



Climate Action Plan and Sustainability Strategy

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1. Introduction

Xaverian College prides itself on helping young people to be the best they can be and is unwavering in its commitment to helping young people reach their goals and aspirations.

In a challenging world, the community at Xaverian College promotes tolerance, love, justice and the core values of faith. The College's values of Humility, Trust, Zeal, Compassion and Simplicity are lived out by our staff and students every day. The College is a place of Learning, Faith, and Service.

The young people at College, and in the wider community, look to those able to effect change to address the issues that are a concern to them. Caring for the environment and moving towards a net-zero position for the College is vital to help address the effects of climate change and to show not only that we care but that we will make the changes to move to a more sustainable position. Our role is to equip students, employees and partners to develop the skills, knowledge, and capabilities to respond to global challenges. By promoting wider understanding of the issues we face we are well placed to meet the goals of tomorrow.

The Sustainability and Climate Change Policy, produced by the Department for Education, backed up the previous legislation which requires the UK to meet its net zero commitment by 2050. Xaverian College gives its full support to this goal and will move towards a net zero position over the coming years.

This Climate Action Plan looks at what steps the College has already taken to this end and sets out a roadmap for the future. Teaching and Learning will always be at the heart of what the College does, but this can dovetail with an agenda of sustainability, caring for the environment and moving towards a net zero position. Engagement with the student body, and the staff, will be vital in driving the changes needed, to harvest new ideas and to demonstrate the College's commitment to a greener future.

Laudato Si – Care for Our Common Home, is the document from Pope Francis which was an appeal "addressed to every person living on this planet" for a dialogue on how we are shaping the future of the planet. Pope Francis calls upon the world to acknowledge the urgency of the environmental challenges that face us and to join him on taking a different pathway. The pathway includes education as a means to get a model for sustainability in the College and in our wider communities. This Sustainability policy is based on the Laudato Si premise of all the College community working together to achieve environmental change for the good of all staff, students and the local area. The College's Climate Action Plan has been developed with the support of the Salford Diocese and is in line with their work on implementing Laudato Si through their Laudato Si centre at Wardley Hall, Worsley.

Ivan Lewis, the Finance and Operations Director, is leading the College on sustainability.

A.B. Knowles - Principal, Xaverian College

2. Where Are We Now?

The increase in student numbers over the last 10 years, and the planned increase in numbers through to 2030, provide challenges to the College's estate and the wider environment. New buildings have been added to the estate in the form of an 8 block building (Teresa Quinn building) and in June 2025, the new Sunbury Science Block was completed. Such developments put a greater onus on the College to develop strategies to reduce our environmental footprint, whilst meeting the educational needs of the young people of Greater Manchester.

Further works will be required to enable the College to remove the temporary accommodation on the Ward Hall car park and the St Edwards site. These works will involve the erection of a new teaching block which would allow the demolition of the Xavier Science block. The site of the Xavier building then being restored with additional green spaces. Further into the future would be the erection of a new Pastoral block on the St Edwards site. Both of these developments are, of course, subject to planning being granted and the availability of supportive capital funding.

How does this development sit with our environmental responsibilities? Being environmentally responsible aligns with the College's mission values. The College community rightly demands that we consider the environment in both our expansion of the estate and in the running of the current estate. The College is blessed with a high volume of established trees and green spaces providing habitat for wildlife and providing carbon capture, helping to offset the operation of the College.

The environmental journey has already begun at Xaverian with the achievements to date being:

- Additional planting around the Presbytery,
- Tree planting in the local area as part of the gardening club activities,
- Cycle to work scheme available to all staff to reduce the car usage,
- Expansion of the cycle rack provision and funding of bikes for the College to encourage a healthier commute,
- The removal of plastic cutlery and non-degradable products from the refectory,
- Waste recycling figures are in the high 90 percentage points, this is communicated to staff and students via information screens,
- Solar panels housed on the top of the Teresa Quinn, Ryken and Mayfield buildings,
- Replacement of fluorescent lighting tubes with LED alternatives is well underway,
- Provision of flexible working to reduce the number of staff car journeys,
- Electric vehicle charge points have been introduced to the campus

3. Our Sustainability Goals

The sustainability drive has begun in earnest with the Finance and Operations Director leading the College's sustainability agenda. In the coming months a dedicated team

will review our environmental impact, look for new ways of working and develop and implement change. The College targets are:

Move to net zero emissions by 2035.

We have set ourselves a target that is not only be 15 years earlier than National Government Guidelines but one that will stretch and challenge us to find innovative and appropriate ways to have a meaningful impact. We have started this process by quantifying the current emissions. Having this benchmark will allow for a measurable change to be calculated and reported to our staff, students, Governors and other stakeholders. As the College implements the sustainability initiatives having this information will give a benchmark against which progress can be measured.

Embedding this target in the minds of all those connected with the College will ensure that sustainability is part of everyday discussions and will inform decision making into the future.

Reduce the College's Impact on the Environment

Teaching and learning are at the centre of the College's mission. Helping students to become the best that they can be and become good citizens. Our students are more aware of the environment than almost any other generation and we must harness that enthusiasm in our sustainability drive. Of course, a balance will need to be struck between the environmental impact and meeting the academic needs of the students. Involving the students will be central to the work on improving the environment and offsetting the College's carbon impact. The sustainability drive will draw on their enthusiasm and provide them with tangible evidence that their initiatives will be acted upon and the results of those initiatives fed back to them.

There are a range of sustainability measures the College can act upon from removing plastic and reducing paper usage to sympathetic planting which maximises carbon capture to live feed screens showing how much power our solar panels are producing.

Encourage wildlife to use the College campus.

Our vision is for our campus to be a working model of sustainability. The college grounds are already home to a number of species of birds such as long-tailed tits, great tits and robins but the College can do more to encourage more species to call Xaverian home by providing the right habitat for them to thrive and a diverse ecosystem to provide food. A number of birdboxes were added to the estate in Spring 2025 and the College invested in a number of birdboxes complete with cameras which will allow live streaming to the refectory once occupied.

Educational Programme

The College has a pastoral system which is designed to set up students for life both in college and beyond. The pastoral programme will be central to providing more education to the students on environmental matters. The Sustainability team will also interact with the student council not only to give information regarding what the

College is doing on sustainability but also to get information and ideas from our students.

4. Next Steps

There are several areas the College will target to begin the move to net zero:

Reducing Carbon

- Look at our energy providers and look to a provider with wider renewable credentials,
- Explore the possibility of additional solar power housed on the Birtles building and the Ward Hall Annexe,
- Continue the move to LED lighting. Over half of the College lighting is LED in nature. The College has instigated a move to replace all the remaining lighting with LED fittings with completion expected to be achieved in summer 2026, one year ahead of schedule.
- Explore whether the use of light sensors in some areas would be a practical solution where light is needed such as corridors so that lights are only on when necessary,
- Look into the college wide turn-off for computers after hours,
- Set a target to reduce paper usage in the College by 15% in the calendar year 2026 by exploring the provision of information to students electronically.
- Build carbon offset measures into any overseas trips and consider the environmental impact of trips in general.

Reducing Water Usage

- Explore a move to dual flush technologies and waterless urinals,
- Review the efficiency of dishwashers and washing machines and move to those with a lower water and energy demand,
- Provision of water butts to be used for gardening purposes.

Grounds

- Encourage more wildlife onto the campus through sympathetic planting schemes,
- Facilities plans to maintain ground areas with participation of staff and students,
- Turn over an area of the grounds to wild planting to encourage bees and other pollinators,
- Explore the provision of bug hotels,
- Choose planting strategies to encourage butterflies onto campus,
- Additional planters around campus to add colour and provide pollinators with nutrition.

Staff and Student Involvement

- Ideas forum for sustainability projects initially via engagement with the student council,

- Seek out funding opportunities to enhance and / or speed up the sustainability agenda,
- Use volunteering and community days to look at improving both the Xaverian environment but also that of the local community,
- Encourage staff to use carpooling or public transport to reduce emissions,
- Improve employee knowledge of the cycle to work scheme, which now includes electric bikes, and promote the environmental and fitness benefits of the scheme,
- Promotional activities for staff and students to highlight the need to address environmental issues at College, the wider city and the world,
- Provide water fountains to enable bottled water to be phased out,
- Share the vision with the Governing body and assign finances to support new initiatives.

Travel

- Encourage staff to car-share to reduce emissions,
- For trips determine whether a foreign trip is required or whether a UK based event would reduce the carbon footprint left by such,
- Where foreign travel is deemed necessary for the academic subject, apply a 1.5% surcharge to the cost, with the funds generated being used for sustainability projects to reduce the carbon impact of the trip.

Education

Bring sustainability into the pastoral programme,

Provide CPD sessions for staff on how to make changes to better meet environmental challenges,

Attend conferences to get new ideas and to share best practice,

Visit other institutions and talk to colleagues about their sustainability journey.

5. Impact Measure

As with all initiatives it is important that the impact of the changes we make can be assessed and, preferably, quantified. With the sustainability programme there are both numerical and performance indicators the College will use.

In 2024/25 the College used 966,500 Kwh of gas (1,063,873 Kwh in 2023/24) and 758,154 Kwh of electricity (786,171 Kwh in 2023/24). These figures equate to a 10% reduction in gas usage and a 4% reduction in electricity year on year.

Progress towards reducing the CO2 tonnage and paper reductions can be easily tracked from the invoices received which detail Kwh information.

The College used 7.5 million pieces of paper in 2024/25 through the copiers and desktop printers. This is the equivalent of 747 trees and the figure doesn't include local printers so in truth the figure is even higher.

By reviewing the methodology of how information is sent to students, and by people having a second thought about pressing print, the College aims to reduce this figure by 10% in year 1 and by a further 10% in year 2. Such reductions would save 75 trees in 2025/26 and a further 74 trees in 2026/27.

6. Next Steps Through to 2026

Encourage wildlife to use the College campus

New planting schemes will be actioned which will aim to increase activity around college for insects and birds. The introduction of a wildflower garden will also help encourage wildlife by using wild plant seeds.

The planting scheme will aim to maximise the carbon sequestration potential of the college with plants that are known for their carbon potential such as Italian Cypress and bamboos as well as many single flower perennials.

Single Use Plastics

The College has been working closely with Harrison's catering to remove as much plastic packaging as possible. All trays in the canteen are biodegradable and plastic cutlery has been phased out. The next steps will be to secure water fountains to remove the need to sell bottled water. Other beverages are predominantly in cans as opposed to plastic bottles.

The water fountains will allow students to fill their own bottles, therefore eliminating the need for the single use water bottles.

Food Provision

Xaverian has collaborated with Harrison's catering company to reduce food miles and to work towards the reduction in ultra processed food (UPF) and increase the organic content of the food provided to staff and students. This will not only benefit the environment but also make suppliers consider the impact of these foods on health and wellbeing.

- All food sold on the premises is fully traceable to source,
- Free range eggs are used throughout along with fish from sustainable non-threatened species Packaging is by Vegware© the only completely compostable packaging company which is certified compostable in under 12 weeks and can go into the food waste bin,
- Waste cooking oil is collected and converted to biodiesel. With vehicles using biodiesel from the waste cooking oil which helps save approximately 84 tonnes of CO2 emissions per year. This will help offset our environmental impact.

Our aims going forward are to not only to eliminate single use plastic but also to reduce food mile waste by only promoting food that has a low food mileage and buying 75% of all food from within the UK and continually monitoring this in terms of yearly reductions thereafter to help promote localism and reduce carbon footprint. Harrison's catering are strong partners in this endeavour and will work with the College to ensure

the food offering remains varied and appetising, whilst being environmentally conscious and looking at minimising food miles as much as is practicable.

Printing

The college is aiming to reduce the amount of printing each year by 10% in the calendar year 2026 and by a further 10% in 2027.

Introduction of Car Charging Points

The use of electric vehicles is becoming more prevalent in the UK, and, from 2035, the purchase of new petrol or diesel vehicles will cease completely.

The Sunbury Science Block development incorporated a small number of charging points and, as demand increases, the College will increase the number of charging points available to staff with electric vehicles.

Fieldtrips

Presently the college runs many trips in the UK and around 12 trips abroad. Trips are an important part of the learning experience and offer students the chance to add real world examples to their classroom learning. Trips also help to develop the student as a person.

The College will continue to offer foreign trips where the subject content requires it (such as the study of modern foreign languages). For all other trips the staff organising them will need to consider whether there is an alternative, greener trip that could run in the UK and still give the same academic benefit. The trip risk assessment should detail what alternatives have been considered and the reasons behind the rejection of a UK based alternative. The move to UK based trips would have the added benefit of being more inclusive for the student body.

All foreign trips will, from 2026, will need to offset their emissions by using a recommended carbon calculator for their flights all staff will have to factor in carbon offsetting prices. This money will then be pooled and either used by the College on sustainability projects or sent to reputable schemes to help with re-forestation or renewable energy schemes. This extra funding can help to reduce the colleges carbon footprint significantly as often these are hidden CO2 and not always budgeted into the college's footprints.

In 2024/25, there were 6 overseas trips with 227 staff and students participating. This equated to 372,655 miles of travel producing 91 tonnes of CO2. The College aims to make all trips to not just carbon neutral but to be carbon negative. In order to achieve this the College will increase the cost of foreign trips to include a 1.5% premium which will be invested in CO2 reduction projects.

UK based trips equated to a further 223,475 miles of travel.

Examples:

Location	Spain, Almeria	New York
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Student Number	42	30
Trip Cost	£575	£1630
Miles per Student	1130.25	3332.54
Total Trip Miles	47470.5	99976.2
Carbon (Tn)	11.66	24.32
Offset Cost @ 1.5%	£8.62	£24.45
New Cost	£583.62	£1654.45

Money generated for this will be held for one academic year and then released onto an appropriate scheme.

7. Summary

2024/25 will see sustainability within both the curriculum and the wider operation embedded within College life. The initial steps of looking at energy and paper usage will provide a starting point from which work can begin to reduce the College's carbon footprint and, ultimately, lead to a net zero operating position.

Through the annual curriculum audits, curriculum leaders will be asked to look at ways in which they can reduce their carbon footprint but also to look at ways in which lessons can adapted to include aspects of sustainability.

Technology can provide some of the answers towards reducing the carbon footprint at Xaverian. Planting regimes will help with carbon capture, whilst providing habitat for wildlife will bring less tangible benefits from a purely arithmetic perspective but the environmental impact on those creatures with whom we share the planet are just as important.

The engagement of staff and students in this undertaking will generate new ideas of how net zero can be achieved whilst also maintaining the College's unique community spirit.

8. Appendix

