

Environmental and Sustainable Update – Issue #3 July 2023

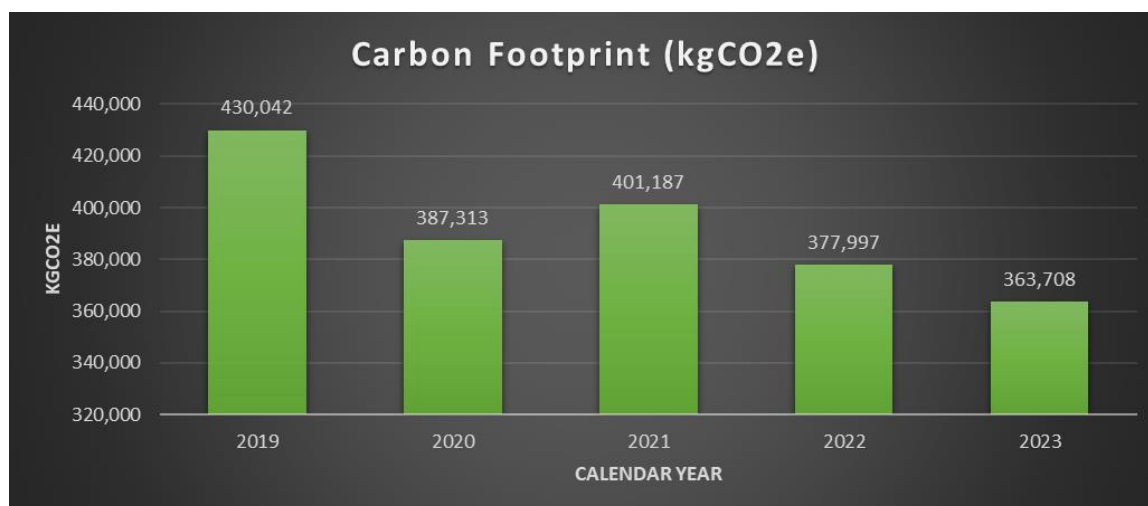
Mission Statement

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

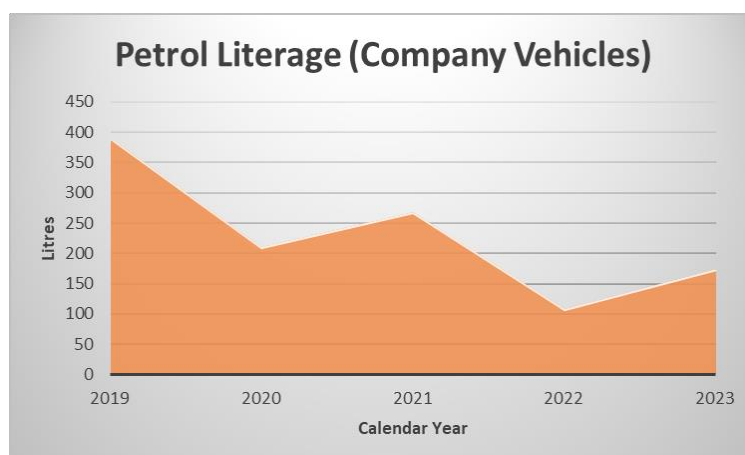
Carbon Footprint



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

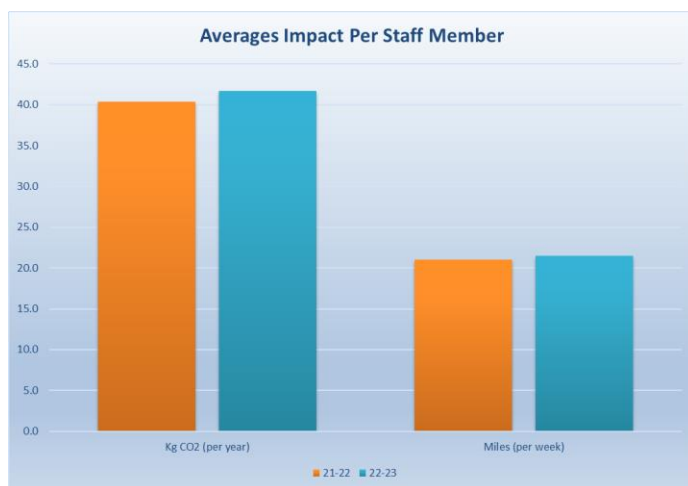
Versus 2022 we are projected (6 months actual / 6 months predicted) to **reduce our footprint by 3.78%** (combining Gas, Electric, F-Gas and Diesel). While later in the update shows very positive reductions in both Gas and Electricity usage, the overall footprint reduction is a little below our target of 5% per year. Since we began the working group in 2019, the footprint has reduced 15.4% however.

✚ **Petrol Usage: We are tracking staff travel to work (respective CO2 (Kg) and litres used by our company vans**

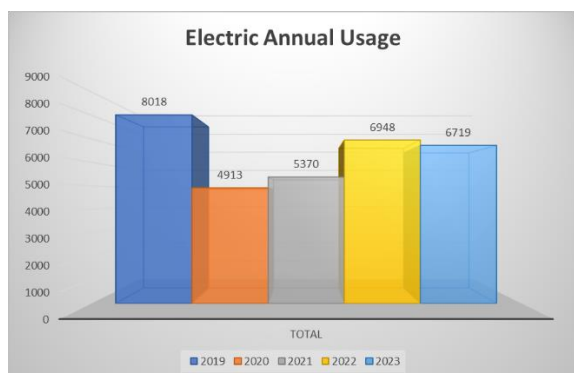


- Sadly, our own usage has increased versus 2021, as the return of large events such as Move it reintegrated into the curriculum demanding significant travel. We also travelled long distances to pick up some materials at heavily discounted prices. **Still, our usage versus 2019 has reduced by 60%**
- Secondly, Van use will drop in late 2023 as we sell our large Van as it does not meet the ULEZ compliance.
- Staff driving habits will be reported in next report (Jan 2024) following term 1 of our next academic year.
- College also not accessible by tube, only local buses and national rail, which reduces travel options slightly.

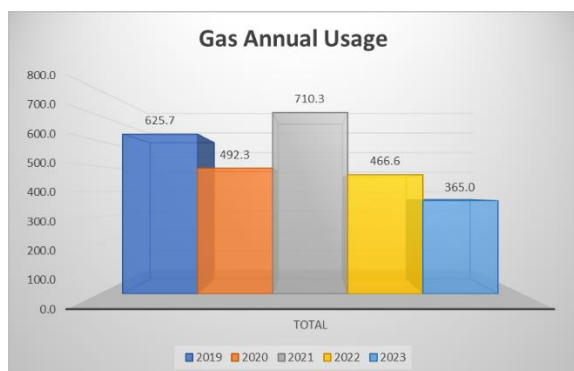
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Utilities



- ✓ Standing item in staff meeting
- ✓ Office Standing Lamps changed to LED
- ✓ Active monitoring of studio usage
- ✓ Increased demand due to install of hand driers and additional air conditioning
- ✓ Active monitoring of heating



- ✓ Installation of heat/cool air conditioning in all offices reducing requirement for gas heating, up to 10 x units now
- ✓ Active management of thermostats
- ✓ Removal of staff room Gas Boiler (June)
- ✓ Weekend efficiency behaviours

Electricity has somewhat plateaued since the pandemic (affecting 2020 and 2021) showing significant decrease. A truer reflection is now available after a full uninterrupted year in 2022. So far, 2023 usage has decreased 3.3% (End of year prediction versus 2022). Our target is to achieve a 5% decrease in this field which would represent a very positive aggregate decrease given the increase in demand from:

- 10 extra air conditioning units
 - 2 x 30L Electric water heaters
 - 1 x 15L Electric water heater
 - 3 x extra hand driers
- ✓ **However, versus 2019, there has still been a decrease of 16.2%!!**

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

- ✓ Following major investment in our South Block in sustainable lighting, we continue to replace out dated, in-efficient lighting. We have budgeted for the upgrade of all lighting in Studio 3 to 600x600 LED
- ✓ We are replacing old office standing lamps with LED versions as and when each lamp is failing. To be continued

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- ✚ 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 Staff Room Boiler Replacement (instal Electric Heaters) ➡ GAS REDUCTION.

- ✓ Following the South Block electric heater installation, we are continuing to reduce Gas wherever possible.
 - ✓ Approved in our 23/24 budget is to replace Staff Room boiler with a smaller, more efficient electric water heater
 - ✓ This will ensure that no outlets are now heated by gas.
- ✚ The above measures and building projects have contributed to another **21% decrease versus 2022**
- ✚ Excluding the jump in 2021 due to the pandemic, the college has achieved a huge **41.7% reduction since 2019**

Target 4: Following Meter usage analysis with Birkbeck in Nov 22, we now want historical annual usage data up until 2023

- We are in discussions with Birkbeck primary School (who we share a main meter with) to ascertain the accurate split of usage from the meter and thus track our own usage. We are hoping to have a rough idea of usage dating back as far as possible soon.

Suppliers and Procurement

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

- ✓ We are currently hovering at 73% in 2023, this is still an improvement on when we started tracking in 2021 (48%) but a step back compared to last year (@ 77.5%).
 - ✓ This is due to a couple of key contractors actually ceasing to provide some services. We then had to tender some services and decided on 2 occasions to appoint smaller, local firms who are currently still working on either their policy and/or accreditation.
- ✚ We are still hopeful 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.

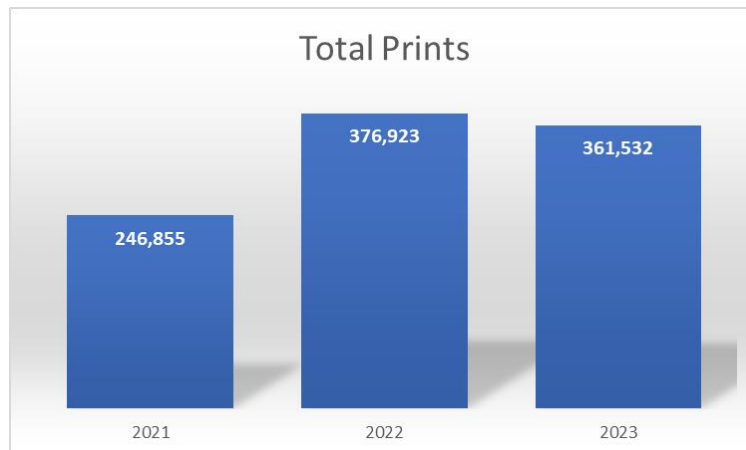
- ✓ We continue to order general stock from one main supplier to reduce deliveries.
 - ✓ We order Eco wipes which are 100% Biodegradable.
 - ✓ Paper FSC Eco recyclable (5g.m lighter)
 - ✓ Biodegradable food bags
- ✚ We wish to seek confirmation on current supply of sustainably sourced toilet paper and paper towels.
- ✚ Biodegradable black bags are still 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:

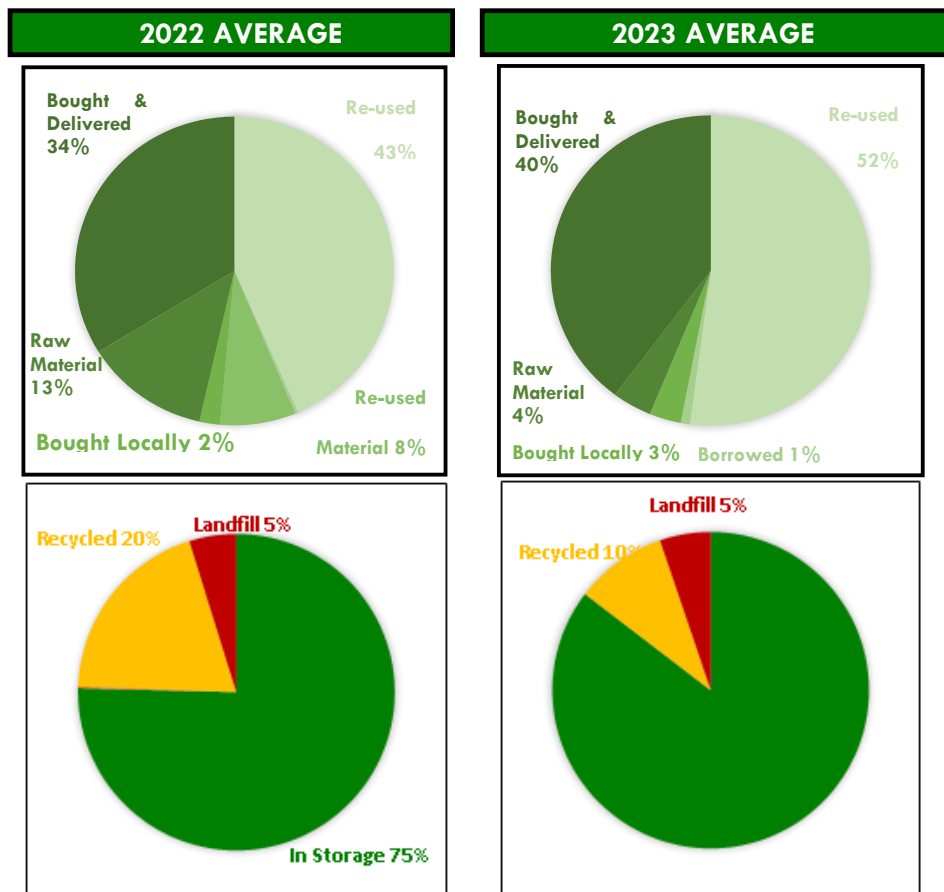
- ✓ Fire Documentation is now electronic due to installation of cloud-based software on Nimbus, including weekly tests
- ✓ Hand driers have been installed instead of paper towels in NE block x 2 and now also the South Block Staff Toilet.
- ✓ Current prediction for Printing volumes is that the college is heading towards a 4% reduction versus 2022. Full environmental impact versus 2021 and 2022 will be calculated at the end of 2023.

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A continuation of the production teams' work around musical resources are below. The hope is that this analysis of the last 2 year's productions can start to shape more meaningful decisions and behaviour that make our theatre sustainable.

- ✓ In line with our Climate Crisis Working Group
- ✓ And the framework provided in **The Green Book** by the National Theatre



- ✓ Year on Year there has been a 9% increase in the volume of materials and items being re-used
- ✓ Difficulties in the recruitment of a set builder forced the college into having more materials bought and delivered
- ✓ Item futures has also increased versus 2022 with the college now storing 85% of materials and items versus 75%
- ✓ Largely this is due to external wood storage, a new fabric store and simply more sustainably minded staff

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

Range of recycled materials now in 2023 includes: Batteries, Florescent bulbs, shredding, computer parts, IT equipment (securely), printer cartridges and now Textiles (discussed below)

- ✓ Water bottles are collected in abundance and are recycled in mass at our local refuse centre in Sidcup.
 - ✓ We are now also working with another charity who has helped re-purpose old summer camp beds for short courses that we run and water bottles.
 - ✓ **Mothers of Africa Cry Out Ltd**
- ✚ **We are continuing to investigate 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.**
- ✚ This remains an operational target for us this financial year

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

- ✓ In recent years, we have heavily supported **Mind** and **Cancer Research** through student and staff surveys
- ✓ Into 2023 we successfully reached an agreement with **Rag-Bag** to install a textile bin for clothes and shoes
- ✓ This will help us raise funds through sustainable donations. The textiles are sorted and graded at one of four textile recycling facilities by Textile Recycling International Ltd. Then, either:

- 1) Low grade textiles are made into industrial wiping cloths, carpets, underlay and mattress linings, or
- 2) Good quality clothing is transported to Africa and other developing nations where your old clothes are re-used.



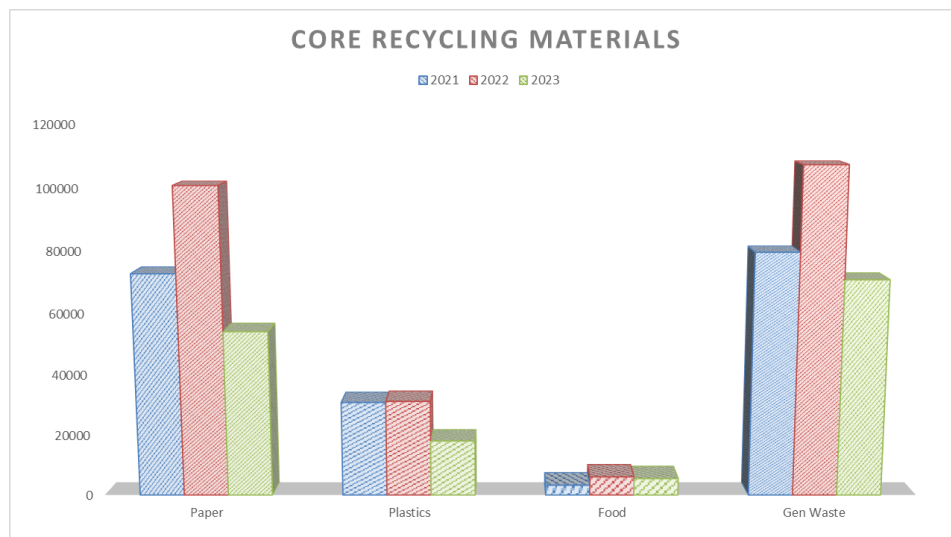
- ✚ **Complete install of approved textile bin and hopeful reinvestment of associated income**

Target 10: To show an increase in core recycling materials versus volume of waste going to landfill (Paper, Plastics and Food).

- Attention to plastics was a focus for the environmental committee as this only increased by 1.2% since 2021. As an average of the total waste produced by the college, this was **a decrease in performance**.
- Unfortunately, we are not currently on track to achieve this. Year-to-date, the total volume of waste we have produced has risen by 4%, yet we are sadly contributing 13% more to landfill than 2022...
- Largest contributing factor is Paper and Cardboard, which has decreased by 8% and despite efforts, Plastics dropped by 1%.
- ✓ This has been slightly offset by a huge increase in food waste by 56% versus 2022. However, by volume this is the smallest contributing waste material.

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- ✚ Refocus required and communication broadly to staff and students at the start of academic year about impact



Certification / Accreditation

- ✓ BREEAM accreditation will be under consideration during next site master plan development
- ✓ There are no new developments on any further accreditation and/or certification

Engagement / Student Participation

- ✓ Students continue to contribute positively as part of the Environmental Committee which meets, at least termly.
- ✓ Students have engaged nicely with many of the catering sustainable agenda's (more detail below)



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](#)
- ✓ 6-monthly updates are publicised, such as this and more information on the committee members will be available.
- ✓ This report itself forms part of the agenda for Sustainable visibility

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Catering

- ✓ Bartlett Mitchell have strong sustainable ethics and we are proud and grateful to partner with them. See [ATTACHED](#)
- ✓ BM have altered their ordering behaviour for fresh vegetables, by using 'Wonky Veg' supporting suppliers who make the most of traditionally excluded products, equalling a less wasteful supply chain
- ✓ BM held multiple workshops during the first two terms of 2023:
 - *Eat With The Earth in Mind*
 - *Fruitful World*
 - *Vitality Stand*



- ✓ The annual BBQ also made a shift towards a more sustainable offering, providing 10% veggie options, up from 6% last term. While we have agreed to change this to 33% for the September 2023 BBQ

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Ongoing Targets

Target	Context	Decision
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	Continue 23/24
Target 3: Complete Staff Room Boiler replacement	Budgeted and scheduled for completion in August 2023. This will remove the final gas-fed outlet in the South Block.	Continue 23/24
Target 5: Achieve 75% supplier use with those who actively monitor their environmental impact (Policy and Accreditation)	We track all suppliers and contractors sustainable credentials (Policy / ISO). This is extended to production suppliers in 23 Target is 80% > 77.5% in 2022	Continue 23/24
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?	Continue 23/24
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.	Dedicated bins budgeted for 23/24	Continue 23/24
Target 10: To show an increase in core recycling materials (Paper, Plastics and Food) in 2022 versus 2021	Focus on plastics as a % +/- versus 2022. Year to date until July, this has decreased a further 1%, while total waste to landfill as a contribution of all waste has risen by 4% Communication to all staff and students	Continue in 23/24
Target 13: Increase Web and social media presence of college sustainability activities.	Agreed to have a drop-down element of the website now to include updates. Complete 6-monthly updates (July and Jan)	Continue 23/24

Proposed Targets

Target	Context	Decision
Sustainable Catering BBQ		N/A
Start historical analysis of water usage on shared meter (91%)		N/A
Student Engagement through Competition		N/A

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Completed / Archived 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 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 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 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.