



Centre Academy East Anglia

Environmental Policy and Carbon Reduction Plan

Equality Statement

Centre Academy East Anglia is committed to a policy of equality and aims to ensure that no employee, job applicant, pupil or other member of the school community is treated less favourably on grounds of sex, race, colour, ethnic or national origin, marital status, age, sexual orientation, disability or religious belief. We provide a safe, supportive and welcoming environment

Review Date: Sep-25
Last Review Date: Sep-24
Held on website: Yes

Signed by Chair of Proprietor Body

Signed:
Chair of Proprietor Body

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Murphy'.

Mr R Murphy

Date: 24/09/24

Centre Academy East Anglia is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment.

CAEA takes its responsibility to the environment very seriously. Increased efficiency in all that we do is not only a must for the current climate emergency but also to ensure the school is run efficiently to ensure the provision is kept as low cost as possible for our fee payers.

We look at this under various headings below:

Heating

The school employs various heating methods across the campus. The main building and Coach house use oil fired central heating. This is kept efficient using yearly servicing and has recently been updated with better controls. Previously the boarding facility at the school necessitated much more use of the heating whereas now the day pupil setting can make more efficient use of the heating via programmed schedules.

The Main House employs secondary glazing.

The Coach House is double glazed and well insulated having been extended in the early 2000s.

The outbuildings are either Portakabins or converted container units. These are very well insulated and employ air conditioning units for heating and cooling. These are serviced regularly to ensure optimal efficiency. Staff are educated on the need to make sure the units are turned off when not needed.

The AGA in the kitchen is now only used when extra food hot storage is needed for big catering events whereas previously this was used as a standard device in the kitchen regardless of demand.

Oil use is monitored to ensure the usage is consistent with expected demand.

Main House – the arches are sealed with double glazed units to provide an inside space thus reducing the gap between the old part of the building and the newer extension.

Plans going forward:

- The main house and coach house heating systems will be converted to sealed systems removing the tanks which will increase the efficiency and reduce the chance of leaks and air locks.

Electricity

Over time most of the lights have been changed to LEDs. Where these have not yet they will be in the academic year 2024-25.

The outside lights have now been converted to sensor lights thus only being lit when needed.

The main school printer has just been upgraded to a more efficient model which will reduce energy consumption but also paper consumption thanks to a staff ID print system.

Fridges and freezers in the food preparation are being upgraded to more efficient modern units. We currently have 3 fridges and 3 freezers with a view to reducing to two freezers.

A move towards docking stations for staff and away from the use of a desktop PC and laptop is underway.

Solar is being considered which would be ground based and sited in an area of the playing field however the tall trees around the site make the viability of this questionable.

The use of a tea urn in the staff room is inefficient and we have now replaced with a on demand machine.

Water

The school has an excess of toilet and shower units from its boarding past. Overtime we are trying to remove the excess to ensure that water usage is efficient.

Use of bottled water has been phased out in 2022/3 favour of reusable containers filled from mains fed water outlets.

Transport

Most of our pupils are transported by taxi to the school. This is very inefficient however efforts to organise a coach service have not been well met by the LA and given the wide spread of pupils this would be hard to orchestrate. Pupils generally travel to school in under an hour and 75% are from Suffolk which leads to on average a journey time of c 30 minutes.

The school operates three minibuses for activities, and these are old however the mileage they do means the carbon effect of newer vehicles would not offset the wastage of scrapping the encapsulated carbon in the minibus which has been amortised over a long period.

Staff commute by car to the school with the exception of one member (c10%) who generally walk given their proximity.

For large group school trips away, we contract a coach to transport the pupils. Where staff are visiting our sister school they take the train rather than driving.

Plans going forward:

- Re-engage with LA's to see if a coach service could be utilised to reduce the carbon footprint of travel to and from school.

Food

All produce is now sourced locally, improving quality and food files. Food waste is kept to a minimum by judicious ordering and conversion of leftovers to follow on meals and waste is also consumed by our school pets.

Waste

The school's refuse is collected by Babergh Council. We utilise general waste and recycling services. Staff and pupils are aware of what is recyclable and the bins are well utilised.

Old batteries are collected in the main office for recycling.

The school tries to utilise dead wood in the forest school or for overnight camping activities.

Plans going forward:

- Utilise more upcycling of recyclable waste.

Environment

CAEA Butterfly meadow – in 2022-23 we planted a butterfly meadow to increase the biodiversity of insect life.

Allotment – the school plans to rejuvenate the allotment in 2024-25 to utilise our own produce and to generate seed sales for the DoE.

No cut May – the school endeavours to reduce the cutting of grass to a minimum to ensure biodiversity can flourish.

Where possible concrete is avoided as a building material in favour of upcycled path materials. Where necessary concrete usage is kept to a minimum.

Plans going forward:

- Aeration of the ponds to increase pond life

Equipment

Where possible the school procures second hand equipment to reduce the carbon creation cycle of new equipment.

Unused equipment is sold/gifted where possible rather than entering the waste chain.

The school has now gone paperless as much as possible.

Offset

The school plans to replace some dead trees with new trees. Trees are only effective at absorbing carbon when they are young and growing hence mature trees are better replaced by younger trees once the felled trees' wood is utilised in a carbon friendly way.

The school is in talks with a farmer about tree planting needs to offset the carbon creation of the school meaningfully going forward.