



# Sustainability Statement



## Technical

This wall consists of ten solar panels and is 2.4m high and 7.2m long. For maximum efficiency it faces due south and has a total surface area of 17.28m<sup>2</sup>.

On a sunny day the wall will produce 10kW of electricity which is sufficient to power four kettles or 100 lightbulbs.

To power an average family home the wall would need to be three times its current size.



## Green Wall

### Welcome to the Green Wall

Burnley College is committed to sustainable practices that support the environment.

As a practical representation of our commitment, this wall has been designed to use solar-powered technology to provide renewable energy to our Gatehouse.

## Executive Summary Statement

Burnley College is committed to promoting sustainability. Concern for the environment and promoting a broader sustainability agenda are integral to Burnley College's professional activities and the management of the organisation. We aim to follow and to promote outstanding sustainability practice, to reduce the environmental impacts of all our activities and to help our students, staff and stakeholders to do the same.

The College also acknowledges the importance of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in addressing the wider issues of economic and social sustainable development.

Our sustainability principles will serve as a foundation for all areas of our business and we will continuously improve our performance and set measurable objectives and targets which shall be reviewed at appropriate intervals.

Our sustainability statement is framed by the College Purpose, Strategic Objectives and Goals and will be communicated to all stakeholders. The statement is structured into four areas of College activity covering culture, community, curriculum, and campus.

## Background and Context

*Where are we now?*

### THE AMBITION

Whilst the College has achieved much over recent years it acknowledges that it still has much to do. Consequently, this statement sets out the vision for how Burnley College will help tackle climate change and drive forward environmental sustainability initiatives.

The overriding ambition is to 'be a College at the cutting edge of environmental sustainability'. The importance of this determined aim cannot be overstated. Many college students will, in their working and personal lives, come face-to face with the realities and challenges of climate change, which will impact on every aspect of their daily lives. As an educational institution, the College has a responsibility to ensure it is preparing students for these challenges, and building on the progress made to date.

In order to change, the College will develop a whole institution approach through a network of Sustainability Champions who will ensure that environmental sustainability is central to everything the College does and plans to do.

## CULTURE

### **Sustainability Working Group**

The Sustainability Working Group was established in 2019 and is responsible for leading on sustainability within the College. It meets monthly and its membership is drawn from across the Burnley College community. The working group is supported by Sustainability Champions within each staff area and by Sustainability Student Ambassadors within the student body.

## COMMUNITY

### **Sustainable Procurement**

The College endeavours to consider sustainability in all of its purchasing decisions both in terms of the items that are being procured and the supply chain that is providing them. To support this each procurement tender includes requirements and scoring on the sustainability of the product and supply chain. The College has also started a review of its supplier list and introduced a sustainability scoring mechanism to grade suppliers and help to guide staff in making informed, sustainable decisions.

### **Sustainability commitments and certification**

A commitment has been made within the College to drive sustainability and make continuous improvement in our actions. We have started the Lancashire Green Rose Scheme, which will support our efforts and provide certification of our progress so far.

## CURRICULUM

### **Sustainable Education**

The College places great value on developing sustainability throughout the curriculum to equip and empower all students and businesses that we work with to make a positive impact in the wider world. The work on this so far has seen elements of sustainability embedded into curriculum programmes across the College and a pilot review started to map each curriculum to the Sustainable Development Goals.

We have also created a specific curriculum offer to support growth in sustainability jobs by training the workforce needed now and into the future, and this will continue to be developed as requirements change.

## CAMPUS

### **Energy, Water and Carbon**

A significant amount of progress has already been made on energy sustainability with the College procuring 100% renewable energy from the grid and also installing over 1,800 solar panels on campus that provide around 20% of the electricity used each year. Efforts have also been made to reduce the overall energy use on campus with virtually all lights upgraded to LED and a number of initiatives rolled out to encourage switching off of lights and equipment. These have all contributed to the College reducing the amount of energy it takes from the national grid by 300,000kwh between 2022 and 2023.

The main building of the College campus utilises a rainwater harvesting system to reduce mains water usage and water saving devices have been utilised in toilets throughout the campus.

The overall carbon footprint of the College is measured and reported each year through a series of categories with an overall carbon emissions figure and a summary intensity ratio produced. The College has so far reduced these from a total of 1,107 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> in 2020/21 to 812 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> in 2022/23 and an intensity ration of 2.53 in 2020/21 to 1.21 in 2022/23.

### **Waste**

The College has a number of different waste streams associated with the various curriculum and operational areas around the organisation, including general waste, food, timber, metal, plaster, bricks and electrical. Each of these has its own waste management process and items are separated and removed from site to be recycled or managed with sustainability in mind. For general waste and recycling on site there are a number of separation recycling stations round campus that encourage staff and students to recycle and consider their waste. Both these and the general waste are collected by a specialist waste management company and processed off site.

### **Travel and Transport**

Various different elements make up the approach to sustainable travel and transport, including student and staff travel to college, travel for trips, and use of College vehicles. The College encourages sustainable travel in a number of ways, with student bus passes and bespoke bus services to encourage multiple occupancy travel, with 17 electric vehicle charging stations on campus, and with cycle to work and bike hire schemes to support staff travel and wellbeing.

### **Food**

With six catering outlets on campus and nearly 10,000 people on campus each week, the food service in the College has a significant part to play in the sustainable operations of the organisation. There are a number of areas that we drive sustainable practices with a variety of vegetarian and vegan options offered, biodegradable packaging and cutlery used for all meals, and food waste minimisation and recycling.

### **Biodiversity**

The campus provides a variety of habitats and opportunities for biodiversity including a range of trees and bushes, grass areas and the River Calder running through the site. The College has also introduced a number of additions to improve the biodiversity on campus with a green roof on our cycle hub building, wildflower planting areas, bird boxes, and a herb garden. The development of our North Campus is also introducing a lake and a wider area and variety of green space to further enhance the biodiversity on campus.

## Strategic Aims and Objectives

*Where do we want to get to and how do we get there?*

### PRINCIPLES

Our sustainability statement is based upon the following principles:

- To comply with, and exceed where practicable, all applicable legislation, regulations and codes of practice.
- To integrate sustainability considerations into all our business decisions.
- To ensure that all staff, students and stakeholders are fully aware of our Sustainability Statement and are committed to implementing and improving it.
- To minimise our environmental impact through sustainability in all educational activities.
- To review, annually report, and to continually strive to improve our sustainability performance.

### CULTURE

#### **Sustainability Working Group**

Goal: To continue the development of the Sustainability Working Group, widening the input and opportunities to lead sustainability strategy and initiatives.

What will we do?: The membership of the group will be refreshed each year to widen opportunities for input from different staff. The links between the group and sustainability champions within the staff and student body will be strengthened by joint meetings and projects. The College will also introduce opportunities for corporate social responsibility work experience and apprenticeships to support the drive for improved sustainability.

### COMMUNITY

#### **Sustainable Procurement**

Goal: To drive further sustainability improvements through effective decision making of products and services purchased and the supply chain that supports them.

What will we do?: Review the College's supplier list, adding sustainability information and grading to support informed sustainable choices. Embed sustainability questions and requirements into all procurement processes and a new supplier questionnaire.

#### **Sustainability commitments and certification**

Goal: To highlight and demonstrate the College's commitment to sustainability through accreditations, commitments and awards.

What will we do?: Complete the Lancashire Green Rose scheme in 2024. Explore opportunities for further accreditations, commitments and awards, including the SDG Accord.

## CURRICULUM

### **Sustainable Education**

Goal: To empower and educate all students in sustainability awareness and practices to support them to have a positive impact on the world in their personal and professional futures, and to support the upskilling of the workforce in green skills required across a range of industries.

What will we do?: Continue to embed sustainability awareness and practices into all curriculum areas across College. Expand the pilot review of curriculum against the SDGs and implement changes to further align plans to cover the SDGs. Further develop the range and depth and specific green skills courses to support the upskilling and development of skilled employees for the sustainability sector.

## CAMPUS

### **Energy, Water and Carbon**

Goal: To improve overall energy efficiency relative to the size of the organisation and campus, leading to a reduced carbon footprint and carbon emission intensity ratio.

What will we do?: Install energy monitoring equipment and software to provide live visibility of energy usage, utilising this to highlight areas of inefficiency that can be improved. Continue commitment that all new building developments will be free from fossil fuels and will be carbon neutral or better. Work towards decarbonisation of the estate with sustainable replacement where plant comes to the end of its life and development of plans for full decarbonisation of the facilities.

### **Waste**

Goal: To reduce overall waste generated by the College operations, and to maximise recycling and sustainable management of remaining waste.

What will we do?: Review all waste management arrangements and implement the most sustainable solution available. Introduce further recycling stations across campus to increase the amount of waste recycled at source and encourage recycling habits.

### **Travel and Transport**

Goal: Reduce carbon footprint impact of staff, student, and College travel through further encouragement of public transport and sustainable travel options.

What will we do?: Further expand the number of electric vehicle charging stations on campus. Introduce electric vehicle for the College Facilities Team to move around the site. Implement a car sharing programme to match staff interested in car sharing, with dedicated car share parking spaces on site.

### **Food**

Goal: To provide catering customers with a range of sustainable food and drink options, delivered with sustainable practices and minimising waste.

What will we do?: Regularly review menus to ensure that a range of vegetarian and vegan options are available. Continually review products and suppliers to find the most sustainable choices from local sources. Remove as much single use plastic and other negative materials, replacing with sustainable solutions.

### **Biodiversity**

Goal: To further increase the biodiversity of the campus by careful management of the site and implementation of improvement strategies.

What will we do?: Develop and implement a biodiversity management plan for the campus to identify and put in place the best strategies for improving biodiversity.

## **Performance Management**

*How will we know we have got there?*

The College will ensure that it reports on progress in delivering this strategy through the following mechanisms, using a range of key performance indicators:

- Annual carbon emissions reporting
- Update to this Sustainability Statement in March each year
- Live visibility and reporting of energy usage and solar energy generation
- Monthly reports of waste management from specialist waste management suppliers

### **Responsibility**

This statement is the responsibility of the Director of Finance and Resources

### **Date of Last Review**

March 2024