



Loreto  
sixth form college

LORETO COLLEGE

# Sustainability Strategy

2023-2035



“Young people - they care. They know that this is the world that they're going to grow up in, that they're going to spend the rest of their lives in. But, I think it's more idealistic than that. They actually believe that humanity, human species, has no right to destroy and despoil regardless.”

- Sir David Attenborough



# Foreword

**At Loreto College we are taking a stand, recognising that it is no longer acceptable to continue with business as usual, as the world races beyond the 1.5° target we are all now familiar with, at an alarming pace.**

Becoming the Principal at Loreto College in the height of a global pandemic brought with it a range of challenges, but minimising the impact we have on the environment is without doubt the biggest we face, in securing the long-term future, not only for the College and the students we teach but also for the planet on which we live.

In 2022 we made a commitment to becoming Manchester's greenest college, acknowledging the role we play as an academic institution in setting good examples for our young people.

As part of our commitment to sustainability, we hired a full-time Sustainability Manager for the College, and now I am excited that we are launching this ambitious strategy to reach Net Zero and equip all our students, current and future, with the skills they will need to be environmental champions long after they have left us.

Loreto College has always strived to lead the way on important societal and global issues, and I am pleased that this strategy sets out our path to achieving Net Zero, and how we plan to be Manchester's greenest college.

The success of this strategy relies on the conscious participation of all members of the Loreto Community, from Staff and Students, to Parents, Carers and Alumni, and to our Local Communities. Together, through the values of our founder Mary Ward, we can prevent further damage to the environment, support urban biodiversity and save our planet for many future generations to come. I encourage therefore all members of our community to play their part, be conscious about the impact of your decisions, and engage with us, to help us all take a collective leap forward towards environmental stability.



**Michael Jaffrain**  
Principal

# Table of Contents

01

Foreword

02

Introduction

03

Our Values

04

Our Story So Far

05

Our 2035 Goals

06

Our Priority  
Areas

07

Our People



# Introduction

**At Loreto College we have committed to maximising our positive impact on the world we live in and on the students we teach.**

This Sustainability Strategy puts environmental care and sustainability at the heart of everything we do here at the College as we aim to be an educational community which gives expression to the core values of Mary Ward – Freedom, Justice, Sincerity, Truth, Joy, Excellence, and Internationality.

As Pope Francis says in his Encyclical Letter Laudato Si “Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded”. This strategy reflects the changing times we live in, the changing demands of our young people, and our commitment to challenging the status quo and addressing these challenges head on.

In April 2022, the Department for Education published their Sustainability and Climate Change policy, which aligns with UK legislation to meet net zero by 2050. Loreto College encourages ambition and leadership, and as such we have set the ambitious challenge for the College to achieve net zero by 2035.

Our primary purpose as an academic institution is to educate our students. This strategy outlines our plans to embed environmental and sustainability education across our curriculum and in our extra-curricular provisions for our students. Beyond this we also recognise our responsibility to ensure that we manage and utilise our estate effectively to ensure our operations as an academic institution have minimal impact on the environment.

**Luke Prosser**

Sustainability & Environment Manager

# Our Values

1

Excellence

2

Freedom

3

Joy

4

Sincerity

5

Truth

6

Justice

7

Internationality

# Our story so far

**This is far from the start of our environmental journey.** We are fortunate that despite our city centre location our campus consists of a significant amount of green and biodiverse space, that we have long worked to protect, even as the college has grown.

Being environmentally conscious has always aligned with the values of Loreto College, and in 2017 we launched our first Environmental Policy, which set out a range of goals to reduce the college's environmental impact and bring about behavioural change amongst staff and students.

Since that policy was introduced, we have made significant progress towards achieving these goals, and to reducing the environmental impact of our operations.

The college established an Environment Committee which consists of staff and students, who meet each term to hold the Senior Management Team to account on environmental matters, and to work collaboratively to facilitate further progress. This group will continue to be imperative to the successful implementation of this strategy.

## Achievements include:

- Zero waste to landfill
- Double sided printing established as standard
- Community Litter picks take place in conjunction with local Councillors
- Cycle to work scheme available to all staff
- Additional bike racks purchased and drying/shower rooms improved
- College now stock non-plastic sanitary products
- Planters introduced outside College gates.

3600

Students

350

Staff

1

Campus



"We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all."

- Pope Francis



# Our 2035 goals

## 1

### **To equip all our students with the environmental knowledge they need to contribute to mitigating climate change**

We are investing in resources to ensure that every student who leaves Loreto College has received top-quality environmental education, regardless of their chosen courses, and is equipped to be environmental champions as they continue their journeys.

## 2

### **To Achieve Net Zero by 2035**

We have set the ambitious goal for the college to achieve net zero emissions by 2035, including committing to removing all un-avoidable emissions, 3 years ahead of the commitment made by Manchester City Council and 15 years ahead of UK Government targets.

## 3

### **To embed sustainable development principles within all our curriculum programs**

We are providing resources and challenging our academic staff to embed the sustainable development principles into all courses we teach here at Loreto College

## 4

### **To take all reasonable steps to reduce the College's impact on the environment**

We have committed to rigorously challenging all processes within the college, making changes where necessary, to mitigate our impact on the environment while maintaining our outstanding teaching provision for our students.

# Our Priority Areas

01

Environmental  
Education

02

Community  
Engagement

03

Biodiversity &  
the Natural  
Environment

04

Energy & Carbon  
Management

05

Food & Catering

06

Travel &  
Transport

07

Procurement

08

Infrastructure

09

Waste  
Management

10

Water  
Management





# Environmental Education

Teaching and learning is at the core of everything we do at Loreto College. Each year the College welcomes 3600 students, and we are committed to ensuring that all students leave Loreto with a core understanding of the environment around them, mechanisms by which to lead more sustainable lifestyles, and the confidence to be champions for sustainability and our natural environment as they progress to the next stages of the lives.

By 2030 we will have integrated sustainable development and environmental education

into the curriculum of every course that we teach, by working with departmental staff to identify areas for environmental education, by equipping our educators with the knowledge and resources they need to better equip their students for the climate we live in.

We will also expand our extracurricular program to include further opportunities for students to expand their environmental awareness and facilitate students to actively partake in, and guide the sustainability agenda of the College.

OBJECTIVE	TARGET	MEASURE
Ensure every student receives environmental education within their curriculum regardless of their chosen courses	50% rise in courses that include environmental education by 2025*  100% of courses integrate environmental education within their curriculum by 2030	Education & Training Foundation – Mapping sustainability in the curriculum tool
Develop the College environment week program	Establish a recognised week in the college annual calendar  Deliver 1hr environmental focussed tutorial to 100% of students during environment week by 2025  Engage over 50% of students in extra curricular sustainability events during the week by 2025	
Embed Carbon Literacy within the college	Over 75% of staff accredited carbon literate by 2025  Over 75% of students accredited carbon literate by 2030	Certificates awarded by the Carbon Literacy Project

\*from 2023 baseline

# Community Engagement



**Engaging with our communities both in person and digitally will be imperative to widening the environmental progress we can make across the campus and beyond our gates.**

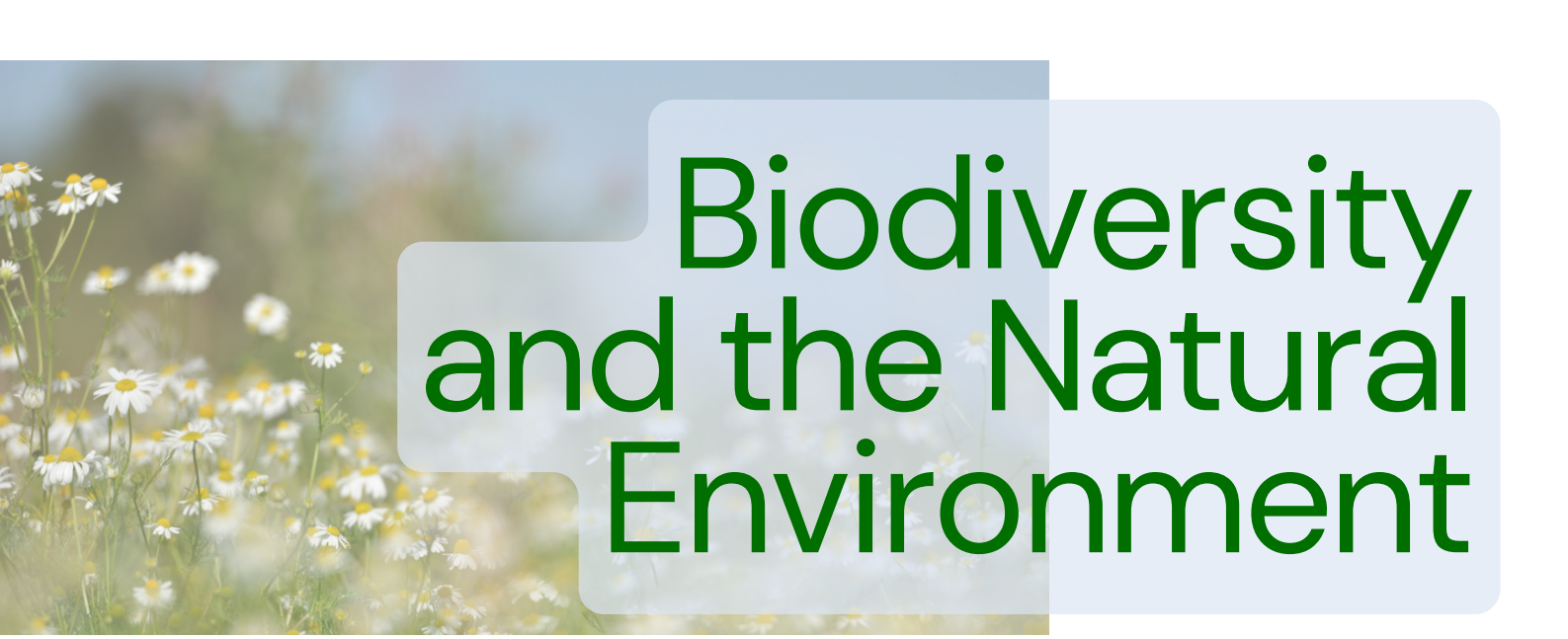
We will re-establish a student environment committee, a group of students who will act to represent the views of the student body on sustainability to decision makers.

We will also work to engage with our large alumni network to make resources available for them and to work with sustainability experts from within our alumni network to further push forward the sustainability goals of the College.

We will continue to engage and support our neighbours and work with them to improve the environmental condition of the areas we cohabit. These networks will enable us to expand our positive environmental impact both within college and in the wider community.

Finally, we will open a mailbox whereby any member of the wider Loreto College Network can make suggestions for consideration by the relevant decision makers on sustainability and the environment.

OBJECTIVE	TARGET	MEASURE
Increase participation in the direction and leadership of college sustainability	Establish a dedicated email mailbox for submissions of thoughts or suggestions on sustainability	Volume of recorded communication on college sustainability
	Establish an environment think tank open to all that will meet 3 times a year	Annual Survey
Re-establish a student environment committee	An environment committee on which students will serve 2-year terms with L6 students added each year, meeting every half term.	



# Biodiversity and the Natural Environment

**We are privileged to occupy a 12-acre site in the City of Manchester.** As custodians of this land, we have a responsibility to protect it and are committed to supporting biodiversity wherever possible.

We will explore opportunities to return underutilised parts of our site to nature, by planting wildflowers and native trees where appropriate. We will support the diversity of animal life, by allowing areas of grass to remain unmown, and consider installing bird boxes, bug hotels and beehives to encourage wildlife to frequent our site.

By maximising the biodiversity of our site, we can provide a home to flora and fauna while also providing our students with an enhanced working environment and increased opportunities to engage with, and learn about, a diverse natural environment.

Evidence also shows that access to diverse green spaces can have significant benefits for our mental health, and as urban biodiversity continues to fall, we will maximise our spaces to provide the most diverse environment we can.

OBJECTIVE	TARGET	MEASURE
Establish a rewilded area on campus	Allow 20% of existing green areas to be minimally managed by 2030	Site survey
Encourage wildlife to use our site	Increase wildlife on site by 25% by 2030*	Annual campus wildlife survey

\*from 2023 baseline



# Energy and Carbon Management

**To achieve net zero by 2035, we must take action to reduce the college's emissions and explore options for offsetting unavoidable carbon emissions.**

We will invest in air source heat pumps to replace inefficient boilers that have reached end of life. We will also consider the installation of other sustainable energy sources where appropriate, including looking to expand our existing solar array.

We will explore changes we can make to our building management system to minimise heating and lighting in unused spaces, to maximise efficiency and minimise energy consumption.

We will explore ethical, accredited, and cost-effective options for carbon offsetting, recognising that the day to day running of the college will result in some unavoidable emissions. We will only offset emissions that cannot be avoided.

OBJECTIVE	TARGET	MEASURE
Reduce our consumption of energy	Reduce consumption of gas and electricity by 40% by 2035*	Energy bills + BMS data
Reduce the emissions from energy we consume	Generate at least 25% of the electricity we need, renewably on site by 2035	BMS data
Offset unavoidable emissions	From 2035 offset any emissions for energy consumption with an accredited provider	Environmental Management Audit

\*from 2023 baseline



# Food and Catering

**The college has three catering outlets alongside catering for events and meetings.**

Food and drink represents a significant portion of college expenditure and overall environmental impact. Our students are more environmentally conscious than ever, and we must continue to work to ensure that our food and drink offering represents that.

We will explore opportunities to reduce the quantity of single use plastic packaged products we sell, both in our retail outlets and in vending machines across campus.

We will explore opportunities to increase the quantity of locally produced food and drink that

we buy and consider how we can increase the seasonality of our food offering.

We will challenge all members of our community to act on reducing food waste, from minimising over ordering, to improving sales forecasting, to working with staff and students to minimise wasted food after purchase. We will also look at opportunities to use any surplus we do generate for positive environmental or social impact.

We will commit to removing all single use water bottles from site, starting with meetings and interviews by making refillable jugs and glasses available.

OBJECTIVE	TARGET	MEASURE
Supporting local suppliers and purchasing seasonally	Procure 10% of food from the NW and 25% from UK by 2028. Procure 20% of food from the NW and 50% from UK by 2035.	Annual Catering review
Eliminate single use plastic water bottles on site	No single use plastic water bottles available on site by 2025	Annual Catering review
Minimising Food Waste	Reduce food waste by 50% by 2030* All usable unsold food to be supplied to local charities or made available for staff/students for free by 2028	Annual Catering review

\*from 2023 baseline

# Travel & Transport



**With circa 4000 people arriving at Loreto every day, we are committed to promoting sustainable forms of travel.**

We will look at ways that we can work to support TfGM's plan to revolutionise travel across the city-region, making active travel the number one choice for travelling to work and school and we will lobby the local council to improve cycle and walking networks around the college in line with their Bee Network strategy, including exploring opportunities to install a cycle hire station at the college.

We will also look at how we travel for business, promoting wherever feasible, the use of public transport, or car share where appropriate. We will also continue to promote the use of online meetings where appropriate.

We will examine the case for upgrading college owned vehicles to newer, more environmentally friendly options for trips where other modes of transport are not feasible. We will also look to install electric vehicle charging stations in college carparks to facilitate staff and fleet EV charging.

OBJECTIVE	TARGET	MEASURE
Encourage active travel	Increase the number of staff that walk or cycle to work by 20% by 2030* Increase the number of students that walk or cycle to college by 25% by 2030*	Annual Travel Survey
Support the transition to low emission vehicles	Replace college minibuses with low emission alternatives by 2026 Install EV charging points on site to facilitate on site vehicle charging by 2026	
Minimise emissions from travel on college business	60% of business travel on public transport by 2030 Over 50% of journeys where public transport is not possible, made by EV by 2035	Finance Records
Offset college business travel emissions	From 2035 offset any emissions from college business travel with an accredited provider	Environmental Management Audit

\*from 2023 baseline





# Procurement

**Procurement represents some of the largest spending decisions the college makes.** We will implement sustainable procurement practices to maximise the value our purchasing decisions provide while minimising our environmental and social impact.

We will look to consider the local multiplier effect in procurement decisions, actively considering the social value to our local communities of purchasing from local suppliers where appropriate.

We will recognise that the cheapest option does not necessarily represent best value either to the college or the wider community, and we will put in place environmental minimum standards that we expect of our suppliers.

We will examine how we can use our facilities for storage to minimise the numbers of deliveries and reduce the carbon footprint of our procurement decisions.

OBJECTIVE	TARGET	MEASURE
Promote procuring from local suppliers where possible	Work with our purchasing consortium partners to increase the number of local suppliers on their approved framework by 25% by 2030*  Transition 20% of total purchases to local suppliers by 2030*	Annual Procurement review
Minimise number of deliveries to site	Reduce deliveries to college by 20% by 2028*	Annual Procurement review
Implement sustainability requirements within tenders	Require all applications for tender opportunities to demonstrate their commitment to sustainability. Exclude suppliers who cannot comply.	Annual Procurement review

\*from 2023 baseline

# Infrastructure



**All buildings on the college campus have been built within the last 20 years, with the exception of the chapel which saw extensive renovation while protecting its heritage, cultural significance, and listed status in 2005.**

We will ensure that all future development work including new buildings or refurbishments have environmental impact at the forefront of their design process, we will continually question existing practices and consider technological advancements. We will use our procurement and tendering process to establish environmental criteria for any work being tendered for.

We will require the design and build process of any new buildings to achieve a BREAAAM certification score of at least Very Good.

We operate a continuous maintenance schedule across all the college's assets, and we will look to make sustainability improvements that will minimise energy consumption such as LED lightbulbs, automatic switching, and low consumption alternatives to equipment like hand driers or printers. To minimise excess waste generation, we will implement these changes in line with the existing maintenance schedule, to avoid removing existing items not currently at end of life.

OBJECTIVE	TARGET	MEASURE
Implement sustainability requirements within tenders	Require all applications for tender opportunities to demonstrate their commitment to sustainability.  Any new construction to achieve a Really Good or better BREAAAM certification score.	Annual Procurement review
Transition to low consumption electricals	Transition all lighting to LED by 2028  All newly installed electricals to be low consumption options where available	
Reduce energy wastage	Reduce number of empty rooms being heated by 50% by 2030*  Reduce number of empty rooms being lit by 80% by 2028*	BMS data + timetable data

\*from 2023 baseline



# Waste Management

**The college has already worked with our waste management provider to minimise the amount of waste that we produce going to landfill, however we must make a concerted effort to reduce the total amount of waste we produce.**

We will audit the disposable products that we purchase, to identify areas of unnecessary waste while recognising that not all waste can be avoided and ensuring that suitable recycling bins are in place for unavoidable waste. We will commit to maintaining our zero to landfill status.

We are committed to removing single use plastic bottles from campus by 2025 and will explore the potential to remove further packaging from our catering offerings.

Printing has already been identified as a significant source of waste and we will explore options to reduce the volume of printing undertaken. We will also examine whether we can reduce the frequency of waste collection to minimise the carbon emissions from transportation.

OBJECTIVE	TARGET	MEASURE
Reduce the amount of waste we produce	Reduce total waste generation by 10% by 2030 and 25% by 2035*	Waste carrier documentation
Increase recycling	Increase the proportion of waste we recycle to 50% by 2030 to over 80% by 2035*	Waste carrier documentation
Reduce unnecessary printing	Reduce printing by 25% by 2028	Annual IT review

\*from 2023 baseline

# Water Management



**Progress has already been made to reduce water consumption across site, particularly through the installation of push release taps in bathrooms, which prevent taps from being left running.**

We will explore options for further reductions including the installation of waterless urinals, dual flush toilet cisterns and behavioural change campaigns.

We will also look at opportunities to expand our rainwater harvesting capabilities on site for use where appropriate and explore other opportunities to recycle grey water.

We will also ensure that our water systems are well maintained to avoid leaks and will work with our water provider to reduce our consumption. When equipment such as dishwashers reach end of life, we will look to replace with low water consumption alternatives.

OBJECTIVE	TARGET	MEASURE
Minimise water consumption	Decrease water usage by 25% by 2035*	Water bills
Maximise rainwater capture and use	Increase rainwater capture by 100% by 2035	BMS data

\*from 2023 baseline



# Our people

Environmental progress will only ever be achieved by collective action and positive attitudes. This strategy will only be effective with active participation by all members of the Loreto community.

## Staff

We expect our staff to be role models for our students and we expect them to portray positive environmental attitudes throughout their teaching and interactions with students. With the support of the Sustainability & Environment Manager we expect all our staff to implement this strategy as robustly as possible in all aspects of their life within the college, regardless of their role or seniority. Finally, we expect all staff to engage with discussions to improve the integration of environmental education into the curriculum and improving the sustainability of the College estate.

## Students

We expect students at Loreto College to take personal responsibility for their environmental impact and actively work with us to improve the impact of the College. We expect students to be environmental role models in their local communities, to respect the local environment and widen the positive impact of Loreto's commitment to environmental education beyond the College gates. We encourage students to be vocal on environmental matters that are important to them, and we will open communication routes for these to be highlighted to the College.

## Alumni & Parents

We ask that our vast alumni and parent networks engage with the college in ways that we can improve our sustainability. We ask that parents consider where possible sustainable means of travel to and from the College and discuss with students how some of this impact might be mitigated. We will make available resources for parents on topics including sustainable travel and environmental impact. Our alumni represent a diverse and experienced community across a wide range of sectors, and we encourage any alumni with ideas to improve the sustainability of the College to work together with us wherever possible.

## Wider Loreto Community

Through our senior staff and Sustainability Manager we will look to collaborate with our local communities and other members of the Loreto partnership to share best practice, work together to improve the local environment, and develop meaningful partnerships to mitigate the effects of climate change. We are also committed to working with our partner schools in the Loreto English Education Network to share best practice, learn from one another and facilitate progress across the network.

"You are never too small to make a difference"

- Greta Thunberg



# We thank you for your ongoing support of Loreto College

## Acknowledgements

We thank all students, staff and other members of the Loreto Community who contributed their time, effort and thoughts to this strategy.

For enquiries relating to this strategy, please email [environment@loreto.ac.uk](mailto:environment@loreto.ac.uk)

**Luke Prosser**

Sustainability & Environment Manager

**Helen Green**

Director of College Services



**Loreto**  
sixth form college

**Loreto Sixth Form College**

Chichester Road South

Manchester

M15 5PB

[www.loreto.ac.uk](http://www.loreto.ac.uk)

[office@loreto.ac.uk](mailto:office@loreto.ac.uk)