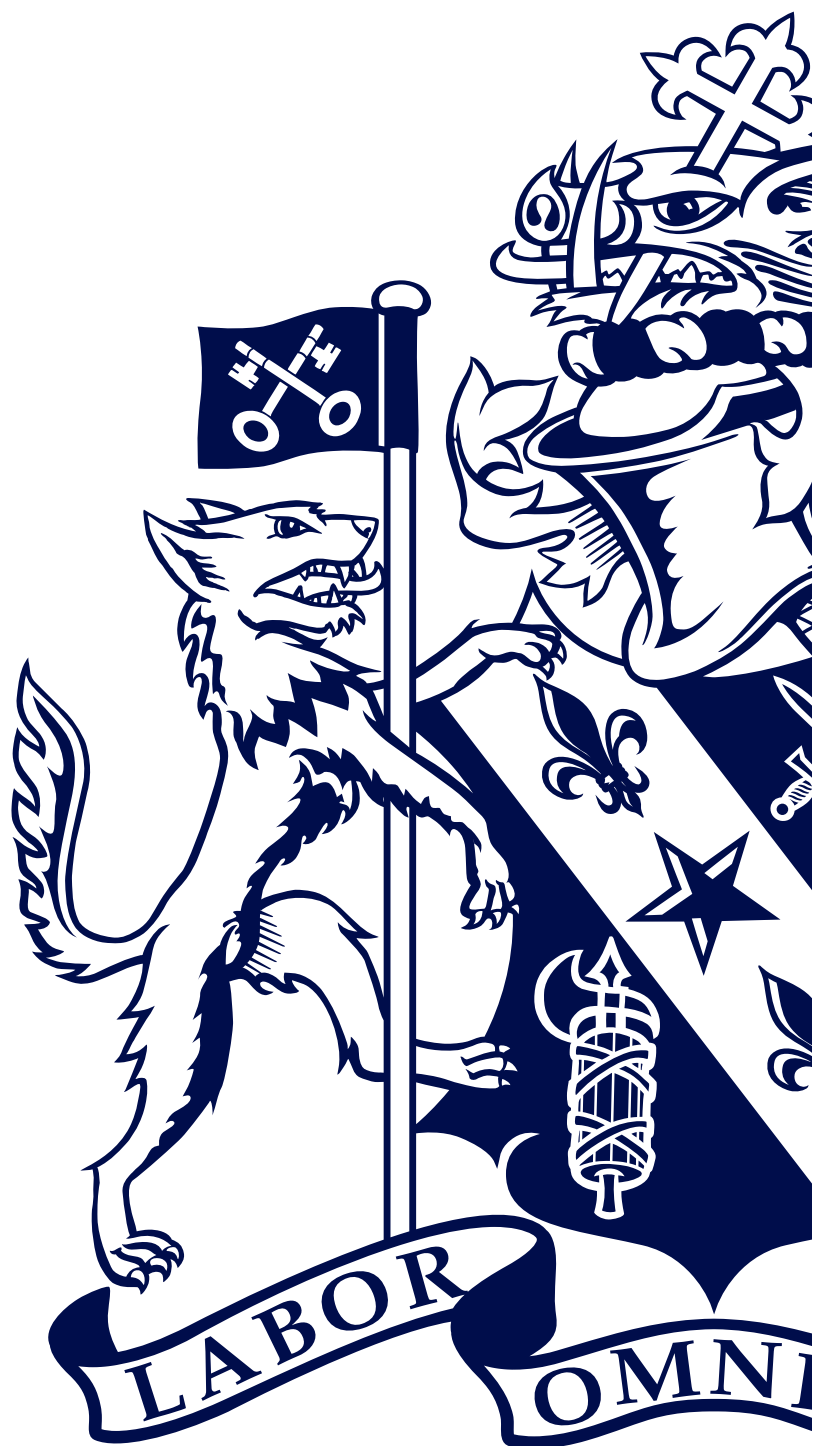




CHEL TENHAM
COLLEGE

Climate Action Report

2022-2023



Climate Action Report 2022-2023

REVIEW OF ACTIVITY AND PROGRESS ACROSS THE YEAR

Introduction

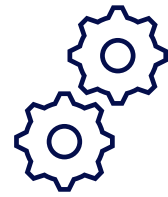
In September 2022 Cheltenham College introduced its inaugural Climate Action Plan, in conjunction with an updated Sustainability Strategy. The action plan established our short and medium-term objectives for the 2022-2023 academic year and defined a number of actions which we have been working on across this period.

In addition to delivering specific operational projects and education initiatives, our focus in this first year of dedicated action has been to understand and utilise our key metrics, raise the profile of our activity, and establish forums for collaborative work. We are delighted to have made progress in many areas, as detailed in the following pages.



Operational Projects

Our objective is to operate more sustainably, ensuring that we are able to meet our present and future operational needs whilst reducing our direct impact on the environment.



Highlights and progress:

- In December 2022 we established a new Energy Management Committee, chaired by the Bursar, with the aim of bringing together key stakeholders to actively and responsibly manage our energy consumption and procurement. The Committee now meets each half term to pursue energy-saving projects, holistically manage our energy requirements and consider long-term strategy.
- We have undertaken a comprehensive review of our energy consumption data collection processes, and identified priorities for installing sub-metering which will allow us to analyse our usage in much greater depth going forwards and track consumption building-by-building.
- Later this year we will be required to complete a mandatory ESOS submission (Energy Savings Opportunity Scheme). We have engaged consultants to assist with this, and the initial site audits were conducted over the Easter break.
- At the start of the academic year we introduced new recycling bins across The Prep and a number of locations at College. The new design has been chosen to ensure that all pupils, staff and visitors are easily able to dispose of their waste correctly. We have also introduced a dedicated food waste recycling stream.
- We are continually working to reduce our reliance on disposable products, and this year saw the removal of hot drink takeaway cups from our internal catering outlets for staff, pupils and visitors. We have also significantly reduced the provision of single-use plastic water bottles from packed meals at The Prep and College by around 75%.
- With the introduction of new branding in the Autumn, we found ourselves with a surplus of uniform which could no longer be used. To extend the life of these items, many have been donated to a group of L6 girls who are volunteering with the charity 'The Mango Tree' in Tanzania this summer. Any items which could not be reused were sent for specialist recycling and used to make either Refuse Derived Fuel or Solid Recovered Fuel.
- To support and encourage members of our community who are transitioning to electric vehicles, we have installed two new EV charging stations at both The Prep and College.





74%

reduction in our
consumption of
disposable cups

Over 300

plastic water bottles
saved from disposal
each month



of food waste sent for
specialist recycling at an
Anaerobic Digestion facility

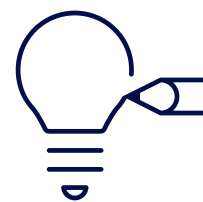


Next steps:

- ⇒ Implementing the roll-out of a new Building Management (BMS) technology supplier, which will enable us to effectively manage our heating systems remotely and in a more responsive and specific manner.
- ⇒ Installing electrical sub-metering in the priority locations identified, and capturing comprehensive baseline data for key areas including each individual boarding house.
- ⇒ Completing the ESOS process by recording and analysing our consumption data for the required period, and then considering and acting on the findings of the report.
- ⇒ Understanding our consumption of water and considering projects to reduce this.
- ⇒ Continuing the roll-out of our new recycling infrastructure across College boarding houses and classrooms.
- ⇒ Continuing to reduce our use of disposable products in our catering outlets, particularly looking at cold drink takeaway cups and events materials.

Education and Engagement

Our objective is to educate pupils and staff on the concept of sustainability, foster awareness and interest, and provide opportunities for our members to participate in initiatives.



Highlights and progress:

- In January the Sustainability Super Squad was formed at The Prep for pupils to learn about the key issues relating to sustainability, get involved in deciding what actions the school should prioritise and take part in some projects. Pupils enthusiastically volunteered for the squad, with two reps chosen from each year group. The squad pupils have helped to raise awareness of environmental issues through creating poster displays, promoting 'Love the Planet' pledges for Valentine's Day, and delivering a whole-school assembly.
- Led by the squad, we have focused on the topic of 'sustainable food' at The Prep this year with a number of initiatives including changes to the salad bar to reduce food waste, new bun and drink menu items which are homemade and free from plastic packaging, and the launch of Holroyd Howe's 'Our Sustainable World' project to promote future-proof foods.
- At College we have introduced a new system for measuring and tracking food waste data, and we are now able to display key statistics on the digital screens in the servery so that pupils can see where progress is being made and understand their own part in reducing plate waste.
- We have also started work on a number of initiatives to support and protect biodiversity and wildlife in our school gardens and grounds, with accompanying education opportunities. In the summer term, the Pre-Prep squad members helped to create a bee garden with colourful and scented planting to attract pollinators. Work is also underway to build a Rain Garden at the Sports Centre.
- Our new Sustainability Newsletter was introduced in September to provide regular updates and to help build awareness of wider sustainability issues. The publication is distributed digitally each half term to pupils and staff.



Next steps:

- ⇒ Building on the success of the Sustainability Super Squad and ensuring that we can continue to provide excellent opportunities for young pupils to make a tangible difference on the issues that are important to them.
- ⇒ Working with our newly appointed Sustainability Prefects at College to develop a range of education and engagement initiatives which are peer-led. This will include delivering our first Green Week event with a range of talks, workshops and communication campaigns to help raise awareness, spark interest and encourage behaviour change.
- ⇒ Sharing our Sustainability Newsletter more widely with parents and incorporating content designed by our pupils.



Values and Vision

Our objective is to embed sustainability at the heart of our organisational approach, business processes and educational policy.



Highlights and progress:

- In September 2022 we launched a new Sustainability Strategy for Cheltenham College. The strategy was developed with input from staff and pupils and provides a holistic overview of our vision and objectives, as well as defining our approach across key areas of work. It is a comprehensive document which will guide our decision making and action planning for years to come.
- Additionally, we introduced a specific Climate Action Plan for 2022-2023 to direct our projects for this academic year, which has proven to be a useful tool both in terms of managing our sustainability work and communicating our plans to the wider community. Our inaugural plan was, understandably, somewhat over-ambitious as there were so many fantastic suggestions that we wanted to start working on. Therefore, whilst we have been able to progress two thirds of our stated actions, there are others which we will carry forward to future years.
- To help communicate our values and vision, we have created a dedicated page on the Cheltenham College website for sustainability, which notes our headline commitments and includes copies of our strategy and action plans available to the public.
- The sustainability department regularly reports on plans, progress and concerns to various College committees. Sustainability was also a specific item on the agenda for the Council meeting in November, where staff presented to Council to highlight our initial successes and next priorities, as well as discussing the challenges that have been encountered and where additional support might be needed to overcome these and push forward our agenda.
- When designing the new Cheltonian Charter, College pupils chose to incorporate sustainability as one of their principles, which every pupil is expected to understand and follow. Cheltonians are asked to consider how their behaviour can impact others, and the College environment.

**"Building a sustainable future.
Our choices have
consequences, and we
understand that collectively
we can make a difference to
shaping a healthier planet."**

The Cheltonian Charter



Next steps:

- ⇒ Sharing this Climate Action Report and our new Climate Action Plan for 2023-2024, and beginning to work on our next initiatives throughout the coming year.
- ⇒ Developing our sustainability website page to ensure that content is relevant and engaging, and implementing other marketing initiatives including content development for our social media channels and parent newsletters.
- ⇒ Developing specific training opportunities for support staff teams, to ensure that all staff have an appreciation of our values and an understanding of the actions that they can take, as individuals and as teams, to contribute to our sustainability work.
- ⇒ Capturing where sustainability is already covered in our curriculum and co-curricular activities, and identifying further opportunities to incorporate sustainability in our educational programmes.

Becoming a sustainable school

Cheltenham College is committed to making a positive contribution to our environment and society by continually making improvements to our own sustainability performance and by educating, supporting and inspiring our community to achieve collective impactful change.



Community and Collaboration

Our objective is to work together as a school community and to collaborate with partners to stimulate change and achieve positive impacts.



Highlights and progress:

- In June 2022 we formed a new Sustainability Working Group, consisting of staff from across College and The Prep, representing both academic and support staff from a variety of teams. The group has been meeting each half term to collate ideas, debate pertinent issues and prioritise initiatives. It has been vital to bring together this group to ensure that our strategy and actions represent the views of the whole school community, and by having these sustainability champions across different areas we have been able to push forward by working jointly to pursue projects.

"It's really rewarding being part of the SWG to share ideas with representatives from across the College community about how we can collectively best develop good sustainable practices and encourage everyone to become more aware of their day-to-day carbon footprint and take steps to reduce it."

Kate Herbert – Cade House Matron Team

- Through the Cheltenham Education Partnership (CEP) a number of our College pupils have been involved in the ChangeMakers project, collaborating with other school groups to help tackle climate change and make a difference in the local area. Their work throughout 2021-2022 culminated in a summit event in June at the University of Gloucestershire where pupils had the opportunity to take part in a range of sustainability workshops, talk to local government leaders and industry representatives, and present to other schools on their projects and successes.



Next steps:

- ⇒ Continuing to develop the Sustainability Working Group, empowering members to identify and lead projects in their areas and collaborate on long-term objectives.
- ⇒ Working with our College Sustainability Prefects to provide more opportunities for pupils to become involved in sustainability activities and to contribute to the planning and implementation of sustainability projects.
- ⇒ Collaborating with academic colleagues to tie-in sustainability projects and related volunteering opportunities with the Duke of Edinburgh programme and The Wilson Challenge.
- ⇒ Exploring partnership opportunities with local educational and business networks.



For any further information, or to get involved in our sustainability work, please contact us on sustainability@cheltenhamcollege.org