

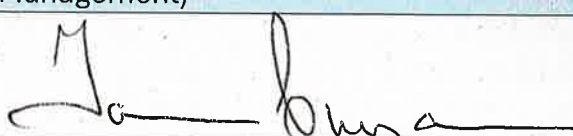
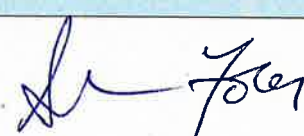


ENFIELD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Sustainability Policy

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| Patron | Louth Meath Education and Training Board (LMETB) |
| School | Enfield Community College |
| Policy Title | Sustainability Policy |
| Review Date | 2027 |
| Relevant Framework | |

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management of Enfield Community College.

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| Signed (Chairperson, Board of Management) | Signed (Principal) |
|  |  |
| Date: 15-6-2026 | Date: 15-6-2026 |



Enfield Community College

Sustainability Policy Statement

All public service bodies are required to comply with the Public Service Climate Action Mandate under the Climate Action Plan. This includes developing Climate Action Roadmaps that outline how they will meet energy efficiency and emissions reduction targets. Schools now operate under a dedicated Climate Action Mandate, which requires them to adopt a Sustainability Policy Statement. You can read the full School Sector Climate Action Mandate on gov.ie.

This policy is also informed by the second National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development titled 'ESD to 2030'. ESD aims to ensure that by 2030, all learners gain the knowledge and skills needed to support sustainable development. This includes promoting sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and an appreciation of cultural diversity and the role of culture in sustainability (Sustainable Development Goal 4.7).

The following Sustainability Policy Statement has been developed in line with the School Sector Climate Action Mandate and the principles of ESD to 2030.

This Sustainability Policy Statement outlines how our school actively promotes sustainability and climate action through its practices and initiatives. Sustainability refers to the ability to live and grow without exhausting natural resources, ensuring a healthy planet for future generations.

Scope

Sustainability is a shared responsibility that involves all members of our school community; students, staff, and employees. Parents and guardians are encouraged to support and reinforce the principles of this Statement. The Board of Management will ensure that all decisions made on behalf of the school reflect the commitments outlined in this policy.

At Enfield Community College, our vision is to cultivate a clean, safe, and inclusive environment where every learner can thrive—physically, mentally, and socially. We believe that sustainability is not just about protecting the planet, but also about nurturing wellbeing, resilience, and equity within our school community.

Our mission is rooted in our commitment to *quality education* that enriches students' lives and prepares them for life's challenges. In line with our ethos, we aim to empower learners to become responsible global citizens who value justice, mutual respect, equality, and tolerance. These principles guide our approach to sustainability and climate action, ensuring that every student develops the confidence and skills to contribute to a better future.

Our core values; *safety, wellbeing, preservation, and enhancement of both the individual and the environment*, are closely aligned with the five pillars of the LMETB ethos and the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We are implementing a three-year sustainability strategy to embed these values across all aspects of school life.

“Sustainability is a broad discipline that encompasses various strategies and practices aimed at meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The concept integrates three core elements: environmental, economic, and social, often referred to as the three pillars of sustainability.” (The Sustainability Network)

Introductory Statement

This policy document is the result of committees working together such as the green school committee, student council, development education committee and many students, teachers, parent representatives and the Board of Management of Enfield Community College. It outlines our efforts to embed sustainability in our whole school development involving all stakeholders. This document is reviewed and updated regularly with feedback included and it has been developed with an overarching view of the LMETB Sustainability Policy included.

Rationale

Enfield Community College aims to become a sustainable school by:

- Integrating sustainability including the sustainable development goals into the curriculum
- Decreasing our carbon footprint as best as possible.
- Fostering pride and ownership in our Green Schools work to date.
- Showcasing best practice in promoting development education, energy and waste management.
- Enhancing biodiversity on the school grounds.

Aims of the Policy

- Maintain and embed a culture of sustainability within the school.
- Enable students to be responsible and ethical global citizens.
- Monitor and make targets to decrease the use of water, electricity and waste production.
- Develop awareness through education regarding the environmental impact citizens can have and global issues that exist in our world.
- Promote collaboration between students and staff to problem solve and reduce our schools waste.
- Build and maintain active partnerships with local community groups, state agencies and organisations to extend the reach and impact of our sustainability work beyond the school campus.

Whole-School Approach to Sustainability

- We have formally adopted this Sustainability Policy Statement, which outlines our goals and actions in line with Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).
- ESD is recognised as a cross-curricular theme and is integrated across all subjects and learning experiences.
- Teachers actively identify opportunities to explore sustainability in the classroom, encouraging critical thinking and responsible citizenship.
- All school policies are reviewed and aligned with sustainable development principles to ensure consistency and accountability.
- Resources to support sustainability education are accessible at all levels.
- We conduct regular self-evaluations of our teaching practices to improve our approach to sustainable development.
- Enfield Community College is a proud member of the Irish Schools Sustainability Network, promoting collaboration and shared learning across the sector.
- We stay informed on developments in ESD by subscribing to the quarterly ESD Newsletter, ensuring our approach remains current and impactful.
- We actively seek and develop partnerships with local community groups, state agencies and external organisations, recognising that meaningful sustainability action extends beyond the school gates and into the wider community.

Strategy Overview (2025–2027)

1. Water

- Obtain the Blue Water Flag from Green Schools.
- Survey to gather data to encourage water monitoring at school and home.
- Engage the local community through investigation of pollution in our canal waterway.
- Partner with Johnstown Bridge TidyTowns, LAWPRO, Inland Fisheries Ireland and Teagasc on the Fear English River restoration project, engaging students in citizen science activities including water quality testing, kick sampling and ecological assessment of this local watercourse.
- Register with the Green Schools Water Ambassadors and River Ecosystems GLOBE programmes to access water quality kits, teacher training and classroom resources.

2. Litter and Waste

- Maintain initiatives from the 2022–2024 Green Flag campaign.
- Promote daily recycling and responsible waste disposal.
- Continue bin weight monitoring and “No Waste Friday” as often as possible.
- Continue with reminder signage throughout the school.
- The burning of rubbish or waste on school grounds is strictly prohibited.

3. Energy

- Reduce energy consumption across the school through signage and reminders
- Promote efficient use of I.T. resources and digital equipment
- Encourage students to energy save at home as well as in school

4. Cross-Curriculum Integration

- Launch TY module “Climate Action” from September 2025.
- Embed sustainability and SDGs in subject department plans with the aim to teach one lesson on the SDGs each year to each class group.
- Development Education week 2025-2026.
- Provide workshops to include extra-curricular participation with the SDGs.
- Ensure all year groups experience sustainability education in some way by the end of each year.

5. Biodiversity

- Maintain plants grown by LCA horticulture module
- Plan for including biodiversity in our new school building next year
- Introduce class plants in tutor groups and develop green spaces in the new school building to connect students with nature and support wellbeing.
- Engage with Johnstown Bridge TidyTowns group on local biodiversity audits and community conservation activities.

6. Post for Sustainability

- Assign a staff member to oversee all sustainability initiatives
- Coordinate Green Schools with development education committee and embed initiatives such as Young Social Innovators, Climate Action module in TY and Junk Kouture

Implementation Plan (2025-2027)

1. Water

- Formed Green Schools Committee for year 2025-2026.
- Audited school water sources.
- Carried out whole-school water use survey for students and teachers.
- Submit Blue Flag application in 2026-2027.
- Visit our canal to do a litter audit of the waterway to tie in with the climate action module in Transition Year.
- Engage with the Fear English River restoration project in partnership with Johnstown Bridge TidyTowns, LAWPRO, IFI and Teagasc. Student activities to include visual assessment, water sampling, measurement of temperature, pH, nitrogen and phosphate levels, and kick sampling, with expert feedback provided. This initiative supports the TY Climate Action module and elements of the Biology, Geography and Agricultural Science curricula.

- Register with Green Schools Water Ambassadors and River Ecosystems GLOBE programmes (annual intake) to receive water quality kits, teacher training, classroom resources and ecosystem assessment guides, supported by the Kildare LAWPRO officer.

2. Litter and Waste

- Introduced food waste bins in the canteen and staff room.
- Signage above bins to encourage responsible use.
- Cleaning Rota for every class in the school.
- Bins monitored regularly by green schools committee.
- BINIT workshop organised for first year students.
- Students surveyed on their knowledge of recyclable materials by the transition year students.
- Sign off sheet in the classroom signed by the student on cleaning duty to say that the room has been tidied.

3. Energy

- Encourage turning off IT equipment after use.
- Sustainability Champion in each class check is interactive board turned off at breaktime and lunchtime.
- SEAI energy workshops for some third year students.
- Energy presentation facilitated by transition year students to other class groups in the school.

4. Cross-Curriculum

- TY module on climate action (8-week blocks)
- Link Sustainable Development Goals to Young Social Innovators Action Plan.
- Embed sustainability in Transition Year Enterprise module.
- Focus on SDGs in units of learning as much as possible from 1st to 3rd year in all subjects. Guest speaker to present to staff about how to plan to embed the SDGs into units of learning.
- SSE focus is on sustainability in our cycle 2023-2026 and embedding this in our whole school approach using the SDGs.
- School to take part in the shoebox appeal to raise awareness on poverty.

5. Biodiversity

- Goal to create an insect hotel for our new school site.
- LCA horticulture module to plant native plants and grow vegetables.
- Collaborate with Agricultural Science and Biology departments for ecological field study.
- Support native birds with feeders.
- Collaborate with Johnstown Bridge TidyTowns on local biodiversity audits and conservation activities, with student volunteers welcomed to participate alongside the community group.
- Introduce a class plant initiative in tutor groups and plan for dedicated green spaces in the new school building as part of the biodiversity and student wellbeing strategy.

6. AP Post for Sustainability

- Responsible for:
 - Green Schools Committee
 - Sustainability initiatives in school for example: Development Education week, collaboration with teacher over Junk Kouture and YSI.
 - Embedding goals from WorldWide Global Schools into subject departments with support from the sustainability committee.
- Liaise with external organisations:
 - ISSN
 - ESD Network
 - SEAI
 - Worldwise Global Schools
 - ReLove Fashion
 - Junk Kouture
 - Green Schools
- Gather feedback from the stakeholders of the school community.

7. Community and External Partnerships

Enfield Community College is committed to building and sustaining active partnerships with organisations and agencies at local, regional and national level. These partnerships enrich students' learning, open up real-world sustainability opportunities and embed the school as a positive force within the wider community.

- Johnstown Bridge TidyTowns – collaboration on the Fear English River restoration project and local biodiversity audits, with student involvement in citizen science and conservation activities.
- LAWPRO (Local Authority Waters Programme) / Kildare LAWPRO Officer – supporting student engagement in the Green Schools Water Ambassadors and River Ecosystems GLOBE programmes and providing expert guidance on water quality monitoring.
- Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) and Teagasc – partners in the Fear English River restoration project, providing ecological expertise and supporting curriculum-linked fieldwork.
- SEAI (Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland) – delivering energy workshops for students and providing resources to support energy literacy and efficiency across the school.
- Meath County Council – engagement on local environmental initiatives, waste management awareness and community sustainability programmes relevant to our school and its environs.
- Green Schools Ireland – ongoing participation in the Green Schools programme, working towards additional Green Flags including the Blue Water Flag.
- Irish Schools Sustainability Network (ISSN) – membership supports collaboration and shared learning with other schools committed to sustainability.
- WorldWide Global Schools and ESD Network – informing our approach to global citizenship and embedding the UN Sustainable Development Goals across subject departments.
- The school remains open to developing new partnerships as opportunities arise and will actively seek out organisations whose work aligns with our sustainability goals.

Additional Sustainability Initiatives

The following activities are currently running within the school to support sustainability:

- **Printing codes introduced:** Each staff member has a printing code for management to monitor use.
- **Digital communication:** Parents receive school updates via email and compass.
- **Mobility:** Students are encouraged to walk or cycle to school to reduce carbon emissions. We have a bike shed for students to park bikes.
- **No drop off campus:** parents are encouraged to drop off students at Na Fianna if students cannot walk to school, and then the students walk from there to our campus. Our school transport also drops and collects students from Na Fianna GAA.
- **Competitions:** Students and staff regularly participate in environmental and sustainability competitions. E.g. Re Love fashion or steps challenge.

Success Criteria

The successful implementation of this policy will ensure:

- Ongoing participation in the Green Schools programme and pursuit of additional Green Flags.
- Continuous progress in our sustainability policy as we move to our new school building in 2026.
- Annual sustainability audits to measure progress.
- Annual surveys of students and staff to gather feedback on sustainability progress.

Roles and Responsibilities

The following individuals and groups are responsible for implementing and supporting this policy:

- School Management
- AP Post Holders
- Development Education Committee
- Green Schools Committee
- Teaching Staff
- Board of Management
- Student Council
- Students
- Ancillary Staff
- Parents/Guardians

Implementation & Review

- **Implementation Date:** 01 September 2025
- **Review Schedule:** 2 years, aligned with new Green School themes
- **Ratification:** Circulated to the Board of Management prior to formal ratification
- **Communication:**
 - Parents will be notified via the next School Communication and school app
 - The policy will be available for viewing on the school website