

## Basingstoke College of Technology Best Newcomer



### A sustainable future

#### Section 1 About the project

##### Summary

EcoBCoT is the sustainability strategic initiative of Basingstoke College of Technology (BCoT). It is delivering a whole college commitment to sustainability, the active engagement of learners and is underpinned by a massive solar photovoltaic panel installation. The project will make BCoT a leader in sustainability.

##### Project partners

Basingstoke Energy Services Cooperative

#### Section 2 The results

##### The problem

The college is committed to ensuring that its learners understand the challenges we all face in achieving a sustainable future, as well as promoting this agenda in the wider community. The college's vision is "to inspire every learner to succeed and excel".

The college had a good track record of implementing sustainable initiatives prior to the launch of EcoBCoT. Examples include Fairtrade accreditation, restricting car use of learners, financially rewarding staff not using a car parking space, installing showers and cycle racks, Salix funded voltage optimization, conversion from oil to gas powered boilers, waterless urinals, building management system, automatic shut-down of computers, all VDUs low energy, growing our own vegetables and composting.

However, the college knew it could more, and it recognised that it had missed opportunities to raise the profile of sustainability issues. EcoBCoT builds on these past achievements, and through effective promotion it gives a branding and theme to new projects, it gets people involved in bringing forward their ideas and it raises the profile of sustainability both inside and outside the college.



##### Profile

- Further Education College
- More than 10,000 students (full and part time)
- 550 staff

Category supported by



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## The approach

EcoBCoT is a strategic initiative that started in September 2012. The vision for this project has been led by the Principal and it benefits from strong senior management support. The college's commitment to sustainability is reflected in its new strategic plan, a revised environmental policy and its business planning objectives.

The college's investment in a substantial solar photovoltaic installation on its campus for electricity generation provides the opportunity to do something really significant and game changing in our sector and in our region.

This project is embedding sustainable thinking and practice, and encouraging and facilitating others in the college and the wider community to bring forward ideas and supporting them in implementation.

## Our goals

1. BCoT will be a leader in the practice, promotion and training of sustainability
2. BCoT will embed sustainability in its curriculum delivery
3. BCoT will operate sustainably

## Obstacles and solutions

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement of students and staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainability champions group formed of volunteers with a passion to improve sustainability</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support of senior management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project has been led by the Principal with Senior Management Support. Governors have endorsed the policy and approach</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding our starting position</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carbon footprint calculated and carbon health check conducted by external consultants</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial investment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All projects signed off by the Director of Finance and must demonstrate value for money and financial payback</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Embedding in the curriculum</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify pilots, support innovation, share experiences, set as business planning target</li> </ul>

## Performance and results

- Student organised sustainability conference
- Recognition by Ofsted - ***“environmental activities such as ‘EcoBCoT’ help learners to develop an understanding of sustainability and how they care for the environment”***
- Exchange visits with The University of Winchester
- All waste bins replaced with recycling units – 4.32 tonnes of recycled waste in April 2013, equal to the whole recycled volume in the previous six months
- 15,800kwh of electricity generated in first 6 weeks of solar pv installation (15% of total electricity consumed)
- Massive press coverage and heightened awareness of BCoT's green credentials
- Sustainability champion group formed by volunteer staff with a passion for sustainability
- £1.5 m project approved to reclad, insulate and replace poor quality windows



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- Plastic lid recycling with cosmetics company 'Lush'
- Curriculum activities engaged all full-time learners in sustainability
- 12,000 sheets of paper saved in first six months of paperless SMT and governor meetings
- The college's annual carbon footprint calculated at 1430 tCO<sub>2</sub>e



- Paper use health check conducted and action plan produced
- Carbon reduction programme produced and targets set

Great progress has been made in embedding sustainability into the curriculum over the last 12 months. Examples include:

- All curriculum departments include sustainability in their business planning
- Introducing the BTEC Extended Diploma in Environmental Sustainability
- C & G level 3 motor vehicle students look at hybrid cars and alternate fuels as an extension to their course.
- Linked with Nissan and have used their Leaf Electric car, with Nissan giving talks to all motor vehicle students.
- Offering a Green Deal domestic advisor course
- Student project to build a Green Power Car
- Level 3 BTEC engineers look at the different types of electrical energy production and the impact on the environment
- Educational visits include a trip to Prague, where students visited the waste recycling plant to research how the recycle their waste to produce clean energy to supply over 200,000 homes with electricity and hot water
- IT students project assignment based around Fairtrade issues in computing
- Fashion students take old garments and 'bring them back to life'
- IT students are taught to repair, not replace

The college's standard invitation to tender document (ITTS) requires suppliers to provide information regarding their approach to environmental management and whether systems are accredited to ISO14001 standard. Sustainability gains include:

Waste management:- Zero waste to landfill, in partnership with waste contractor, Veoli.

Paper:- BCoT only purchases Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification ([PEFC](#)) accredited office paper.

Wooden furniture:- All products certified by the Forestry Stewardship Council ([FSC](#)) or PEFC.

Fairtrade status:- All coffee, tea and hot chocolate purchased by the college and sold in its catering outlets are Fairtrade accredited.

Desktop PCs:- All purchased are required to achieve the [80 Plus](#) bronze PSU rating as a minimum.

Photocopiers:- Replaced by [Energystar](#) certified by multi-functional devices at end of lease term (or end of life if college owned)

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## Section 3 The future

### Lessons learned

- Effective promotion is essential
- Senior leadership support is essential
- The strategic benefits to the college are enormous

### Future plans include:

- Low energy lighting (retrofitting to replace existing lighting)
- Second installation of solar panels
- Waste disposal health check
- Fairtrade clothing – college uniforms and clothing requirements
- PC management – use of power off 'sleep' buttons when PCs not in use

### Sharing your project

Dissemination through publicity, Principal's network, Finance Director's network, local business networks, press and social media.

The college is happy to share the details of the investment appraisal and performance of its solar panels with anyone interested.

### What has it meant to your institution to be a Green Gown Award finalist?

It has given credibility to the actions carried out, highlighted the impact and raised the profile of sustainability massively with students and local businesses.

### Further information

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