

ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

2022 - 2023

Bradford College

Executive Summary

Bradford College's Sustainability Journey – our progress so far

Over the past year we have implemented significant initiatives to help us achieve our goal of reaching net zero by 2050:

- The comprehensive Heat Decarbonisation Plan stands as an initial milestone, providing a baseline for emissions and forming the foundation for subsequent interventions, supported by a Salix funding application. Efforts in lighting optimization, including sensor-based systems and LED replacements at Trinity Green, showcase cost-efficient measures resulting in significant carbon savings and estimated long-term financial benefits.
- Initiatives like the introduction of water refill points, reusable bottle provision, and trials to reduce single-use plastic bottles underscore our ongoing commitment to curbing plastic waste. Additionally, our venture into Electric Vehicle Training Provision aligns with the increasing demand for skilled professionals in the electric vehicle industry, contributing to a more sustainable transportation landscape.
- The institution's alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the SDG Accord signifies our dedication to global sustainability agendas. However, despite forming a Sustainability Group and providing SDGs training to staff, the establishment of a robust sustainability framework faces challenges due to capacity constraints.
- Departmental action plans focusing on sustainable working behaviours and SDG integration have yielded promising results, significantly reducing paper usage and fostering a shift towards electronic resources and hybrid working models.
- With the employment of a dedicated Sustainability Lead, the College aims to embed green skills within the curriculum, reduce environmental impact, and foster partnerships with local employers sharing our values. In essence, our current sustainability practices reflect our holistic approach to sustainability, marked by measurable achievements and a steadfast commitment to a greener future.

In summary, Bradford College has taken reasonable steps over the past year in the pursuit of achieving net-zero status by 2050.

Bradford College's Future Sustainability Goals

Although we have already made some progress in implementing sustainable initiatives throughout College, we recognise that we are in the early stages of this development and there is much more we could do to further reduce our impact on the environment and to reduce our carbon emissions. The initial Heat Decarbonisation Plan and the Estates Plan indicate a roadmap toward net-zero targets, emphasising the need for planned building transitions and the potential for substantial carbon savings from retrofitting and energy-efficient upgrades.

While funding limitations pose challenges to immediate implementation, the College aims to pursue financing opportunities for energy efficiency improvements through initiatives like Salix finance loans. The development of the Bradford Energy Network and upcoming sustainable schemes such as the reusable cup scheme and Planet Earth Games underscore the commitment to environmentally conscious practices and student engagement. The establishment of a Sustainability Committee and initiatives like Carbon Literacy Training and use of the Standardised Carbon Emissions Framework aim to further embed sustainability within the College's culture and operations. With ongoing efforts aligned with the SDG Accord and a commitment to report progress and successes, Bradford College remains steadfast in its pursuit of sustainable excellence, fostering a future marked by environmental stewardship and continuous advancement toward established sustainability goals.

Introduction

The purpose of this Sustainability Report is to communicate the status of sustainability initiatives here at Bradford College, in a transparent and comprehensive way. Recognising the efforts, achievements and future commitments in integrating sustainable practices reinforces the College's dedication to responsible and ethical practices, in the pursuit of a more sustainable future.

Acknowledging the environmental, social, and economic impacts of the college's actions will allow us to identify the challenges we face and outline strategies for continuous improvement.

To implement our vision to create a better future for all, and achieve our mission of working together to transform lives; sustainability is of paramount importance. Our actions within college prepare our learners to be responsible global citizens; by integrating sustainable practices into all areas, the College not only contributes to environmental sustainability, but also begins to address the social and economic issues faced by our students.

Additionally, embracing sustainability enhances the institution's reputation, attracts environmentally conscious students and staff, and aligns with broader societal expectations for organisations to actively engage in environmental stewardship. As Bradford College champions sustainability, it underscores its role as a forward-thinking educational institution with a commitment to long-term viability and positive societal impact.

Energy and Carbon Reporting

The College's annual greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption are as follows:

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Energy consumption used to calculate emissions | 4,750,754 kWh |
| Scope 1 emissions (in tonnes of CO2 equivalent): | |
| Gas consumption | 511.19 |
| Owned transport | 1.16 |
| Total scope | 512.35 |
| Scope 2 emissions (in tonnes of CO2 equivalent): | |
| Purchased electricity - | 459.42 |
| Scope 3 emissions (in tonnes of CO2 equivalent): | |
| Business travel in employee-owned or rental vehicles | 11.47 |
| Total gross emissions (in tonnes of CO2 equivalent): | 983.24 |
| Intensity ratio: Tonnes of CO2 equivalent per pupil | 0.08 |
| Intensity measurement The chosen intensity measurement ratio is total gross emissions in tonnes of CO2e per pupil, the recommended ratio for the sector. | |

Bradford College's Sustainability Journey – our progress so far

Over the past year, we have implemented significant measures to help us achieve our goal of reaching net zero by 2050. This section summarises the existing sustainability initiatives and programs in place within college, demonstrating Bradford College's commitment to environmentally conscious practices.

Heat Decarbonisation Plan

An Initial Heat Decarbonisation Plan was produced by CPW in March 2022 to serve as a record of emissions at the time and to be used as a starting point for subsequent interventions. An application has been submitted to Salix to fund these works.

Lighting

In some areas of the building, lights are on sensors to avoid light being left on when they are not required; this in turn saves energy from being wasted, which also has the added benefit of saving money.

Studies suggest that sensor lights can save up to thirty percent on lighting energy costs compared to traditional lighting systems without sensors. Additionally, the longer lifespan of bulbs due to reduced usage can contribute to overall cost savings on replacements, resulting in savings on utility bills and maintenance expenses.

Lighting in the sports hall at Trinity Green has been replaced with energy efficient LEDs which consume up to 80% less energy than traditional bulbs. This reduction in energy usage translates into a significant decrease in carbon emissions, contributing to a more environmentally friendly and sustainable lighting solution.





Water Refill Points

Reusable metal bottles are now provided for all staff and students and water refill stations are currently being trialled to reduce single use plastic bottles. Each station records the number of uses to determine the number of plastic bottles avoided, with monthly readings gathered manually.

Data suggests that 9,611 plastic bottles were reduced between October-November within the David Hockney Building alone; which would amount to over 115,000 annually for this building.

Electric Vehicle Training Provision

Between November 2022-May 2023, we undertook a WYCC funded capital project to design, equip and pilot Level 1 and Level 3 EV training, which continues to be delivered at our Bowling Back Lane site.

This specialist training equips learners with the technical knowledge required to safely diagnose, repair, and maintain electric vehicles. With the rise in popularity of electric vehicles, there is a growing demand for skilled professionals.

This training meets the ever-increasing need in the growing electric vehicle industry; supporting career advancement, while ensuring individuals are well-prepared to contribute to a cleaner, more sustainable transportation landscape.



Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a collection of 17 global goals set by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015. They aim to address various social, economic, and environmental challenges to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all by 2030. After review it is considered that the development goals align with the College’s strategic objectives as follows:



The SDG Accord is a commitment made by learning institutions to do more to deliver the SDGs, annually report on individual progress and share their learning nationally and internationally. This was signed by Bradford College in August 2022.

Sustainability Group

In line with the SDG Accord, a sustainability group was formed earlier this year with participants meeting to set actions, however this group did not become well established due to a lack of staff capacity. A review of the actions set will be undertaken by the Sustainability Lead to determine which actions have been implemented and to ascertain how successful these have been and the group will be revitalised.

SDGs Training

Since last year training has been available around the SDGs and is part of the mandatory induction training for all staff. This training offers an introduction to the 17 SDGs and gives examples from within college of where these are being successfully embedded within different curriculum departments.

Staff Development

Earlier this year, two members of staff from the education department participated in [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) training as 'Sustainability Champions' with West Yorkshire Consortium of Colleges (WYCC). The ideas shared at the networking meetings were brought back to college and introduced within the education department.

Since October 2022, the SDGs have been integrated into Initial Teacher Training (ITT) with sessions being delivered to students at all levels of learning. The strategies implemented in this department can now be used as an example of good practice that can be replicated and adapted within other curriculum departments; with support from our recently appointed Sustainability Lead, they will continue to build green skills into their own curriculum offers.

Departmental Targets

In March 2022, non-curriculum departments contributed to an Action Plan outlining targets for their department to work towards. Priorities were around sustainable working behaviours, reducing paper usage and embedding education for the SDGs. As a result of this, printing has been significantly reduced across all departments, with some becoming entirely paper free.

Resources are now shared electronically where possible and blended learning platforms are used to reduce unnecessary travel and some teams incorporate hybrid working where possible. In each building, there are recycling bins and signage on each floor, however there are still some general waste bins that could be upgraded for some areas.

The David Hockney Building is no longer open every evening; it now remains open for just two evenings per week. For curriculum teams, monitoring now includes looking at how sustainability is being embedded into the curriculum.

Sustainability Lead

A Sustainability Lead has been appointed to:

- Support curriculum teams to embed 'green skills' within the curriculum for every course

- Work with facilities team and non-curriculum departments to the reduce carbon footprint of Bradford College and minimise our environmental impact
- Continue to foster positive working relationships with local sustainable employers that share our values

Staff Travel

EV charging points are available for staff to use free of charge and there is a cycle to work scheme in place. Staff can access discounted railcards to encourage commuters to choose more sustainable options than driving.

In summary, Bradford College has taken reasonable steps over the past year in the pursuit of achieving net-zero status by 2050.



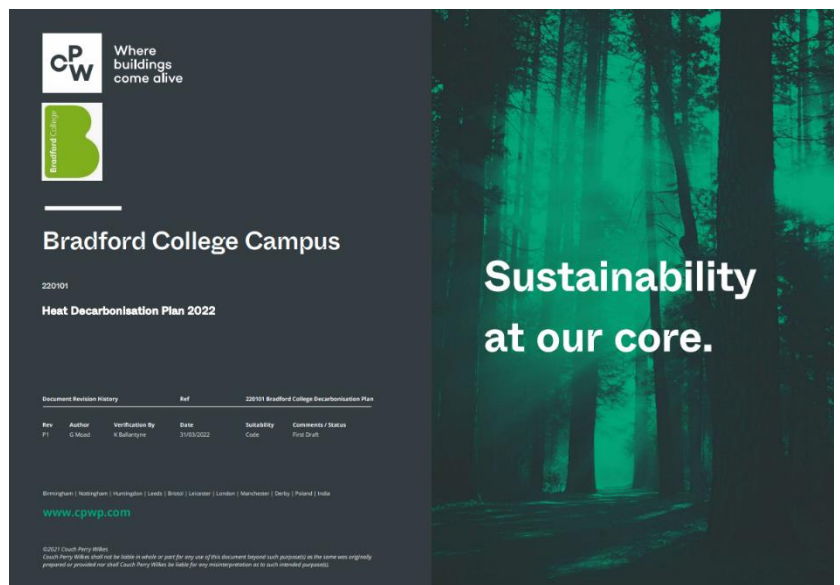
Bradford College’s Future Sustainability Goals

Although we have already taken steps to implement some sustainable initiatives throughout college, we recognise that we are in the early stages of this development and there is much more we could do to further reduce our impact on the environment and to reduce our carbon emissions. This section outlines areas for further enhancement.

Heat Decarbonisation Plan

An Initial Heat Decarbonisation Plan was produced by CPW in March 2022 to serve as a record of emissions at the time and to be used as a starting point for subsequent interventions. This will be updated every academic year.

The Estates Plan outlines which buildings are to be sold, demolished, refurbished or replaced with new buildings to ensure that facilities are fit for purpose; this will also lead to a reduction in the carbon footprint of the college overall, but the embodied carbon of the building works must also be factored in to the final calculations.



Sale of the Appleton Building is delayed, but still planned – this is estimated to save us 486,000kgCO₂e. Sale of the City Training Centre is planned for 2024, saving us an estimated 295,000kgCO₂e.

If plans go ahead to build a ‘Future Technology Centre’ in 2024, this plan will need to be revised to account for the embodied carbon associated with new building projects.

If retrofitting of the Garden Mills, Trinity Green and Victoria buildings goes ahead as suggested in the HDP, we could save an estimated 184,449kg CO₂ per year. Installation of solar PV is estimated to save a further 300,547kgCO₂e and connection to the district heating network would save an additional 471,224kgCO₂e. **These works are subject to the funding bid to Salix being successful.**

Bradford Energy Network

As outlined in the Heat Decarbonisation Plan, a key part of reaching net zero will require the decarbonisation of heat. For Bradford College, this will mean making the gradual transition from using gas to heat our buildings, to lower carbon or net-zero forms of heating over the coming years.

Bradford Energy Network is a planned Low-to-Zero Carbon (LZC) district heating network being developed for the city centre, which will allow Bradford College to connect and access low-to-zero carbon heating.

This district heat network will deliver renewable heat from air source heat pumps within a central Energy Centre to Bradford College through large underground pipes. The district heating network is due to be complete and operational to coincide with Bradford's City of Culture year in 2025. These works are subject to funding bid to Salix being successful.

Reusable Cup Scheme

Following the success of the water refill points and reusable water bottles, the catering department are now looking into launching a similar scheme for reusable coffee cups to reduce the number of disposable coffee cups used within college. One option being explored would involve a deposit scheme; this would overcome the inconvenience of students carrying empty cups to and from college.

Eliminate Plastic Water Bottles

Despite all staff and students having a reusable water bottle, and the water refill stations being well used, plastic bottled water is still offered for sale in all college catering outlets. Sale of water in plastic bottles will need to be phased out as a priority, it *may* be possible to reduce the sale of other drinks in plastic bottles too.

Establish Sustainability Committee

A Sustainability Group was started earlier this year and an Action Tracker was produced, but this group is not established. These actions will be reviewed now that a Sustainability Lead in is role and the Sustainability Group will be revitalised.

Additionally, staff from within each department already engaged with sustainability will be identified to form a network of Sustainability Champions. Student Sustainability Champions will also be engaged, primary from within the network of student union course representatives. These champions will take an active role in promoting and implementing sustainability initiatives within college and will be pivotal in supporting Bradford College to realise its potential.

Planet Earth Games

January 2024 will see the return of Planet Earth Games; the focus of this competition is

to address the concerns of young people around the environment through the power of sport and physical activity.

Staff and students from colleges around the UK compete to earn points by completing challenges which are focused around sport, sustainability, health and wellbeing, social connectivity, conservation, and climate action.

Our students will be encouraged to set their own challenges to encourage engagement and a sense of ownership.

FE Roadmap

[The Climate Action for UK FE Colleges Roadmap](#) has been developed in collaboration between Climate Commission

'Sport has a unique ability to mobilise people and lead the way for social action. Exactly what is needed to address climate change.'



and award-winning management consultancy, Nous Group. Promoted by the AOC and EAUC, the FE Roadmap provides clear actions and guidance on how colleges can respond to the climate emergency and advance sustainability.

The initial self-assessment has highlighted areas where significant progress has been made, with Estates and Operations leading the way. This also gives us clear next steps

to prioritise.

To further solidify our position as an 'emerging' college, our priorities will be to:

- **Gather college views on sustainability**

A baseline of staff and students' attitudes and understanding of sustainability and the importance of the SDGs will be established during the next round of staff and student surveys. This will then be used to measure progress

- **Deliver Carbon Literacy training to staff and students**

Carbon Literacy Training will be delivered to the staff and student Sustainability Champions which will give them the opportunity to support further training as co-facilitators. CL training could become mandatory training, if deemed appropriate by SLT.

In the longer term, Bradford College has the potential to become a Carbon Literate Organisation. A Carbon Literate Organisation (CLO) is an organisation that has been accredited by The Carbon Literacy Project as having a substantial commitment to Carbon Literacy. CLO accreditation supports the development (and recruitment and retention) of a Carbon Literate workforce and requires an organisation to engage positively with its audience or community in developing and delivering low carbon behaviour. The accreditation has been designed to showcase significant dedication to Carbon Literacy. The four tiers – Bronze, Silver, Gold, & Platinum – ensure distinction between organisations of differing levels of commitment.

- **Upskill measuring on emissions**

The Standardised Carbon Emissions Framework (SCEF) for Further and Higher Education (SCEF) was developed by EAUC - The Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education in consultation with the Challenge participants and the sector via member bodies, including the Association of Colleges (AoC), Colleges Scotland and Universities UK (UUK).

The Standardised Carbon Emissions Framework. The Framework will bring good practice and guidance and will develop a fuller understanding of how institutions contribute to the climate emergency and enable them to take action. This is likely to become mandatory for 24/25 so the sooner we get familiar with the framework the better. Shipley College and University of Bradford are already familiar with this so they may be able to support us with this.

To being to move from 'emerging' to 'established', we will need to prioritise:

- **Incorporate net zero ambitions in strategic plan and establish ring-fenced budget**

While sustainability investments, such as air source heat pumps over gas boilers, may present higher initial costs; the long-term advantages far exceed the upfront expenses. Embracing sustainability future-proofs the institution against rising resource costs, stringent environmental regulations, and market shifts.

If we truly believe in our mission to create a better future for all, we must make a conscious commitment today to invest the future of our students. The time to make that decision is now upon us. Not only does investing in sustainability align with ethical and social responsibility, and enhance the college's brand image. It attracts environmentally conscious students, faculty, and donors, increasing enrolment and support.

Furthermore, sustainable practices promote resilience in the face of environmental challenges, ensuring the institution remains operational and adaptive in the long term. Ultimately, while there might be immediate financial considerations, *the return on investment in sustainability isn't just fiscal*—it's about ensuring the college's longevity, competitiveness, and positive impact on society and the environment.

- **Set and implement targets to reduce waste on campus by 50-75%**

All buildings have some recycling bins and signage; this could be improved further to ensure that *all* bins include recycling options so that no recyclable waste ends up in landfill. The sale of water in plastic bottles can be phased out in buildings where water refill stations have been installed. In the longer term, all single use plastic to be phased out within catering outlets.

Food waste to be monitored and reduced, with any food waste being composted where possible. Students to be involved in curriculum projects to reduce waste within their learning.

- **Develop fossil fuel divestment plan**

The bank we currently use is known to invest in fossil fuels. We could also consider where staff pensions are invested.

| | Emerging | Established | Leading |
|------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Leadership & Governance | Gather college views on sustainability | Incorporate net zero ambitions in strategic plan and establish ring-fenced budget | Develop climate adaptation/climate risk management approach |
| | Establish Sustainability Committee | | Incorporate sustainability into governance arrangements |
| | Sustainability Group started & action tracker produced, but this group is not established | | Embed climate responsibility into staff development |
| Teaching, Learning, Research | Hold workshop with leaders to set a net zero target 2040 | Participate in Global Goals Teach In | Audit curriculum against SDGs using Responsible Futures framework |
| | Deliver Carbon Literacy training to staff and students | | Train teaching staff to incorporate sustainability into curriculum for all courses |
| Estates & Operations | SDGs training delivered & mandatory training | Modify estates strategy in line with net zero target | Implement new travel policy to reduce long-haul aviation travel |
| | Ensure recycling/signage is available in every building | | Implement renewable energy on a part/all of the estate Solar panels on ATC, DHB |
| | Implement strategies to reduce energy use | | Expand travel policy to reduce emissions from commuting to/from campus |
| Partnerships & Engagement | Lighting in sports hall has been replaced with LED | Apply for Salix finance loan to improve energy efficiency/reduce emissions | Set and implement targets to reduce waste on campus by 50-75% |
| | DHB building only open 2 evenings p/week | Sign the SDG Accord | Work with local community/council/businesses to improve local biodiversity |
| | Heat Decarbonisation Plan | | Apply for Green Gown or AoC Beacon Award |
| Data Collection | Sign Race to Zero for Universities and Colleges | Develop fossil fuel divestment plan | Share carbon footprint data collection approach as model to other colleges |
| | Upskill measuring on emissions | Develop and implement plan to measure Scope 3 emissions | |

FE Roadmap – self assessment tool with next steps highlighted in yellow. Bold shows areas where strategies have been successfully implemented.

Sustainability Leadership Scorecard

The Sustainability Leadership Scorecard (SLS) is a digital self-assessment tool to measure sustainability performance and identify the areas to prioritise in the most efficient way; this will inform our next steps and feed in to strategic plans.

SDG Accord

Having already signed the SDG Accord, we will next be expected to formally report our progress towards our actions by May 2024. During this time, we will submit case studies from each department as evidence. These can also be used to showcase success stories internally and externally to promote the sustainability of Bradford College.

To summarise, Bradford College has already begun to implement sustainable initiatives, yet acknowledges its early stage in this journey and the potential for further impactful changes.

The initial Heat Decarbonisation Plan and the Estates Plan indicate a roadmap toward net-zero targets, emphasising the need for planned building transitions and the potential for substantial carbon savings from retrofitting and energy-efficient upgrades.

While funding limitations pose challenges to immediate implementation, the college aims to pursue financing opportunities for energy efficiency improvements through initiatives like Salix finance loans. The development of the Bradford Energy Network and upcoming sustainable schemes such as the reusable cup scheme and Planet Earth Games underscore the commitment to environmentally conscious practices and student engagement.

The establishment of a Sustainability Committee and initiatives like Carbon Literacy Training and use of the Standardised Carbon Emissions Framework aim to further embed sustainability within the college's culture and operations. With ongoing efforts aligned with the SDG Accord and a commitment to report progress and successes, Bradford College remains steadfast in its pursuit of sustainable excellence, fostering a future marked by environmental stewardship and continuous advancement toward established sustainability goals.