

PLYMOUTH COLLEGE SUSTAINABILITY



Last reviewed:	September 2025
Next review date:	August 2026
Responsibility:	Head of Operations

At Plymouth College we recognise the importance of taking meaningful action to minimise our carbon footprint and embed sustainable practices across our sites. We have already made significant progress in reducing our Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions and remain committed to ambitious goals as we work towards net carbon zero.

Scope	Direct / indirect emissions	Source of emissions
Scope 1	Direct	Emissions associated with sources that are owned or controlled by Plymouth College. Examples include gas and oil consumption and from onsite College owned vehicles and facilities.
Scope 2	Indirect	Emissions from the generation of purchased electricity and gas.
Scope 3	Indirect	Emissions from Plymouth College's activities that occur from sources not owned or controlled by Plymouth College, such as staff, student and parent travel to school, staff business travel, product transport by third parties, outsourcing of core activities and off-site waste disposal/management activities, water consumption and procurement related emissions.

Our work extends beyond infrastructure. We aim to instil a culture of responsibility, encouraging students and staff to make sustainable choices every day and empowering our community to consider the long-term impact of our actions on the planet.

What We've Achieved So Far

- **Cleaner travel** – We now have two EV chargers on site and a hybrid vehicle within our fleet. Our school transport service continues to reduce congestion and improve local air quality, cutting individual car journeys by over 34,000 annually.
- **Energy efficiency** – LED lighting is being rolled out as part of a replacement programme across all sites. This has already reduced energy consumption and improved the quality of learning spaces, supporting focus and wellbeing.
- **Smarter cleaning** – We've switched to eco-friendly "pod in a pouch" cleaning products, which are 100% biodegradable and packaged without single-use plastics. With the addition of i-mop machines, we've cut chemical use and significantly reduced water consumption.
- **Water saving** – We have installed two eco-toilets which recycle handwashing water for flushing, reducing our water usage.

- **Sustainable catering** – Our kitchens have been fully refurbished and now run without gas. Energy consumption is monitored closely to maximise efficiency, while our catering team prioritises local, seasonal produce. Food waste is reduced wherever possible, with surplus repurposed into street food offerings from the Hatch. Herbs are grown on site to support “field to plate” education for our Prep pupils.
- **Sustainable procurement** – We actively reuse and repurpose resources. Recently, used IT chairs were refurbished and distributed across classrooms, reducing waste and avoiding unnecessary manufacture. Our main hall and library have also benefitted from reused furniture.
- **Biodiversity and outdoor learning** – Our new Forest School and outdoor classroom offer hands-on experiences in nature while supporting our goal to enrich biodiversity on our sites.
- **Waste reduction** – All garden waste is composted on site, and we aim to recycle at least 50% of all classroom and office waste.

Our Next Steps

- Continuing to expand LED lighting and install motion sensors to prevent unnecessary energy use.
- Upgrading building fabric, including roofs and windows, to improve energy efficiency.
- Supporting sustainable travel choices by promoting walking and cycling, with bike racks and shower facilities already in place.
- Ongoing biodiversity projects across Ford Park, Delgany, and Whiteworks, with student-led eco-club initiatives at the heart of this work.

Our Commitment

Our aim is not only to reach carbon neutrality but to continually question and improve the way we work, learn, and live together. By embedding sustainability into our decision-making and education, Plymouth College seeks to enrich the environment, empower our community, and create a lasting positive impact for future generations.