

St Benedict's Catholic College - Climate Action Plan 2025



Goal Area	Action	Steps	Timeline
Decarbonisation	Energy Audit	Appoint Specialist to complete	February 2026
	Switch it off campaign	Establish student group Design and run campaign focussing on lights and display screens Design and run how low can we go campaign focussing on minimising lights and display screens	December 2025 January to July 2026 Spring 2026
	Heat Review	Monitor temperature across buildings Update Building Management System (BMS) to allow more granular control	December 2025 Summer 2026
	Celebrate Success	Report solar generation and energy reductions to students / parents	From September 2025
Biodiversity	No mow May	Implement no mow May (excluding playing fields)	May 2026
	Expand wild flower areas	Expand to area behind geography buildings, in the house gardens and in the no go zone on the field	Summer 2026
Resilience and adaptation	Improve ventilation	Install air handling units in practical; spaces – tech rooms, science labs, changing rooms	Autumn 2025
	Implement relaxed dress code in periods of cold/hot weather	Promote under uniform base layers in cold weather and removal of ties/blazers in hot weather	Autumn 2025
Climate education and green careers	Increase schools' knowledge of climate change by running a student led climate project	Empower students to come up with their own climate change initiative STEM project Work with students to develop project proposals and plans using available resources Conduct project Recognise and celebrate students' achievements	Spring 2026

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Active and sustainable Travel	Onsite EV charging	Investigate options and seek to install	Summer 2026
	Promote ride-share	Actively discourage individual parents driving students to college, promote use of public transport and shared journeys	Summer 2026
Waste, consumption and recycling	Reduce single use plastics	Continue to promote water bottle usage Replace plastic bottles in canteen with can / tetra pack Replace all plastic packaging on college produce food with biodegradable options	Summer 2026
Food	Food waste	Ensure all food waste generated in college is separated into publicly available bins Ensure any food waste (eg overproduction) that is safe to eat is eaten – eg given to students/staff in need	Autumn 2025
	Procurement	Reduce the number of deliveries to site each week	Spring 2026



Longer term Goals

Goal Area	Action	Steps
Decarbonisation	<p>Gas Boiler Replacement</p> <p>Assess buildings for heat loss and develop plan to implement recommendations</p> <p>Implement heat control</p> <p>Reduce lighting usage</p>	<p>Costed timeline to replace existing boilers</p> <p>Appoint contractor to carry out survey</p> <p>Costed timeline to undertake remedials</p> <p>Utilises updated BMS to maintain appropriate heating hours and set points across all buildings</p> <p>Install motion sensors across remainder of site (Manning is complete)</p>
Biodiversity	Environmentally friendly chemical use	Ensure next grounds contract requires use of environmentally friendly chemical
Resilience and adaptation	<p>Energy efficient glazing</p> <p>Review options for rainwater harvesting</p>	<p>Install energy efficient glazing in Manning building to reduce both heat loss in winter and gain in the summer,</p> <p>Seek to implement</p>
Climate education and green careers	<p>Embed sustainability and climate education in the wider curriculum by incorporating it in more lessons.</p> <p>Promote Green Careers by enrolling students in virtual green work experience</p>	<p>Review current curriculum on PSHE, Science, RE Laudato Si module and revise where necessary</p> <p>Careers officer to promote / signpost</p>
Active and sustainable Travel	<p>Review options to use public transport rather than coaches for college trips</p> <p>School Streets</p>	<p>Investigate options and carry out trial</p> <p>Work with CCHSG and local council to designate Norman Way a school street</p>

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Waste, consumption and recycling	<p>Reduce consumption</p> <p>Recycled paper</p> <p>Reduce black bag waste</p>	<p>Minimise stock levels, promote reuse</p> <p>Switch to a recycled paper for all printers / photocopiers / exercise books</p> <p>Review all black bag waste and develop strategies to either separate more effectively or reduce creation</p>
Food	Local produce	<p>Review menus to make greater use of locally sourced food, with low food miles</p> <p>Increase focus on meat free usage, complementing our current catholic meat free Friday</p> <p>Review food production to reduce energy consumption within the kitchen</p>



Gas Fired Plant

Manning Main A	2006
Manning Main B	2006
Blyth Main A	2008
Blyth Main B	2008
Sports Hall	1996
MFL	2010
Old Gym	2010
House	2020
Newman	2021
SEN	2021

Future Net Zero Actions

- 1 Develop boiler replacement plan in conjunction with energy advisors and capital funding bids
- 2 Capital bids – replacement windows – Manning Building
- 3 Capital bids – expand PV battery array to store more self generated energy
- 4 Capital bids – Cavity Wall insulation – Maning building
- 5 Update BMS to allow granular control
- 6 Ongoing review of all heating “hours of operation”
- 7 Review on demand Point of Use hot water heating (as opposed to stored hot water)



Reduce – Recuse – Recycle

Energy

- Switch Off
- Adjust heating times
- Lower set point to recommended 19 degrees
- Love you jumper
- Kitchen – less wastage (eg turn hot cupboard on later)
- Close blinds at night (all year round)

Community

- Litter Picking
- Food Bank
- Left over food donation

Catering

- Remove single use plastic
- Reduce single use containers
- Reduce / Remove cling film
- Remove gas cookers in kitchen and food tech
- Use fair trade products in all hospitality
- Remove paper cups from vending machine (negotiate costs saving on vend price)

Paper

- Reduce paper usage
- Purchase recycled paper
- Use Digital option where they are no detriment to the curriculum
- Use All campaign for exercise books
- Remove laminating
- Share paper “costs” with all users

Uniform

- Eco status part of tender process
- Donation scheme promoted to all year groups all year round
- Further incentivise college rather than home delivery



Recycling

- Promote work undertaken by CSH – waste contractor
- Have food waste collected separately
- Investigate viability of in college separation scheme

Cleaning

- Move to environmentally friendly products

Travel

- Promote shared transport
- Reduce car journeys to college
- Ensure busses are low emission
- Install elective charging points for staff
- Investigate salary sacrifice schemes (bike, electric car)