



Last reviewed:	<b>September 2024</b>
Next review date:	<b>September 2025</b>
Responsibility:	<b>Head of OPerations</b>

At Plymouth College we recognise the need to take action to minimise our carbon footprint and to embrace sustainable practices throughout our sites. We have already taken significant steps towards the reduction of our Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions and have ambitious plans to continue this as we move towards the aim of net carbon zero. We have switched our cleaning products to eco-friendly alternatives, we are installing renewable energy sources, electric vehicle charging and are adding hybrid/EV vehicles to the fleet. Further to this, we are installing LED lighting across our sites and reducing waste whilst increasing our recycling.

Scope	Direct / indirect emissions	Source of emissions
<b>Scope 1</b>	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.
<b>Scope 2</b>	Indirect	Emissions from the generation of purchased electricity and gas.
<b>Scope 3</b>	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 aim is not just to move to carbon neutrality, as essential as that is. We hope to continually question how we can best minimise our impact on our planet and support our natural world. We seek to educate our students in the importance of these issues and empower them to make sustainable choices everyday so that the Plymouth College community can continue to enrich our environment into the future.

We have swapped our cleaning products to eco-friendly, "pod in a pouch" systems, eliminating single use plastics. The new products are 100% biodegradable, all packaging is recyclable and compostable and we have significantly reduced the demand for transport and storage on site. Further to this, we have recently invested in an i-mop which is 70% faster than traditional mopping, leaves surfaces 90% cleaner and uses minimal water and no chemicals, thereby reducing environmental impact and water usage by well over 75%.

We embrace sustainable procurement and look to reuse or repurpose items wherever possible to reduce the amount sent to landfill and the impact of manufacture and transport of new goods. Recently we have procured a set of 65 wheeled wooden adjustable computer chairs that have been utilised across our IT rooms. These would otherwise have been disposed of.

As well as the larger scale projects of retrofitting LED lighting (such as the recent Sports Hall and Strength and Conditioning Suite upgrade) we have embarked upon an initiative that when lighting across all our sites needs to be replaced we install LED alternatives, where possible. This has already made a significant impact upon our

energy usage and is improving the light quality in our education spaces. Studies have shown that where regular lighting is used to treat S.A.D (winter blues), LED lighting is more effective as it is composed of light, not heat. Regular lights need 90% heat to produce light, comprising only 10% light. Installing LEDs in College spaces will aid student and staff focus and wellbeing.

We offer a school transport service which significantly reduces parental reliance on cars. Our fleet of vehicles operates 10 school routes per day, cutting individual use car journeys by approximately 34,055, to and from school, for the 22 – 23 academic year. Thus significantly reducing Scope 3 emissions and improving congestion and local air quality.

We have recently installed a pool cover on our swimming pool, thereby cutting our energy consumption in this area by 63.19% in January, compared with the same period last year.

### **What We Are Doing:**

We have reduced individual car journeys by approximately 34,055 annually via our school bus runs, reducing our carbon footprint, improving congestion and air quality in the local area.

- We have swapped our cleaning products for eco-friendly alternatives.
- Our catering team embraces sustainability and has a number of measures in place to record and reduce waste. Local, seasonal produce is prioritised where possible. Herbs are produced on site for use in the kitchen and we plan to run a “field to plate” initiative with our Prep school students.
- We are planning an ambitious kitchen refurbishment to maximise efficiency and minimise energy usage, we aim to cut out gas usage in all but our hot water heating and significantly reduce our water consumption.
- We are embracing sustainable procurement practices where possible to reduce the amount of items sent to landfill and the impact of manufacture and transport of new goods.
- We collect all of our garden waste and re-use this for composting.
- Whiteworks, our property on Dartmoor, is completely off grid and has a wind turbine to generate electricity.
- We have committed to the installation of an EV charging point on site and have swapped one of our vehicles for a hybrid alternative.
- We are updating our lighting to LED to reduce our electricity consumption. We are also installing motion sensors to avoid lights being left on when rooms are not in use.
- We have installed a new eco-toilet, repurposing hand washing water for flushing, thereby reducing water consumption. We intend to install more of these as we improve bathroom facilities.
- We are rolling out building fabric improvements to windows and roofs across campuses to make them more efficient.
- We use local contractors to support local livelihoods and reduce travel mileage where we can.
- We seek to enhance biodiversity within the context of our Ford Park, Delgany and Whiteworks sites and students are engaged in this throughout school. We are planning an eco-friendly outdoor classroom for our Prep School to enjoy.
- We have partnered with the Woodland Trust to receive approximately 400 saplings for hedge and copse development.
- We have an eco-club for students and staff to meet weekly and progress our Sustainability Agenda across the College.
- We aim to recycle at least 50% of all waste generated in our classrooms and offices.
- We promote sustainable travel where possible and encourage our community to walk or cycle where possible. We have showers available in our Sports Hall and a designated bike rack to secure cycles.