



Environmental measures at Ardingly College

Since 2010 the combined carbon output created by energy consumption has decrease by 534 tonnes or 26%. This significant reduction has been achieved by removing oil-fired boilers, installing energy efficient gas appliances, energy efficient pumps and air source heat pumps. A significant reduction was achieved after a woodchip biomass boiler was installed which serves approximately 10% of the college's heating and hot water requirements and is fed by wood pellets produced less than 5 miles away.

In addition to the solar panels installed on the STEM building, in 2020 a solar array was installed on the new girls' day house. The intention is to link this solar array to an information monitor on how much power is being generated to be used for Geography and Science lessons and by the school eco groups. In 2020 the College received permission for a new car park with six charging stations for electric vehicles plus capacity for 18 more.

School buses and lift share arrangements seek to reduce the number of vehicle journeys to and from the school. Currently nine bus services operate in the local area covering all major towns and routes. When college maintenance vehicles are due for replacement electric vehicles will be considered.

No waste from the school has been sent to landfill since 2014. Significant steps are taken to recycle as much as possible. Food waste is dewatered and sent for anaerobic digestion, while clothing, plastics, cardboard, paper metals, glass and cooking oils are recycled. Cox waste transfer facility at Turner Hill take electrical waste, and old computer equipment is either donated to community groups or is recycled.

A significant review of plastic use in the catering department resulted in almost 80% of single use plastic items being replaced with recyclable or compostable items.

In 2015 a site to the south of Reservoir Road was leased to the parish council to provide 30 various sized allotment plots for the village. The original village allotments, run by the Wakehurst estate were lost in the 1960s to make way for council houses and a new primary school. Since early 2020 the mowing regime for the local green space to the east of Monks Meadow has been reduced to encourage wildflowers and pollinating insects. In addition, significant silt deposits have been removed from Kiln and Saucelands ponds to improve the water's ability to support and improve biodiversity.

The college estate includes parcels of ancient woodland. Great care is taken to conserve their value and integrity and connect them with the wider landscape to improve wildlife routes and habitat.

A review of cleaning products led to biological products being introduced in all areas of the college. The products are 100% biodegradable and harmless to human, animal and plant life and the containers in which the products are supplied are made from recyclable plastic.

Where windows on the estate need repair or replacement, this will include installing windows in similar style, planning conditions permitting, with double glazing to achieve the improved energy efficiency in line with the expectation of reductions in carbon output to meet Government guidelines.

The Eco Schools group at Ardingly College Junior School involves years 5, 6 and 7. As part of their Eco Schools initiative, they are focusing on two aspects of the environment - waste and biodiversity and are developing an Action Plan working towards Green Flag Accreditation.

The Solar Car project, a joint venture between Ardingly College and Ifield Community College, recently won the 2020 Times Educational Supplement for Technology and Engineering. The project aims to increase awareness of sustainable transport and their solar powered cars have taken part in two Bridgestone Solar Challenges in Australia. The students have led solar energy events at primary schools and have made presentations to Gatwick Diamond businesses and the Institute of Motor Industry. The next project is a flat pack solar powered vehicle for use in developing countries that can act as an off- grid generator for remote schools and medical centres.



The college continually strives to improve its environmental and sustainability performance and will be engaging an Environmental Consultant to advise on how further initiatives and improvements can reduce its carbon footprint and improve energy efficiency further once covid restrictions have eased and the national outlook improves.

The college's Environmental and Sustainability Policy is published on the College website. While the primary focus of the college is on young people's education to prepare them for their future lives, addressing its own carbon footprint is a significant priority and a commitment to its current and future students.