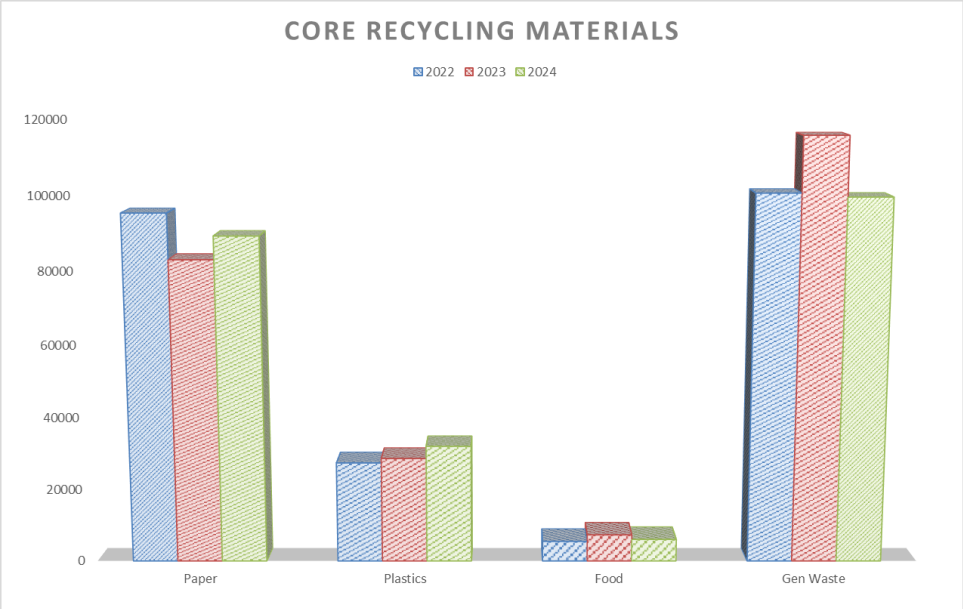
- 2024 has been a more positive year of recycling for the college.

- ✓ We have returned to a college high of 56.1% (last achieved in 2022) of all waste materials being recycled:
- ✓ Paper increase @ 7.6.% higher
- ✓ Plastics increase @ 11.8.% higher
- ✓ Which have contributed to a reduction in General Waste by 14.0%

- **Refocus required and communication broadly to staff and students at the start of academic year about impact**



Certification / Accreditation

- ✓ BREEAM accreditation will be under consideration during next site master plan development
- ✓ There are no new developments on any further accreditation and/or certification

Engagement / Student Participation

Target 19: To engage on key agendas raised in monthly literature and bi-annual reports on socials

- As part of new agenda, Green Champion compiled an annual calendar of awareness days to bring to staff and student's attention, using in-house literature and social media. For example, so far this year we have pushed:

Month	Awareness Days promoted
January	Veganuary Month01/01 to 31/01 and Houseplant Week 8/01 to 14/01
February	World Wetlands Day 02/02
March	World Wildlife Day 03/03, Global Recycling 18/03 & World Water Day 22/03
April	Earth Day 22/04 (below), Stop Food Waste Day 24/04
May	Water Saving Week 20/05 to 26/05
June	The Great Big Green Week 08/06 to 16/06 and World Refill Day 16/06
July	Plastic Free July
August	Food Waster Month
Sept	Second Hand September 01/09 to 30/09 World Car Free Day 22/09
Oct	Recycle Now Week 14/10 to 20/10, International Walk to School Month
Nov	World Vegan Month
Dec	Energy Usage throughout the year

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- Please see HERE for a sample of our literature that we promote around the college
- ✓ Please see HERE on the Bird College Homepage to celebrate the committees' work and progress as an institution
- ✓ 6-monthly updates are publicised, such as this and more information on the committee members are available

Catering

- ✓ Bartlett Mitchell have strong sustainable ethics and we are proud and grateful to partner with them.
- ✓ In November 2024, Bartlett Mitchell achieved their Top Bronze Ecovadis Sustainable rating, putting them in the top 35 percentile of certified companies worldwide – See more HERE

- ✓ Bartlett Mitchell also recently became the first UK caterer to serve Regenerative Organic Coffee, served at Bird

Target 18: We aim to reduce the meat offering down to 66% from 90% last year - COMPLETED

- Freshers BBQ in Sept 2024 will aim to provide minimum 33% veggie options versus only 10% last year

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Ongoing Targets

Target	Context	Decision
Target 7: To widen recycling to include: Dance wear, shoes, metals, bags, f-gas contaminants, furniture and water bottles'	Largely this was achieved. Added in 2022 and 2023 was textiles, computer parts and water bottles.	Include in 2025 and expand more specifically: Furniture and metals
Target 8: To create a dedicated recycling hub within the site.	Dedicated bins budgeted for 23/24	Continue in 2025
Target 19: Social Media engagement	To engage on key agendas raised in monthly literature and bi-annual reports on socials	Continue in 2025
Target 20: Replace old fluorescent lighting in 128 with high efficiency LEDs	Cost up the replacement of 4 x old florescent fittings each holding 2 x halogen bulbs. To be replaced with 2 x baton LEDs in 128 and change the foyer light to PIR	Continue in 2025
Target 21: Water Efficiency Training	In line with continued reduction of usage of water annually, we would like to introduce some water efficiency training schemes	Continue in 2025
Target 22: Work with more sustainable suppliers	Increase the net of audited suppliers to include another 7 college suppliers including Theatre contracts	Continue in 2025

Proposed Targets

Target	Context	Decision
Student Engagement through Competition		N/A
Carbon Footprint Reduction by 2025		N/A
Theatre shows resources	*Setting a target for positive impact on show resources used in 2025 show period versus 24*	N/A

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Completed / Archived Targets

Target	Context	Decision
Target 1: Move all 3 Electric meters to green energy provider in 2022	Meters became extremely expensive for Green energy at time of renewal due to energy crisis.	Archive 24/25 Metres next available May 24
Target 2: Replace remaining old fluorescent lighting with LED options.	Refine and Keep Target. South Block complete. New target to include Studio 3, 15, 126 and room 8/9 + standing office lamps	Remove as achieved – Sep23
Target 3: Complete Staff Room Boiler replacement	Budgeted and scheduled for completion in August 2023. This will remove the final gas-fed outlet in the South Block.	Remove as achieved – Aug23
Target 4: Install independent water mater following next phases of college site master plan	Indirectly complete following investigation with Birkbeck Primary School. 91% contribution to meter usage.	Remove as achieved – Jul 23
Target 5: Achieve 75% supplier use with those who actively monitor their environmental impact (Policy and Accreditation)	We track all suppliers and contractors sustainable credentials (Policy / ISO). This is extended to production suppliers in 23 Target is 80% > 77.5% in 2022	Remove as achieved – Dec 23
Target 6: Find cost effective eco-alternatives to our currently sourced clear and bag bin bags and general consumable stock	We have achieved more sustainable options on 3 out of the 5 high volume order items. But black bags and white bags are demonstrably more expensive. Keep and attempt once more to cost comparison on eco-options for black bags?	Archive 24/25
Target 9: To create relationships with registered charities to quantify volumes of donations.	This was achieved and is further achieved with the successful launch of the bin	Remove as achieved – Jul 23
Target 10: To show an increase in core recycling materials as a percentage of the total volume of waste produced (Paper, Plastics and Food).	Year to date until June, versus 2023 this has decreased by 7.6% so far Communication to all staff and students. Year 1 engagement in September 2024	Archive 24/25
Target 11: Achieve the Hedgehog Friendly Campus Bronze Award	From a resource point of view – this was too demanding unfortunately. I believe we should archive this until 24/25	Archive 24/25
Target 12: Litter picks operated by the students during term time.	Paul does this regularly, and there was some student engagement, but it was sporadic.	Remove as achieved – Jul 23
Target 13: Increase Web and social media presence of college sustainability activities.	Agreed to have a drop-down element of the website now to include updates. Complete 6-monthly updates (July and Jan)	Remove as achieved – Dec 23
Target 14: Water Usage Decrease by 5% annually versus 2023	Following 12 months of data capture, we small changes to influence usage at college.	Remove as achieved – Dec 24

	We are looking at water proficiency training also for staff and working with our neighbours who share 1 x meter (Birkbeck)	
Target 15: Complete South Block Plant Room Upgrade	2 x New Condensing Boilers, Buffer Tank and Heat Exchanger to help us achieve further Gas reduction on our main meter	Remove as achieved – Nov 24
Target 16: Replace remaining old fluorescent lighting with LED options.	Target 2 x final South Block offices which are using low efficiency fluorescent bulbs, in 15 and 126	Remove as achieved – June 24
Target 17: Achieve 85% of suppliers who work with sustainable practise	Work with 2 or 3 final existing suppliers to help them achieve environmental policy and/or accreditation	Remove as achieved – Dec 24
Target 18: Sustainable Catering BBQ	We aim to reduce the meat offering down to 66% from 90% last year	Remove as achieved – Sept 24