

Sustainability Statement

Technical

This wall consists of ten solar panels and is 2.4m high and 7.2m long. For maximum efficiency it faces due south and has a total surface area of 17.28m².

On a sunny day the wall will produce 1043W of electricity, which is sufficient to power four kettles or 100 lightbulbs.

To power an average family home the wall would need to be three times its current size.



Green Wall

Welcome to the Green Wall

Burnley College is committed to sustainable practices that support the environment.

As a practical representation of our commitment, this wall has been designed to use solar powered technology to provide renewable energy to our Gatehouse.

Executive Summary Statement

Burnley College is committed to promoting sustainability. Concern for the environment and promoting a broader sustainability agenda are integral to Burnley College's professional activities and the management of the organisation. We aim to follow and to promote outstanding sustainability practice, to reduce the environmental impacts of all our activities and to help our students, staff and stakeholders to do the same.

The College also acknowledges the importance of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in addressing the wider issues of economic and social sustainable development.

Our sustainability principles will serve as a foundation for all areas of our business and we will continuously improve our performance and set measurable objectives and targets which shall be reviewed at appropriate intervals.

Our sustainability statement is framed by the College Purpose, Strategic Objectives and Goals and will be communicated to all stakeholders. The statement is structured into four areas of College activity covering culture, community, curriculum, and campus.

Background and Context

Where are we now?

THE AMBITION

Whilst the College has achieved much over recent years it acknowledges that it still has much to do. Consequently, this statement sets out the vision for how Burnley College will help tackle climate change and drive forward environmental sustainability initiatives.

The overriding ambition is to 'be a College at the cutting edge of environmental sustainability'. The importance of this determined aim cannot be overstated. Many college students will, in their working and personal lives, come face-to face with the realities and challenges of climate change, which will impact on every aspect of their daily lives. As an educational institution, the College has a responsibility to ensure it is preparing students for these challenges, and building on the progress made to date.

In order to drive change, the College will develop a whole institution approach through a network of Sustainability Champions who will ensure that environmental sustainability is central to everything the College does and plans to do.

CULTURE

Sustainability Working Group

The Sustainability Working Group was established in 2019 and is responsible for leading on sustainability within the College. It meets half-termly and its membership is drawn from across the Burnley College community. The working group is supported by Sustainability Champions within each staff area and by Sustainability Student Innovators within the student body.

COMMUNITY

Sustainable Procurement

The College endeavours to consider sustainability in all of its purchasing decisions both in terms of the items that are being procured and the supply chain that is providing them. To support this each procurement tender includes requirements and scoring on the sustainability of the product and supply chain. The College has also started a review of its supplier list and introduced a sustainability scoring mechanism to grade suppliers and help to guide staff in making informed, sustainable decisions. The new supplier questionnaire that all prospective suppliers must complete asks them to commit to the College's sustainability requirements.

Sustainability commitments and certification

A commitment has been made within the College to drive sustainability and make continuous improvement in our actions. We have completed the Lancashire Green Rose Scheme, which supports our efforts and provides certification of our progress so far.

CURRICULUM

Sustainable Education

The College places great value on developing sustainability throughout the curriculum to equip and empower all students and businesses that we work with to make a positive impact in the wider world. The work on this so far has seen elements of sustainability embedded into curriculum programmes across the College and a pilot review started to map each curriculum to the Sustainable Development Goals.

We have also created a specific curriculum offer to support growth in sustainability jobs by training the workforce needed now and into the future, and this will continue to be developed as requirements change.

CAMPUS

Energy, Water and Carbon

A significant amount of progress has already been made on energy sustainability with the College procuring 100% renewable energy from the grid and also installing over 2,200 solar panels on campus that provide over 20% of the electricity used each year. Efforts have also been made to reduce the overall energy use on campus with virtually all lights upgraded to LED and a number of initiatives rolled out to encourage switching off of lights and equipment. These have all contributed to the College reducing the amount of energy it takes from the national grid by 85,000kwh between 2023 and 2025, despite the College and campus growing significantly.

The main building of the College campus utilises a rainwater harvesting system to reduce mains water usage and water saving devices have been utilised in toilets throughout the campus.

The overall carbon footprint of the College is measured and reported each year through a series of categories with an overall carbon emissions figure and a summary intensity ratio produced. The College has so far reduced these from a total of 1,107 tonnes of CO₂ in 2020/21 to 815 tonnes of CO₂ in 2024/25 and an intensity ratio of 2.53 in 2020/21 to 1.18 in 2024/25.

Waste

The College has a number of different waste streams associated with the various curriculum and operational areas around the organisation, including general waste, food, timber, metal, plaster, bricks and electrical. Each of these has its own waste management process and items are separated and removed from site to be recycled or managed with sustainability in mind. For general waste and recycling on site there are a number of separation recycling stations round campus that encourage staff and students to recycle and consider their waste. Both these and the general waste are collected by a specialist waste management company and processed off site.

Travel and Transport

Various different elements make up the approach to sustainable travel and transport, including student and staff travel to college, travel for trips, and use of College vehicles. The College encourages sustainable travel in a number of ways, with student bus passes and bespoke bus services to encourage multiple occupancy travel, with 25 electric vehicle charging stations on campus, and with cycle to work and bike hire schemes to support staff travel and wellbeing. We have also introduced an electric vehicle for the College Facilities Team to move around the site.

Food

With six catering outlets on campus and nearly 10,000 people on campus each week, the food service in the College has a significant part to play in the sustainable operations of the organisation. There are a number of areas that we drive sustainable practices with a variety of vegetarian and vegan options offered, biodegradable packaging and cutlery used for all meals, and food waste minimisation and recycling.

Biodiversity

The campus provides a variety of habitats and opportunities for biodiversity including a range of trees and bushes, grass areas and the River Calder running through the site. The College has also introduced a number of additions to improve the biodiversity on campus with a green roof on our cycle hub building, wildflower planting areas, bird boxes, bird feeders, and a herb garden. The development of our North Campus has also introduced a lake and a wider area and variety of green space to further enhance the biodiversity on campus.

Strategic Aims and Objectives

Where do we want to get to and how do we get there?

PRINCIPLES AND AIMS

Our sustainability statement is based upon the following principles and aims:

- To comply with, and exceed where practicable, all applicable legislation, regulations and codes of practice.
- To integrate sustainability considerations into all our business decisions.
- To ensure that all staff, students and stakeholders are fully aware of our Sustainability Statement and are committed to implementing and improving it.
- To minimise our environmental impact through sustainability in all educational activities.
- To review, annually report, and to continually strive to improve our sustainability performance.
- To be Net Zero for Scope 1 and Scope 2 (factors in our own control) by 2040.
- To be Net Zero overall by 2050.

CULTURE

Sustainability Working Group

Goal: To continue the development of the Sustainability Working Group, widening the input and opportunities to lead sustainability strategy and initiatives.

What will we do?: The membership of the group will be refreshed each year to widen opportunities for input from different staff. The links between the group and sustainability champions within the staff and student body will be strengthened by joint meetings and projects. The College will also introduce opportunities for corporate social responsibility work experience and apprenticeships to support the drive for improved sustainability.

COMMUNITY

Sustainable Procurement

Goal: To drive further sustainability improvements through effective decision making of products and services purchased and the supply chain that supports them. To have all suppliers signed up to sustainability commitments by 2030.

What will we do?: Review the College's supplier list, adding sustainability information and grading to support informed sustainable choices. Embed sustainability questions and requirements into all procurement processes.

Sustainability commitments and certification

Goal: To highlight and demonstrate the College's commitment to sustainability through accreditations, commitments and awards.

What will we do?: Explore opportunities for further accreditations, commitments and awards, including the SDG Accord.

CURRICULUM

Sustainable Education

Goal: To empower and educate all students in sustainability awareness and practices to support them to have a positive impact on the world in their personal and professional futures, and to support the upskilling of the workforce in green skills required across a range of industries. Aim for all staff and students to complete a sustainability course, project, or live action brief by 2028.

What will we do?: Continue to embed sustainability awareness and practices into all curriculum areas across College. Expand the pilot review of curriculum against the SDGs and implement changes to further align plans to cover the SDGs. Further develop the range and depth and specific green skills courses to support the upskilling and development of skilled employees for the sustainability sector. Roll out sustainability courses, projects and briefs for staff and students to complete. Explore and develop work experience and volunteering opportunities in sustainable careers for our students.

CAMPUS

Energy, Water and Carbon

Goal: To improve overall energy efficiency relative to the size of the organisation and campus, including decarbonisation by 2035, leading to a reduced carbon footprint and carbon emission intensity ratio. Initially targeting a 10% improvement by 2030.

What will we do?: Install energy monitoring equipment and software to provide live visibility of energy usage (to include electricity, gas and water), utilising this to highlight areas of inefficiency that can be improved. Continue commitment that all new building developments will be free from fossil fuels and will be carbon neutral or better. Work towards decarbonisation of the estate with sustainable replacement where plant comes to the end of its life and development of plans for full decarbonisation of the facilities.

Waste

Goal: To reduce overall waste generated by the College operations, and to maximise recycling and sustainable management of remaining waste, with a 20% improvement from 2024 levels by 2030.

What will we do?: Review all waste management arrangements and implement the most sustainable solution available. Introduce further recycling stations across campus to increase the amount of waste recycled at source and encourage recycling habits.

Travel and Transport

Goal: Reduce carbon footprint impact of staff, student, and College travel through further encouragement of public transport and sustainable travel options. Aim for 10% improvement in sustainable travel choices from 2024 travel survey baseline by 2030.

What will we do?: Encourage more sustainable travel choices for staff and students through initiatives, incentives, and education.

Food

Goal: To provide catering customers with a range of sustainable food and drink options, delivered with sustainable practices and minimising waste.

What will we do?: Regularly review menus to ensure that a range of vegetarian and vegan options are available. Continually review products and suppliers to find the most sustainable choices from local sources. Remove as much single use plastic and other negative materials, replacing with sustainable solutions. Replace fossil fuel powered cooking equipment with sustainable alternatives.

Biodiversity

Goal: To further increase the biodiversity of the campus by careful management of the site and implementation of improvement strategies.

What will we do?: Develop and implement a biodiversity management plan for the campus to identify and put in place the best strategies for improving biodiversity. Conduct a baseline wildlife assessment to identify current levels of biodiversity and help to measure the impact of improvements.

Performance Management

How will we know we have got there?

The College will ensure that it reports on progress in delivering this strategy through the following mechanisms, using a range of key performance indicators:

- Annual carbon emissions reporting
- Update to this Sustainability Statement in March each year
- Live visibility and reporting of energy usage and solar energy generation
- Monthly reports of waste management from specialist waste management suppliers

Responsibility

This statement is the responsibility of the Director of Finance and Resources

Date of Last Review

March 2026