

Environmental and Sustainable Update – Issue #4 Dec 2023

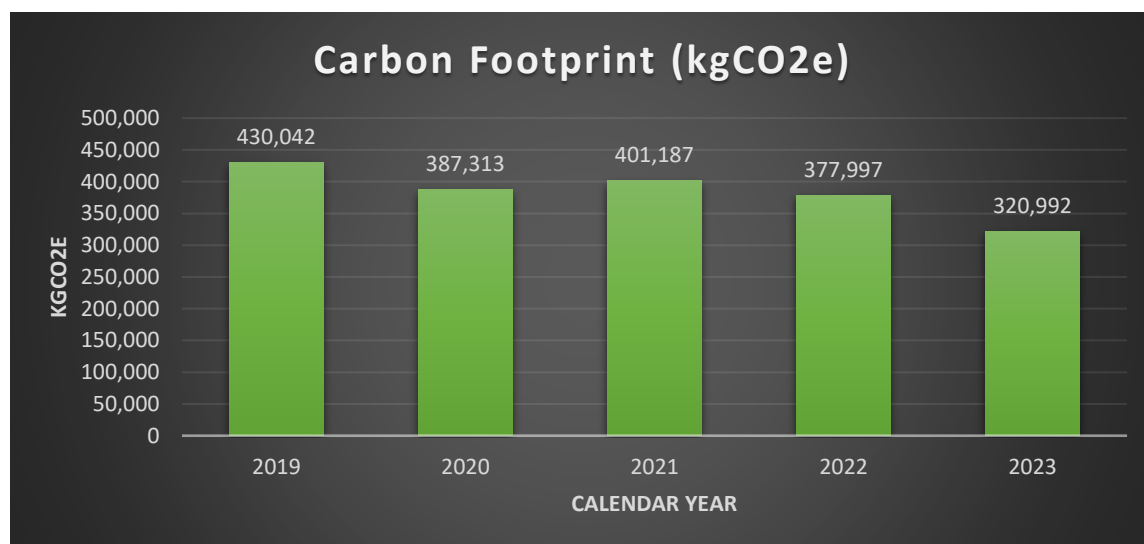
Mission Statement

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 → Termly 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

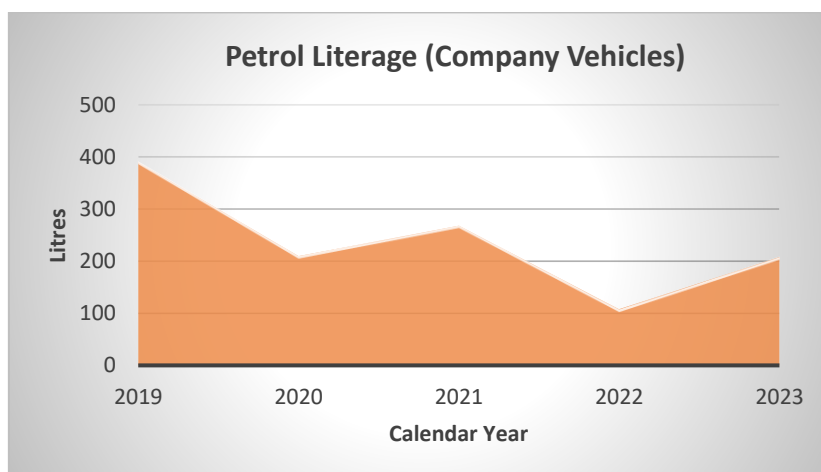


Based on a combination of parameters, our current Carbon Footprint is in line with industry standards (**Carbon Trust, 2021**)

We have far surpassed our mid-year prediction of 3.78% reduction, in total achieving **15.08% Carbon Reduction**

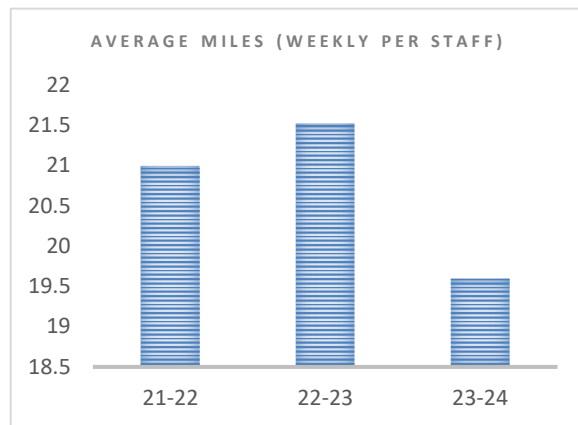
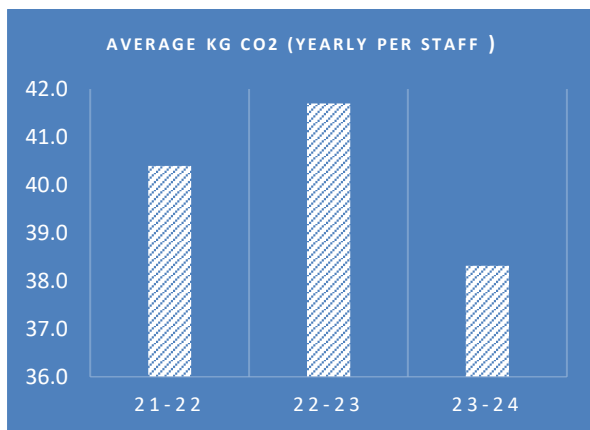
These are consolidated figures (combining Gas, Electric, F-Gas and Diesel). Our annual target is to reduce by 5%. Since the working group was introduced this represents a total reduction by 25.4% since 2019. As a reminder, objectively we are dismissing 2020 figures due to the impact of the pandemic.

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



- The impact of events (such as Moveit) reintegrating into the curriculum and the necessity to collect props and material has seen a steep rise in company vehicle usage 2023 versus 2022 @ 93% increased.
- However, as we have successfully recruited a high-level set designer, we expect this to steeply decline in 24.
- As mentioned, the college also made the decision to sell its ULEZ non-compliant large van which will further reduce driving. **Still, our usage versus 2019 has reduced by 47%**

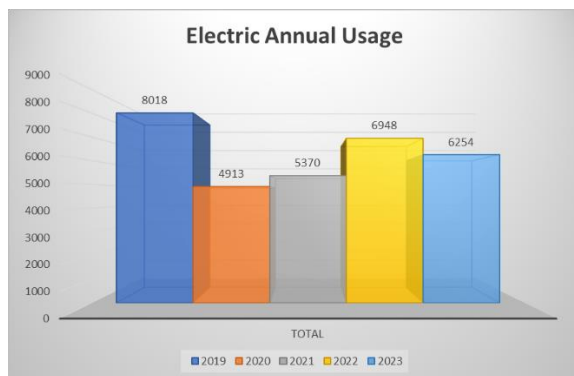
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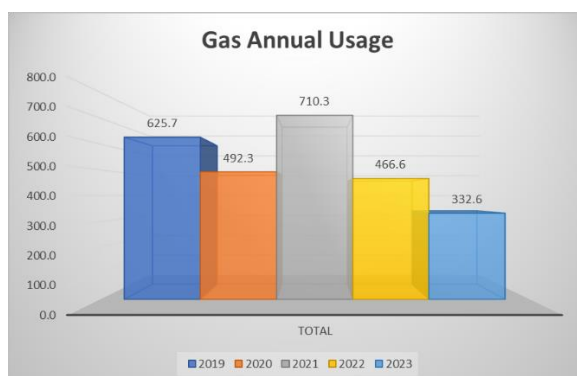
- Staff driving habits have improved since 2022 = staff mileage has decreased by 9%
- Positively, we also have a higher response rate of 86%, up 5% on 2022 – so the figures are more accurate
- The CO2 (Kg) reduction (8%) is equal to 1/2 tree per person. Combined, we have saved over 52 trees!!



Utilities



- ✓ Standing item in staff meeting
- ✓ Office Lamps changed to LED x 3
- ✓ Active monitoring of studio usage
- ✓ Increased demand through extra heat pumps and driers
- ✓ Active monitoring of heating



- ✓ Install of 12 x heat/cool air conditioning in all offices reducing requirement for gas heating
- ✓ Active management of thermostats
- ✓ Repairs of old redundant radiator valves to allow more efficient control
- ✓ Removal of staff room Gas Boiler (July)
- ✓ Weekend efficiency behaviours /zonal use

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Electricity savings have improved since mid-year: achieving a **10% decrease** versus 2022. More pleasing given increased provision of electrical units helping to power heat & cool functions in college. In total, we made the following investments:

- 12 extra air conditioning units
 - 2 x 30L Electric water heaters
 - 1 x 15L Electric water heater
 - 4 x extra hand driers
 - Studio 3 LED upgrade (12 x 600x600mm) from old fluorescent bulbs (x 96!!)
- ✓ **Since 2019, there has been a total decrease in Electricity of 22.0%!!**

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

- ✓ We are starting to reap the benefits of our South Block sustainable lighting instal in November 2022. An entire year of reduced volume, higher efficiency LED with motion and lux sensors, dimming to 10% in low footfall.
- ✓ The college has also successfully completed the Studio 3 LED upgrade as discussed above, finished in October 2023

- ✚ **Other offices fluorescent lighting to be costed include: 15, 126, 127 and 128**
- ✚ **Continue to replace standing lamps upon failure with LED upgrade, as and when.**

NEW TARGET - Target 16: Replace office old fluorescent lighting in 15 and 126 with high efficiency LED panels – NEW TARGET

Target 3: Complete Staff Room Boiler Replacement (instal Electric Heaters) ➡ **GAS REDUCTION. - COMPLETED**

- We removed another gas installation: 15L electric water heater replaced our staff room boiler in Aug 23
 - There are now NO outlets heated by gas in the South or Theatre blocks.
 - Our 4 old Hamworthy Gas Boilers have served the college for over 30 years now, but we are now down to only one still in operation due to their age and lack of available parts.
 - A part of contingency planning, we have made the choice to protect our long-term heat solutions by purchasing the first of 2 far higher efficiency condensing boilers to supply our main buildings' heat.
 - 24/25 Capital investments schedule now includes a 2nd condensing boiler to operate alongside this one. These will behave at circa 30% higher efficiency than the current system. New system will also include new buffer tank and heat exchange system to protect water quality and prolong boiler product life cycles.
- ✓ **Versus 2022, we have managed to achieve a total annual Gas reduction of 28.72%**
- ✓ **Versus 2019 the total reduction is a whopping 46.84%**
- ✚ **In 2024, we hope to complete the above Plant Room upgrade and achieve another 10% Gas reduction**

NEW TARGET - Target 15: Complete South Block Plant Room Gas Boiler Upgrade– NEW TARGET

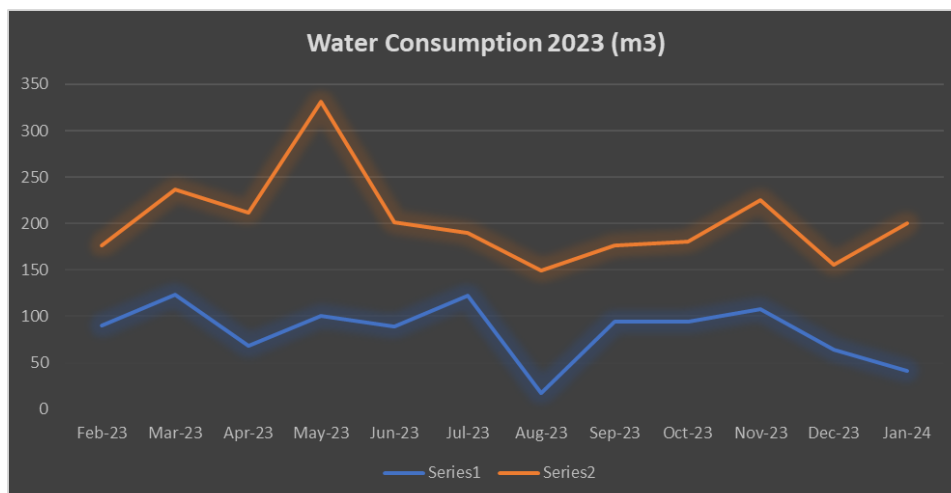
Target 4: Alongside Meter usage analysis with Birkbeck we now want historical annual usage data up until 2023 - **COMPLETED**

- We have managed to gather 12 months' actual data of our water usage, as per below.
- The total combined usage is 3,445 m³ = **3,445,000 litres of water in 2023**

That's the equivalent
of 1.5 Olympic sized
Swimming Pools!!!!!!



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The [Water Regulation Advisory Scheme \(WRAS\)](#) asked consumers about their everyday water usage habits* to identify the most common habits for water inefficiency. Using less water is not only good for the environment, it can save money too.

Water Regs UK, 2024 – Check [HERE](#) for more tips to help save water

- ✚ **Our goal this year, will be to engage more with our users and reduce this usage by 5%**
- ✚ **Alongside ensuring we analyse how our usage is affected by our other contributor, Birkbeck Primary**

NEW TARGET - Target 14: Target a college-wide decrease in water usage by 5% versus 2023 – NEW TARGET

Suppliers and Procurement

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

- ✓ We have recently changed some suppliers, who form part of our recycling function chain
- ✓ These include: new IT asset disposal company and toner recycling direct with Ricoh, both free and with accreditation
- ✓ Thus, we have now achieved 81%!! of our contractors and suppliers who can demonstrate strong sustainable ethos.

- ✚ **We aim to maximise our current provision (> 85% in 2024) encouraging our existing suppliers with policy**

NEW TARGET - Target 17: Work with 2/3 existing, trusted suppliers who have not yet shown policy/accreditation – NEW TARGET

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 and Paper FSC Eco recyclable (5g.m lighter)
- ✓ Biodegradable food bags

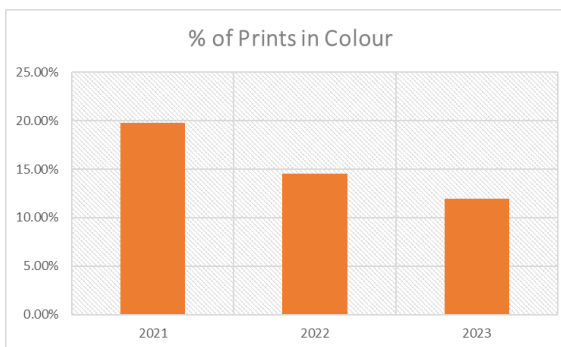
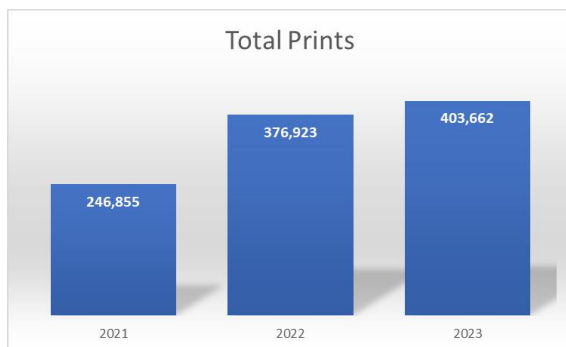
- ✚ **We have a product and supply review booked with main supplier in 3 months**

Recycling / Waste

Sadly, the college's print volumes escalated towards the end of the year, finishing with a 7.1% increase. This is a bit of a disappointment, but we believe to be mitigated somewhat by:

- ❖ 66% of musical scripts already printed for the season and casts themselves have increased by 3%
- ❖ Impending Ofsted inspection prompted an increase in lesson plan, policies and procedures printing
- ❖ Unfortunately, this volume of printing equates to the destruction of 21.27 trees

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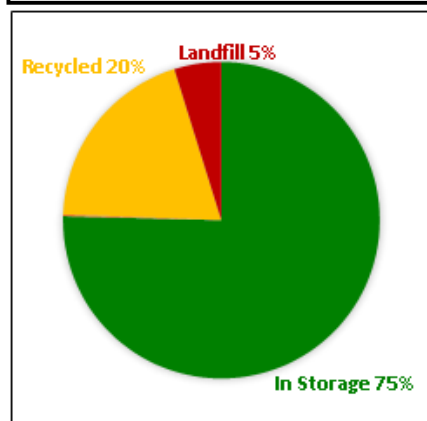
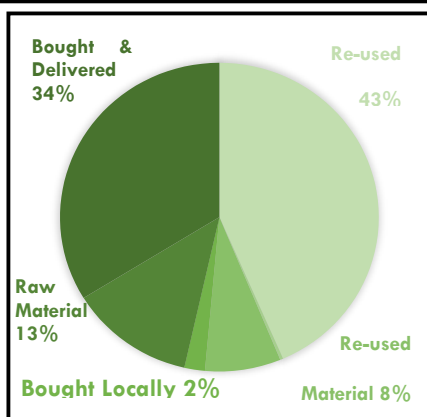


- This has been offset by some excellent staff initiatives:
 - ✓ Green Script Initiative by the acting department to re-purpose old scripts via older students
 - ✓ Printing ensemble papers on recycled paper by some singing tutors/ensemble leads
 - ✓ Colour printing has decreased even further 2.6% = cost savings

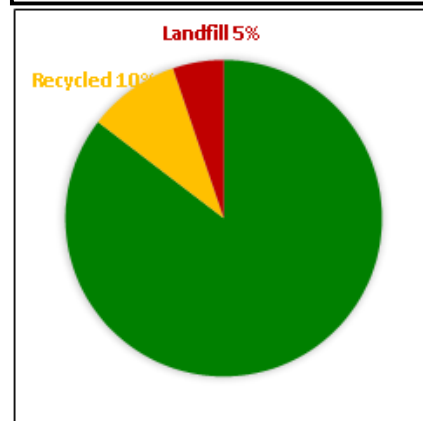
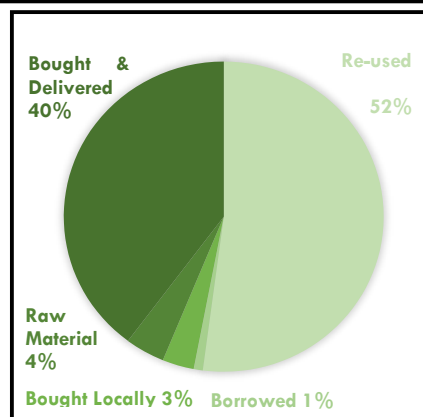
✚ A continuation of the production teams' work around musical resources are below.

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

2022 AVERAGE



2023 AVERAGE



- ❖ In summary, 2023 produced 10% increase in our inventory and 9% increase in re-used materials
- ❖ However, 6% more raw material was purchased – largely due to the lack of an in-house set builder.
- ✓ Though, with the recruitment of an experienced set-builder, targets can include more sustainable staging solutions in 24
- ✓ This will increase raw materials at first but should allow greater ability to re-use.
- ✓ Already prevalent is, flooring used in multiple shows and seating banks appearing in 50% shows.
- ✓ Another floor has also been borrowed from other local industry
- ✓ All engineering fixtures and fittings are being re-used (e.g. castors, wheels, clips and bolts etc)
- ✓ With more knowledge, we are able to order mostly from local suppliers, excluding the fire-rated wood
- ✓ The theatre climate crisis goals are now shared with producers and creatives for the show season, and this process is aimed at producing deeper planning and consideration to sustainable elements of each production

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- ✚ We hope to achieve more positive re-use and storage figures in 2024 but expect that our raw materials will increase
- ✚ Attempts are being made to more accurately apportion the different elements in each set to more fairly analyse the impact (ie a huge volume of material is used for one large prop, which is currently only identified as one item, as is a very small prop, however, environmentally, these are not equal at all).
- ✚ We are hopeful to understand from industry equals how this analysis is performed accurately (Rose Bru/National Theatre)

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
- ✚ We are hopeful of achieving a more structured approach to recycling metals with Bexley Council

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. COMPLETED

- ✓ In 2023 we successfully reached an agreement with Rag-Bag to install a textile bin for clothes and shoes
- ✓ This allows us to raise funds through sustainable donations. The textiles are sorted and graded, 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.



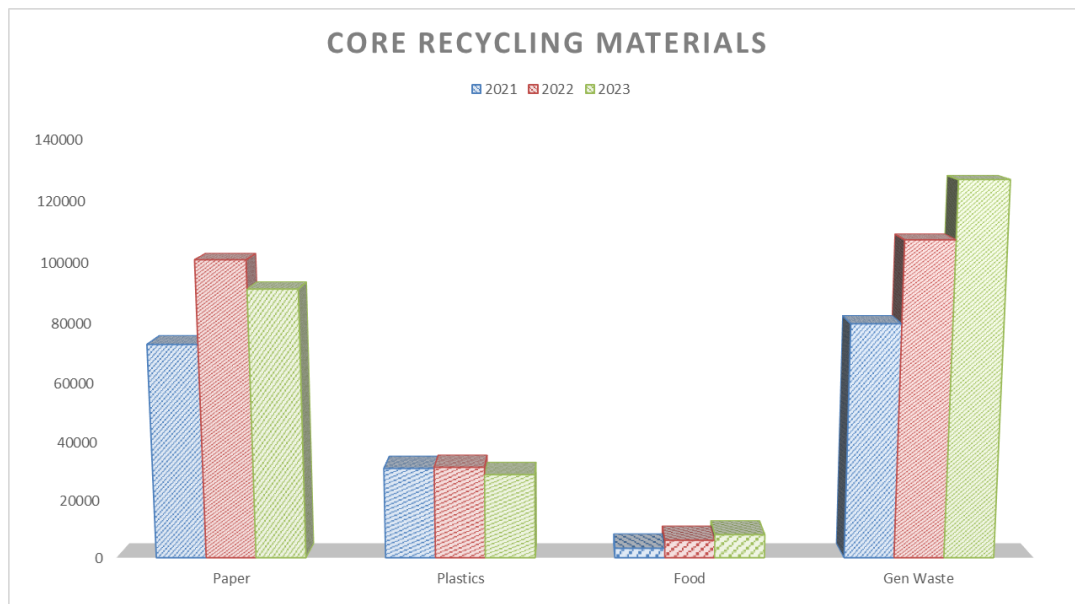
- ✚ **Complete install of approved textile bin and hopeful reinvestment of associated income**
- ✓ We have successfully installed our bin (as above) and have already received our first collection of textiles and shoes, totalling 140kg = 34 bags. A donation of this size provided the college with a financial reward of £41.
- ✓ Every little helps!!

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

- ✓ Our Food waste has continued to show positive results, producing a 31.7% increase versus 2022
- ❖ Unfortunately, General Waste has increased by 18.2% since 2022, which means that the other 2 recycled elements at College (Paper & card and Plastics) have both decreased simultaneously @ 8.1% and 9.6% respectively
- ❖ We know that our Workshop has increased General Waste as a by-product of set building, but we believe that the remainder of this, circa 15,000 Litres is simply due to:
 - ⊗ Lack of knowledge, time or efforts when distinguishing recyclable materials into the correct bin (staff and students)
 - ⊗ Causing contamination, forcing much recyclable material into waste, when it should be apportioned correctly
 - ⊗ External bins are also difficult to monitor and we hope to improve this with dedicated areas
 - ⊗ Cleaning operatives not following guidelines on recycling zones.

✚ **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 meet termly, where possible

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

- ✓ Please see [HERE](#) on the Bird College Homepage to celebrate the committees' work and progress as an institution
- ✓ 6-monthly updates are publicised, such as this and more information on the committee members are available.
- ✓ This report itself forms part of the agenda for Sustainable visibility

NEW TARGET - Target 19: To engage on key agendas raised in monthly literature and bi-annual reports on socials – NEW TARGET

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Catering

- ✓ Bartlett Mitchell have strong sustainable ethics and we are proud and grateful to partner with them. See [ATTACHED](#)
- ✓ Some Developments in 2023 include:
 1. We now use organic coffee beans, meaning free from chemical fertilisers, pesticides, additives or any other harmful chemicals, grown from the land naturally full of vitamins, minerals and antioxidants (below, left)
 2. Staff are better looked after, meals and a uniform.
 3. We have started putting food footprint labels on fresh pots etc made in house (below, right)
 4. Chefs at head office have started on a new Wasted booklet to help cutdown on throwing food away
 5. We did a Christmas pop up in the café to show healthy, energy saving ways to cook food on a budget.
 6. All disposables at lunch are recyclable, plastic straws and plastic cutlery have been replaced with either paper or wooden materials.



NEW TARGET - Target 18: We aim to reduce the meat offering down to 66% from 90% last year – NEW TARGET

- ✚ 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 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 in 24/25
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 and 2023 was textiles, computer parts and water bottles.	Include in 24/25 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 in 24/25
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 24/25
Target 14: Water Usage Decrease by 5% annually versus 2023	Following 12 months of data capture, we small changes to influence usage at college. We are looking at water proficiency training also for staff	Added in 2024
Target 15: Complete South Block Plant Room Upgrade	2 x New Condensing Boilers, Buffer Tank and Heat Exchanger to help us achieve further Gas reduction on our main meter	Added in 2024
Target 16: Replace remaining old fluorescent lighting with LED options.	Target 2 x final South Block offices which are using low efficiency fluorescent bulbs, in 15 and 126	Added in 2024
Target 17: Achieve 85% of suppliers who work with sustainable practise	Work with 2 or 3 final existing suppliers to help them achieve environmental policy and/or accreditation	Added in 2024
Target 18: Sustainable Catering BBQ	We aim to reduce the meat offering down to 66% from 90% last year	Added in 2024
Target 19: Social Media engagement	To engage on key agendas raised in monthly literature and bi-annual reports on socials	Added in 2024

Proposed Targets

Target	Context	Decision
Student Engagement through Competition		N/A
Theatre shows resources	Setting a target for positive impact on show resources used in 2024 show period versus 2023	

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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 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	Remove as achieved – Sep23
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.	Remove as achieved – Aug23
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 – Jul 23
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	Remove as achieved – Dec 23
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 – Jul 23
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 – Jul 23
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)	Remove as achieved – Dec 23