



Department
for Education

Upper Batley High School's Sustainability Journey

This document contains statements which were written and submitted by Upper Batley High School's Sustainability Lead, Lisa Woods.

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How did your sustainability journey begin?

In September 2020 I joined Upper Batley High School (UBHS) and began working with the learners to create an Eco-Committee, where our young people could investigate developments for the school and grounds and understand the impact they could have on the school and the wider community. We established a team of committed and enthusiastic learners who wanted to make a difference to their school and the local community.

What was the approach taken to structure Sustainability Leadership?

Working as Sustainability Lead for Batley Multi Academy Trust means communication across our Trust family of schools is essential so that our sustainability vision can be shared clearly and effectively. This, teamed with creating a forum where we can work together and ideas can be shared regarding empowering our young people to have a voice and make a difference, is vital to the success of the various sustainability initiatives.

What was the approach taken to creating, developing, and implementing a Climate Action Plan?

We have formed Eco-Committees within each school; with young people who have an interest in the environment and who want to make a difference. They hold regular meetings to discuss what is important to them and the changes they would like to make within the school setting as well as the local community.

Factors such as transportation to school, energy use, waste services and the school grounds are important to our learners and became a starting point for the Climate Action Plan. The Climate Action Plan is a working document that is being developed constantly to ensure that each school can make long term sustainable changes.

Once the objectives have been identified, we got in touch with relevant organisations to start planning the implementation of our ideas and discuss how services can be developed.

Decarbonisation

Learners completed a survey on their transport to school so we could see how this could be to be more sustainable e.g. learners walking or cycling to school, possible. As a result of this a covered bike storage was built and the school mini bus was instructed to collect learners which reduces the number of cars coming to school.

Work was conducted with the local council regarding the speed of cars near the school, walking and cycling to school, with provision given for items such as high vis jackets, bike locks, new bike storage etc.

Waste was investigated to see how recycling could be improved as well as reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill. Recycling bins were placed throughout school and in the staff room, litter picks, displays made from recyclable materials such as plastic bottles, card, paper, plastics etc. Moreover, displays are now made from recyclable materials such as plastic bottles, card, paper, plastics etc. We compose our waste from the canteen and recycle crisp packets into blankets for the homeless.

Learners were encouraged to bring in reusable water bottles and plastic bottles are no longer sold in school.

Vegetable options features daily on the menu in the canteen and learners grow vegetables in the horticulture areas of the school grounds.

Biodiversity

- Beehives
- Horticulture area
- Forest School
- Community garden – future planning
- Planting trees and flowers

Climate Education and Green Skills

Education about sustainability is done through tutor time, the eco committee and our horticulture area. Sustainability and green skills is embedded throughout the science and geography curriculums.

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