

## OUNDLE SCHOOL SUSTAINABILITY BULLETIN

**2024/2025**

This year has seen real momentum in our sustainability efforts, with strong progress across monitoring, infrastructure and pupil engagement. From a major rollout of LED lighting and a 40% increase in solar power generation, to successful pupil-led initiatives and improved waste awareness, there is much to celebrate. At the same time, we are identifying clear priorities for the year ahead: better education and communication, deeper integration with local environmental initiatives, and more ambitious long-term planning. With new leadership in place and data collection now more detailed than ever, we are well-positioned to shape a more sustainable future for the whole Oundle community.

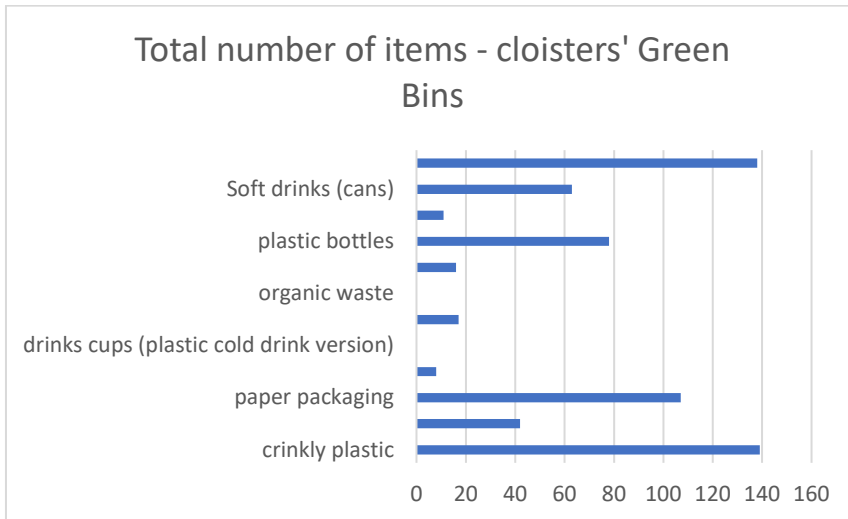
### **Utility Monitoring**

This is becoming more granular; we can now review data both monthly and biannually. The most recent reports indicate the following:

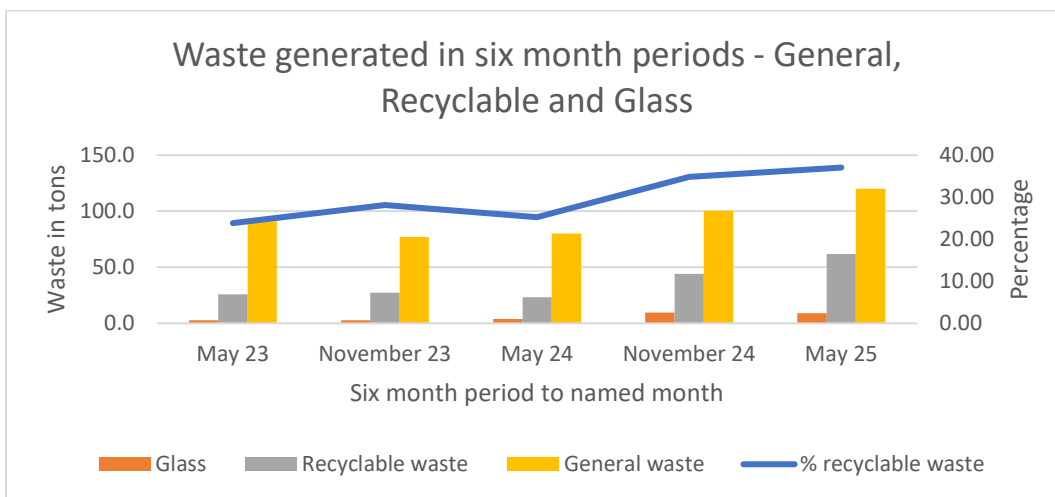
- May 2024 – October 2024 the School used approximately 0.95 tonnes Carbon dioxide (equivalent) per pupil
- November 2024 – April 2025 the School used approximately 2.0 tonnes Carbon dioxide (equivalent) per pupil

### **Waste**

The Community Action Green Team observed that recycling in the Cloisters is not yet being used to its full potential, suggesting that clearer guidance could help pupils make more environmentally responsible choices.



This table suggests the School's refuse contract should look at how crinkly plastic can be recycled. Pupil awareness on the disposal of glass and contaminated waste needs to be raised. Overall the School's waste remains constant with some improvements in recycling.



## Liaison with LJS

Two OS pupils organised a successful poster competition, in partnership with LJS Green Team and raising the profile of COP29. Over thirty entries were submitted on the theme of 'Small Change, Big Result' or 'Make the Earth Clean and Green'. Seven winners were selected, their posters on display in SciTec. This term, the same senior pupils helped LJS Green Team with the sorting of toys for the annual LJS toy swap.

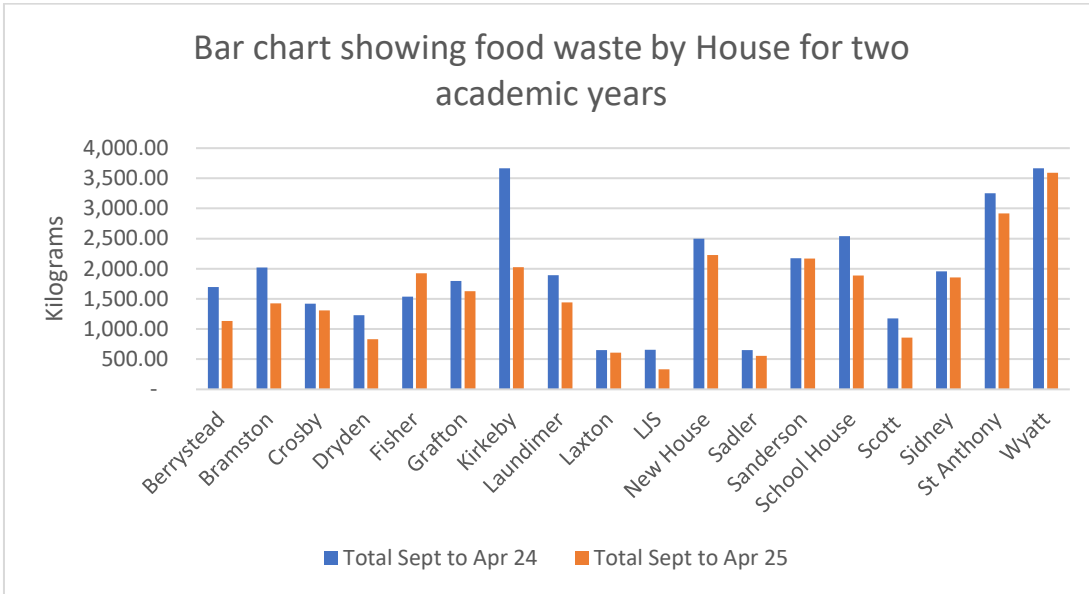


## Pupils

The pupils have been canvassed on a variety of issues, their opinions sought through questionnaires and the Pupil Pastoral Forum and the three main Environment groups: Green Team, Community Action, House Green Reps. The feedback indicate that the majority of pupils wish to be engaged in activities to reduce the School's environmental impact and would like to know more about how they can do this. Many feel that more should be done about switching off lights and recycling but would like clear direction. Pupils can easily contribute by switching off their own lights and by being more careful with their recycling. The School has investigated the feasibility of sensor light-switches and these have been introduced where economical; LED upgrades further mitigate lighting use.

## Food Waste

The Catering Department continues to source food from local and UK suppliers. Packed lunches are in fully recyclable packaging. Concern remains over how this is recycled, with issue over contamination and access to appropriate refuse bins. Whilst the introduction of cans for water has reduced use of plastic, it would be more efficient, less expensive and more sustainable if pupils had to use their own drinks bottles. Food waste per House remains constant at about 57kg per pupil per year. Some Houses have made significant reductions in their food waste whilst others remain stable. Conversations with the allocated Chefs, over menu choices, can reduce waste considerably.

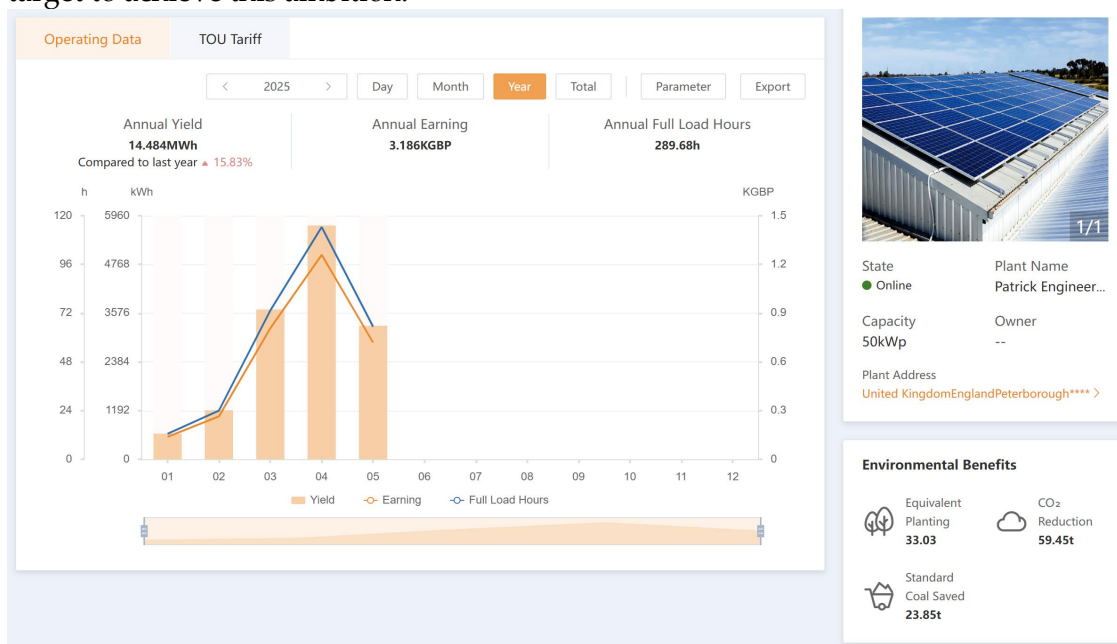


## LED installation

This has been a major success story. Highlights include installation of LEDs in the CCF building, Boarding Houses and Needham. Savings in the CCF amount to well over £1000 per year; 70% savings in Boarding Houses and £600 per year in Needham. All of these have a financial benefit and more importantly, contribute to a significant decrease in our carbon footprint.

## Solar Panels

There has been an improvement of approximately 40% in solar power generation, compared to last year. Our target is to match generated electricity with Needham use, these figures suggest we are on target to achieve this ambition.

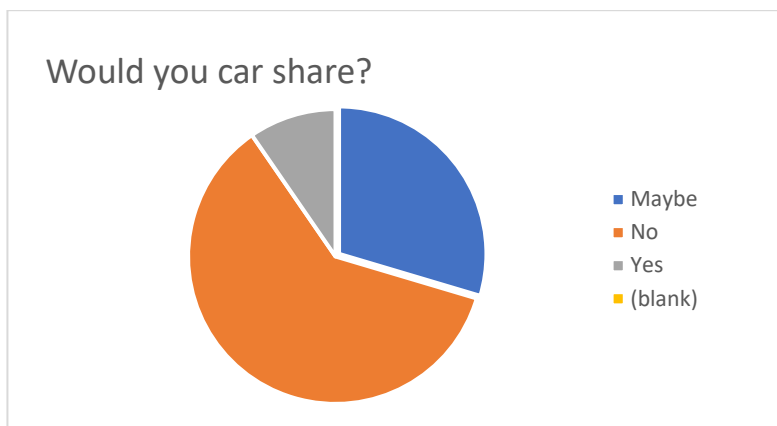


## Transport Survey

The School successfully sent a Transport Questionnaire to all its support staff. This gives us a baseline from which to work. Responses highlighted areas in which the School might support more sustainable transport methods but indicated that people still prefer the convenience of the personal car use to public transport, car-sharing, cycling and walking.



A proposal to increase car-sharing did not garner much support.



There is scope for a more sustainable approach to the School commute and this will be a focus for 2025/26.

## Community Liaison

The owner of Beans is exploring the idea of offering a discount to Oundle School Pupils if they purchase a drink in a reusable cup. Unfortunately, responses to a questionnaire canvassing opinion found that although 90% of respondents welcomed the idea, only 53% felt they would use the scheme and over 60% recognised that they would forget their cup; 57% wanted even more discount than the proposed 40p per cup: consultation continues.

The Oundle School estate is very much part of the local environment and work continues to integrate our site into the Oundle Nature Recovery Programme. Planting of wildflower meadows continues and a copse of over 20 silver birch trees has been planted on the fields. Between the School and local action groups 38 trees have been planted on Fletton Field, 25 fruit trees around the town and 25 mixed fruit trees in Oundle School's Bramston Orchard at the running track and Laxton Junior School.

Other projects include the Green Team planting different seed mixes in raised beds on SciTec's green roof, to increase biodiversity and investigate which species will thrive in the future. Our case study on Biodiversity for iiE is [here](#).

## Education

In the School Pupil Survey, 80% of pupils expressed an interest in being better informed about climate change, the environment and sustainability. The School is looking at options, including a formal OCR Level 3 Certificate in Sustainability ([Level 3 Certificate in Sustainability - H082](#)) and iiEs own Sticker-Book online programme aimed at knowledge growth.

## Actions for 2025/26

We are delighted that Mrs Emily Cameron-Walker will be co-leading the School's environment and sustainability strategy, joining Mrs Bronwen Corby from the Operations side of our community. The School will continue to monitor the key areas of utilities, waste, food and biodiversity. We will build on progress now that we have access to greater detail and data collection points are clearly established.

We will focus on:

- Information, knowledge and education
- Keeping OS at the centre of Nature Regeneration initiatives
- Phase 2 and 3 emissions will be measured
- A long-term strategy moving towards carbon-neutral will be developed
- A strategy to reduce emissions from boarders' transport will be developed
- The School will ask a Governor to oversee our Environment and Sustainability strategy.