

EPA Climate and Biodiversity CLIMATE UPDATE

Summer 2022

Decarbonisation

Since February this year we have been working with Energy Solutions Oxfordshire and the Environmental Information Exchange (EiE), Oxford Brookes to carry out Carbon Reduction surveys across all of our school sites (this was funded by the Community Renewal Fund). These have produced individual school carbon reduction recommendations reports – which have been collated and analysed. A number of potential common areas for carbon reduction, have been identified, including boiler replacements, increased insulation, improved energy monitoring, proactive heating management and ensuring appliances are switched off. To act on these recommendations, we are now preparing bids to the Low Carbon Skills Fund (LCSF) which will help prepare bids ahead of applying to further Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) funding when it is released.



Climate Curriculum

A number of our schools are developing new climate and carbon curriculum materials as part of curriculum development for 2022/23. A number of biodiversity units will be ready for use in primary schools from September and a new series of KS3 Climate units will be 'rolled-out' at Bartholomew School.

Net-zero by 2030

Very recently our trust board has approved a new Climate and Biodiversity Statement which includes a commitment to become a net-zero trust by 2030. This commitment assumes sourcing external grant funding to achieve and support this. We are about to start developing a focused and detailed decarbonisation plan – outlining our steps to net-zero by 2030.



Our energy use

In the last few months we have been renegotiating both our gas and electricity contracts. This is coming at a very challenging time for energy costs – and we are supported by Zenergi, an energy services company who support us in procurement and negotiating contracts. A key factor in our negotiations is the need to balance our decisions between cost and sustainability (including renewables) criteria. We have been able to ensure that most of electricity supply is now from 100% renewable sources. We collect half hourly data from most of our meters – allowing us to be able to more accurately track our energy use.

100%
renewable energy %

Actions in schools

We have a number of Eco-Councils and Green Clubs active in our schools. These meet regularly, are student-led and identify actions we can make in our schools to reduce energy and carbon use.



St Peters Primary, Cassington

The 'Cool Climateers' have been working very hard to be 'eco-friendlier' with a focus on climate change. They were inspired by attending the Youth Summit. They have planted fruit and vegetables to reduce the carbon footprint and meat consumption in school. When they are ready, the school kitchen will use the food to prepare meals. They have also started to encourage everyone to reduce energy use and have been counting their school's electric and gas energy meters and will make an overall chart of our success.

Student-led development

Year 12 students, taking part in the Bartholomew School Work Experience and Volunteering Programme, worked on several projects linked to sustainability and the environment.

The 'Innovate to Renovate' project, set by The Hill Group, a UK housebuilder, involved students putting together a business plan to renovate or design a new area of the school. One of the suggested targets was to improve sustainability, a consideration that all five groups took into account. Projects included redesigning the school canteen area, with a vegetable garden to allow the canteen to source some of its food sustainably, a roof top sensory garden, suggestions for developing the school pond and eco building, improvements to the Sixth Form area, recycling, and solar panels.

Some of the students spent the final day of the week working with the Eynsham Nature Recovery Network, at Long Mead. The students spent time sowing seeds in pots to be planted in the meadow at a later date.