

Environmental and Sustainable Update – Issue #2 Dec 2022

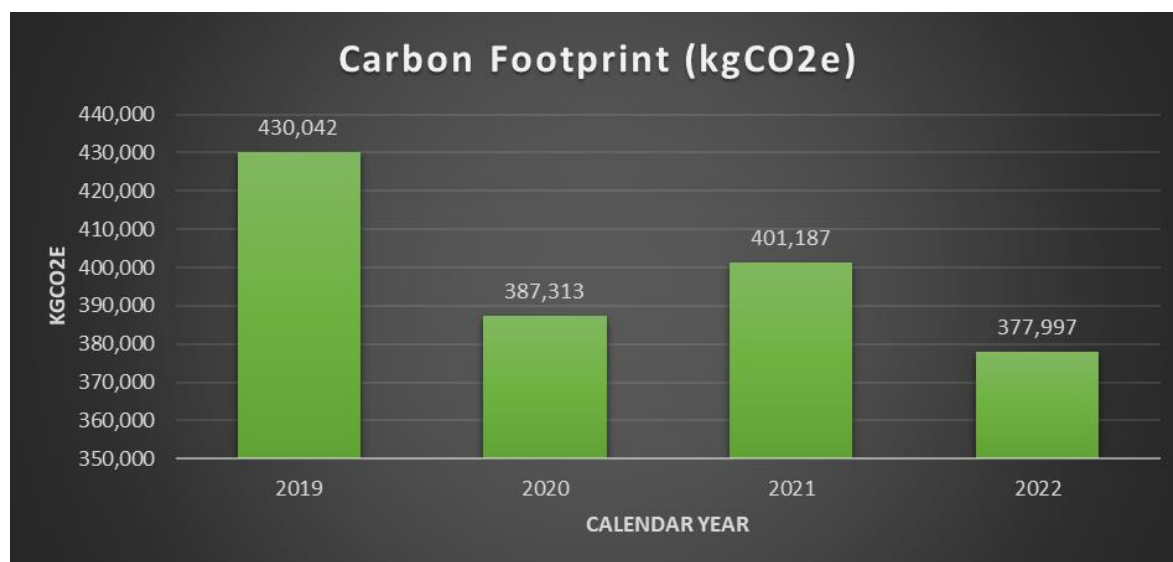
Mission Statement

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 → Quarterly 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



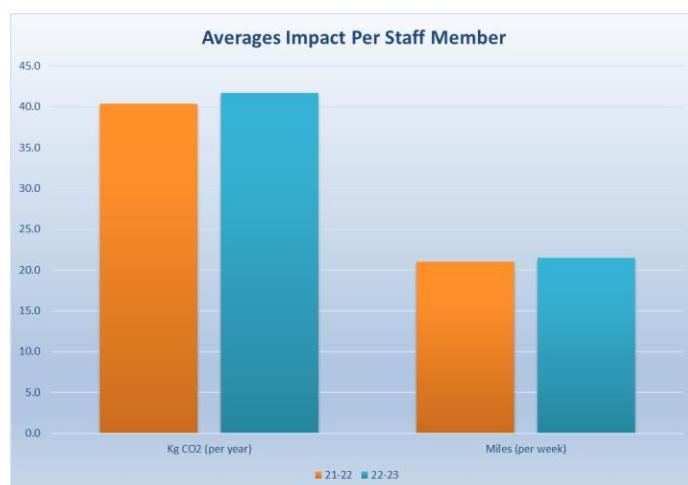
Based on a combination of parameters, our current Carbon Footprint is in line with industry standards (**Carbon Trust, 2021**)

Versus 2021 we **reduced our footprint by 5.71%** (combining Gas, Electric, F-Gas and Diesel).

Note: Comparing solely to 2021 and 2020 is somewhat flawed due to the impact of the pandemic on site usage in those years, so the truest comparison is actually with **2019: reduction of 12.1%!!!**

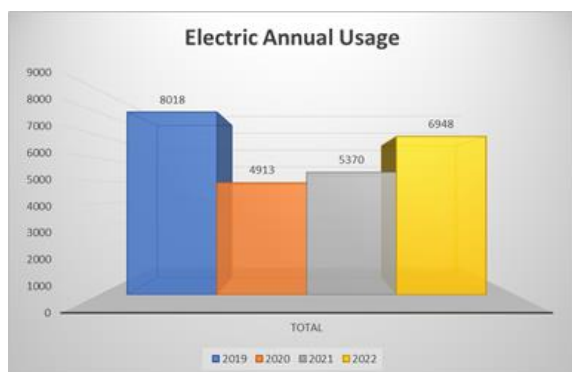
🚗 Petrol Usage: We are tracking staff travel to work and the respective CO2 (Kg) produced

- 3.2% increase versus 2021-22, with a very similar number of respondents (91>89)
- Lack of change is likely due to the very stable staff structure at the college and very low staff turnover.
- College also not accessible by tube, only local buses and national rail, which reduces travel options slightly.

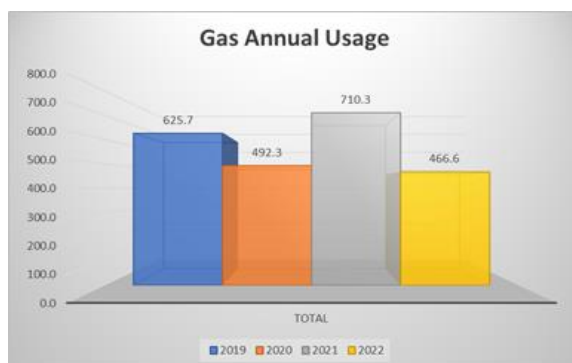


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Utilities



- ✓ Standing item in staff meeting
- ✓ Office Standing Lamps changed to LED
- ✓ PIR light sensors added to change areas
- ✓ Active monitoring of heating
- ✓ Sustainable LED motion lighting in South Block



- ✓ Completion of Electric Water Heater Project in South Block (removing gas-fed outlets)
- ✓ Active management of thermostats
- ✓ Installation of heat/cool air conditioning in all offices reducing requirement for gas heating
- ✓ Weekend efficiency usage

Electricity usage has increased substantially since 2021. However, this has been directly impacted by installation of 8 x office wall mounted heat/cool air conditioning units and the opening of a teaching block. Also – the change from Gas-heated outlets to electric water heaters.

- ✓ **However, versus 2019, there has been a decrease of 13.3%!!**

Target 1: Move all 3 Electric meters to green energy provider in 2022.

The impact of the pandemic has been far reaching and in 2022 the war in Ukraine made it difficult for the college to make all the utility decisions that we really would have preferred (Green supplier).

- ✓ We have however managed to condense our 3 Electric meters to one provider with a view to the next renewal being more appealing to a favourable supply.

Target 2: Replace remaining old fluorescent lighting with LED options.

- ✓ We have completed our major lighting project successfully, which has reduced the volume of lights by 50% in our main South Block, but also reduced the output by up to 90% during low usage
- ✓ Motion-sensor LEDs have replaced the former, dated, sylvanian blubs previously used after the 2016 redevelopment
- ✓ We are replacing old office standing lamps with LED versions as and when each lamp is failing. To be continued

✚ **We hope to agree/budget conversion of lighting in Studio 3 from old fluorescent to LEDs in 2023**

✚ **Other offices fluorescent lighting to be costed include: 15, 126, 127, 8/9**

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

Target 3: Complete Hot Water Supply to South Block project (installing Electric Heaters) ➡ GAS REDUCTION.

- ✓ We successfully funded and completed our Electric Water heater project in South Block.
- ✓ This involved the installation of 2 x 30L Hyco Powerflow Water Heaters to supply 4 x Toilets for females and staff.
- ✓ Old supply capped off from our plant room and 90L hot water calorifier made redundant.
- ✓ Allowing us to control more closely the south block gas heating based on absolute necessity.

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- ✚ This has contributed to a huge **reduced by 25.4% since 2019.**
- ✚ The even greater **34% reduction versus 2021 off-set the increase in electric use significantly, hence the overall carbon footprint reduction.**

Target 4: Install independent water meter following next phases of college site master plan.

Our Mains water meter is split with our neighbouring institution, Birkbeck Primary School. However, in recent months (November 22) we have been able to establish an accurate division of usage based on facilities fed by this meter.

Therefore, the requirement to install an independent water meter has been reduced significantly as we can now finally measure the College's usage, without concerns it is being impacted by our neighbour. In 2023, we aim to start measuring this more effectively, which will enable us to produce realistic ongoing targets and highlight opportunities to reduce our usage. The lack of urgency for a dedicated meter will save us thousands (£££) in the meantime.

Suppliers and Procurement

Target 5: Achieve 75% supplier use with those who actively monitor their environmental impact (Policy and Accreditation).

- ✓ 2022 Supplier : 77.5% have either sound environmental policy and/or accreditation
- ✓ This is an improvement on 48% in 2021 (with 32% remarked to be providing or in pursuit or accreditation)

✚ We will seek to increase this to 80% in 2023.

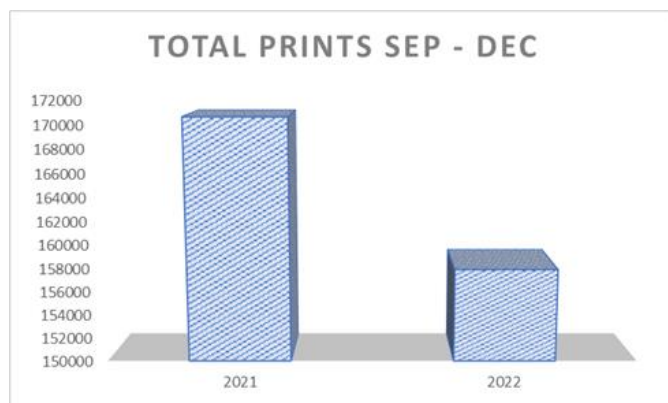
Target 6: Find cost effective eco-alternatives to our currently sourced clear and bag bin bags and general consumable stock.

- ✓ We continue to order general stock from one main supplier to reduce deliveries.
 - ✓ We order Eco wipes which are 100% Biodegradable.
 - ✓ Paper FSC Eco recyclable (5g.m lighter)
 - ✓ Biodegradable food bags
- ✚ We wish to seek confirmation on current supply of sustainably sourced toilet paper and paper towels.
- ✚ After cost comparison biodegradable black bags are currently beyond our budget constraints – this will be reviewed 6-monthly.
- ✚ Ensure that cleaning contractor is using sustainable cleaning products (floor cleaners, anti-bac surface cleaner)

Recycling / Waste

Notable contributions towards positive recycling and waste reduction include:

- ✓ All Maintenance & Premises inspections/checks have been transferred to electronic copies
- ✓ Office Folders have been removed (due to paperless policy) and redistributed free of charge to student body.
- ✓ Bartlett Mitchell (contract caterers) achieving their maximum 5% waste KPI
- ✓ Hand driers are being installed instead of paper towels in NE block.
- ✓ Through targeted engagement in September staff have responded positively and reduced printing by 7.4%



2022 Environmental Impact

135,949.00 Equivalent Bulbs Hours
20.25 Trees
2,173.3kg of CO2 produced

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Another positive introduction is the working group focused on resources directly associated with productions (x6) per year.

This has included:

- ✓ Training and engagement from key production staff: Stage Manager and Set Builder
- ✓ Attendance @ 'Making Theatre Green' which highlighted sustainable plans and approaches by **The National Theatre** detailed in their industry leading **Theatre Green Book**
- ✓ Introduction of the college's Climate Crisis Working Group (first meeting)
- ✓ Extensive analysis of the 2022 Production resources – as detailed in the attached – [Wastage Usage 22 Season](#)
- ✓ This will provide an excellent base to approach making the production process more sustainable and accountable.

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

Range of recycled materials in 2021 onwards includes: Batteries, Florescent bulbs, shredding and printer cartridges. All Waste (Food, Garden, Plastic/Cans, Paper and refuse) is tracked off site and parts are recycled sustainably.

- ✓ Added to this range in 2023 are: Textiles (discussed more below)
- ✓ Computer parts and screens are now collected and re-purposed by our IT partners Select Technology.
- ✓ Water bottles are collected in abundance and are recycled in mass at our local refuse centre in Sidcup.

✚ **In 2023 we wish to review our approach to recycling general furniture and metals**

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.**

Target 9: To create relationships with registered charities to quantify volumes of donations.

- ✓ We have engaged heavily in this area with the staff and student population via survey monkey and student board representatives who have, by majority voted for their preferred local charity
- ✓ In the past 2 years, we have donated roughly 20 full bags of the above materials to Mind - www.mind.org.uk
- ✓ Last quarter of 2022 we switched donations following student votes to Cancer Research. www.cancerresearchuk.org
- ✓ Moving in 2023, a new partnership with [Recycled Clothing Banks | A Fresh Approach to Clothing Recycling](#) will see on site recycling of shoes, clothes, dance wear and bags. As part of this, we have secured funded on-site recycling, collected by the charity themselves.
- ✓ A fresh, environmentally friendly approach to recycling which helps to raise funds from our textile banks for schools, charities and social community groups and projects.
- ✓ As part of this agreement, we will be financially rewarded based on volume – which will be directly reinvested into other recycling streams.

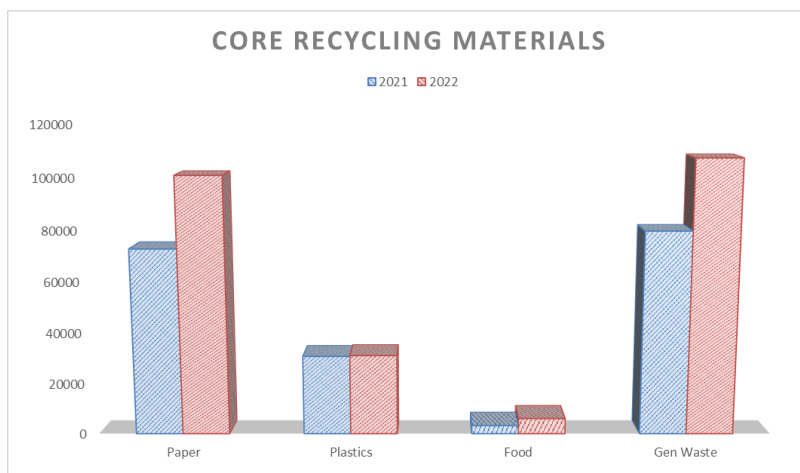


✚ **Complete install of approved textile bin and hopeful reinvestment of associated income**

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Target 10: To show an increase in core recycling materials (Paper, Plastics and Food) in 2022 versus 2021.

- ✓ We have achieved a 29.1% increase in our core recycling materials of Paper, Plastics and Food
- However, in relation to the total volume of waste created last year (245,290 Litres) the percentage which we have recycled has not actually risen (56.3% < 57.3% from 2021)
- Therefore, a huge volume is still going into landfill (107,250L)
- Attention to plastics would be useful as this only increased in volume by 1.2% since 2021. As an average of the total waste produced by the college, this was **a decrease in performance.**



Certification / Accreditation

- ✓ BREEAM accreditation during next site master plan development
- ✓ The college has applied to achieve Hedgehog Friendly Campus Status - [Hedgehog Friendly Campus - The British Hedgehog Preservation Society \(britishhedgehogs.org.uk\)](https://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk)



 *British Hedgehog Preservation Society*

Target 11: Achieve the Hedgehog Friendly Campus Bronze Award.

Unfortunately, due to our resources as a committee and the changing nature of the quorate of the committee, we have not been able to pursue this objective. We hope to be able to reconvene this in 2024/25 where we hope to have 'space' to approach this.

Engagement / Student Participation

- ✓ Students continue to contribute positively as part of the Environmental Committee which meets, at least termly.
- ✓ Student representatives have been influential in disseminating key agenda items to the wider network (e.g. focus on more conscientious food recycling throughout the site by the student body)

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- ✓ In our summer term, we held a social media / recycling competition where students had to create a blog to show us why they love recycling #loverecycling @BirdCollegeUK. We had great engagement, and our 2nd year student Tamzin Slater was the winner this year. <https://www.instagram.com/tv/CfEdp08Fkbc/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=>



Target 12: Litter picks operated by the students during term time.

Our Green Champion and Environmental Lead, Paul Mancini engages regularly with our student population regarding litter picking. Alongside student committee members George Hargraves, Milan Salmon and Emilie King, plenty of litter picking afternoons were organised and continue on a regular basis.

- ✓ We also collaborated with Greenwich University's contribution to the **Big Hog-Friendly Litter Pick Challenge**



Target 13: Increase Web and social media presence of college sustainability activities.

- ✓ We have recently created a specific section on the Bird College Homepage to celebrate the work by our committee and progress as an institution – please see [HERE](#)
- ✓ Termly updates will be publicised, such as this and more information on the committee members will be available.

Catering

- ✓ Meat Free Mondays / More Veggie and vegan options
- ✓ Excess stock is taken to local food banks by each term.
- ✓ Menu for the catering provision is given to the staff in advance to try increase usage.
- ✓ All plastic used in the café is now recyclable.
- ✓ Cardboard used from vegetable company is returned to use again instead of BM paying to bin it.
- ✓ Bartlett Mitchell are audited on food waste. Must be weighed from every dish and not exceed criteria (5%)
- ✓ We have started recycling staff tea bags creating our own compost for plants on site.
- ✓ Bartlett Mitchell have strong sustainable ethics and we are proud and grateful to partner with them. See [ATTACHED](#)

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Completed / Ongoing 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	Include 23/24
Target 3: Complete Hot Water Supply to South Block project	Completed in April 2022	Remove as achieved
Target 4: Install independent water meter following next phases of college site master plan	Indirectly complete following investigation with Birkbeck Primary School. 91% contribution to meter usage.	Remove as achieved
Target 5: Achieve 75% supplier use with those who actively monitor their environmental impact (Policy and Accreditation)	We track all suppliers and contractors that we use to check they have sustainable credentials or at least have environmental policies. 77.5% currently show this.	Include 23/24 and increase to 80%. Possibly expand to explore the suppliers that Production use.
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?
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 was textiles, computer parts and water bottles.	Include in 23/24 and expand more specifically: Furniture and metals
Target 8: To create a dedicated recycling hub within the site.	Taken out of budget in 22/23 but will be put back in the budget for 23/24	Include in 23/24
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.
Target 10: To show an increase in core recycling materials (Paper, Plastics and Food) in 2022 versus 2021	There was an increase of 29.1%, however as a % of total waste produced, this was a decrease versus 2021.	Achieved but replace with a more specific Plastics target. Include in 23/24
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.
Target 13: Increase Web and social media presence of college sustainability activities.	This is being completed concurrently. Agreed to have a drop-down element of the website now to include updates.	Include in 23/24 Include with specific target to termly updates