

Sustainability Week at Wyke: A Celebration of Environmental Awareness and Action

Day One: Wildlife Encounters and Fairtrade Fun

The week launched with an exciting visit from the **York Birds of Prey Centre**, who brought in five magnificent birds for students to learn about and handle. Chosen for their strong ethical standards, the team introduced students to a Golden Eagle, Eagle Owl, Kestrel, Barn Owl, Tawny Owl and a Harris hawk. For many students, it was a unique and unforgettable experience.



We were also joined by the **Hull Fairtrade Foundation**, who shared free samples and information highlighting the global benefits of Fairtrade, alongside opportunities to get involved locally. Their popular banana costumes brought plenty of laughter to the atrium!



Meanwhile, the premises team created an impactful display using plastic bottles collected from around college to highlight our collective plastic consumption. Additional displays showcased the number of recycled batteries and whiteboard pens used on site, prompting reflection on everyday waste.



Day Two: Bats, Flooding and Future Engineers

On Tuesday, the **East Yorkshire Bat Group** set up an interactive stand to introduce students to native bat species and explain the importance of protecting local wildlife.

The organisation **Living With Water** demonstrated how **Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS)** work, using a hands-on model to show why these systems will be vital as climate change increases the risk of flooding. This linked perfectly with the ongoing SuDS project led by **Kerry, Hiatt and Lauren**, where students have been designing innovative drainage solutions for the college site. These students will present their work to **Hull City Council** and the **Institute of Civil Engineers** in March — with the winning design going forward to the ICE Expo.



Day Three: Biodiversity, Recycling and Community Action

On Wednesday, we welcomed **Andy from the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust** and **Tom from the RSPB**, who spoke about their collaboration with the Wyke Eco Group and invited students to join the upcoming college biodiversity project. Our Sustainability Marquee stayed open throughout the week, and many students signed up to get involved.

Representatives from **Love Your Street** challenged students' knowledge of recycling and helped them understand what can go into each type of bin. Local ward councillors also visited to promote the **Wyke Action Group**, which now proudly has over 80 student volunteers.

The day ended with a successful **community litter pick**, demonstrating our commitment to improving our local environment.



Day Four: Eco Group Takeover and Creative Challenges

Thursday saw the Eco Group take the lead with a range of vibrant student-led activities.

- **Heidi** designed a sustainability-themed spinner where students could win prizes donated by **Lush** in exchange for making a green pledge and following the WykEco Group Instagram page.
- **Suki** and her team created a **wildlife scavenger hunt** around the college.
- A “Guess the Name” competition for a giant sloth soft toy was won by **Ana Tortosa Diaz**, who fittingly named it **Ana**.



- **Holly** ran an extremely popular **wildlife-themed face-painting stall**, attracting long queues over two lunchtimes.



We were also delighted to welcome **Joe and Rylan – two former students studying zoology** who brought an assortment of stick insects and a tarantula for students to meet. **Scaley the snake** made a special appearance to a lucky handful of students — apologies to the 200-strong queue outside W3! We hope Scaley will become a regular visitor.



A highlight of the day was the **Demonic Hedgehog Competition**. Students were challenged to create an edible hedgehog that was both scary and imaginative. With eight fantastic entries, judges Lee and Toni selected three winners — and the creativity did not disappoint.



Day Five: Sweet Treats and Final Celebrations

The week concluded with a lively cake stall and a series of last-minute competitions, bringing together students and staff for a final celebration of everything we had achieved. The canteen Aramark put on a stall giving away free samples of food made from waste products from the kitchen including coffee ground brownies and crispy potato skins with pepper top sauce.

A Huge Thank You

Sustainability Week was a tremendous success thanks to the enthusiasm, creativity and commitment of everyone involved. A special thank you goes to the **Wyke Eco Group**, who dedicated countless hours to planning and delivering events. Their passion continues to inspire the college community and drive our sustainability mission forward.

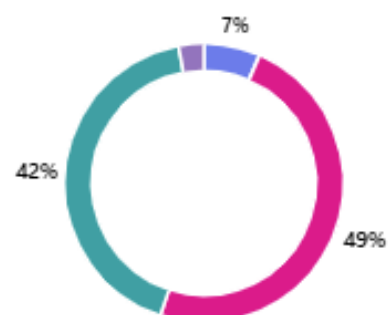


Sustainability Questionnaire results

The Sustainability Questionnaire results (886 responses) show that most students see themselves as at least fairly sustainable, with recycling and bringing reusable items especially water bottles being common habits. Respondents felt the college performs well in areas such as recycling, reducing waste, and promoting sustainability, although many also believe that improvements are needed in better communication, reducing plastic use, and increasing recycling facilities. Students identified key areas for development, including more information about sustainability initiatives, better waste-sorting options, and improved energy-saving behaviours. Most respondents recycle regularly in college, consider sustainability very important for colleges, and strongly support policies such as reducing single-use plastics. Walking, buses, and cars were the main travel methods, and while many students make an effort to reduce energy use, fewer are involved in sustainability enrichments. Across the survey, students expressed a strong desire for the college to take a more active leadership role in sustainability, alongside encouragement for individuals to take responsibility too.

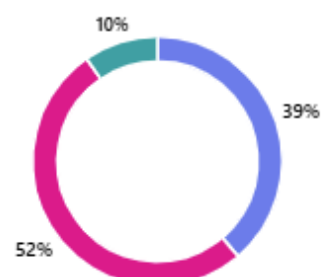
How would you describe your approach to sustainability?

● Very proactive	58
● Somewhat proactive	430
● Neutral	372
● Not proactive	26



Do you feel the college provides enough information about sustainability initiatives?

● Yes	344
● Maybe	457
● No	85



What areas do you think you and the college could improve on to become more sustainable?

How often do you recycle in college?

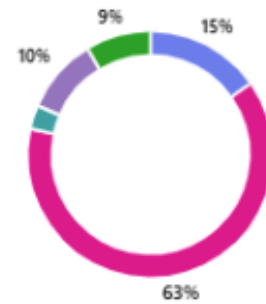


Which of the following reusable items do you bring to college?



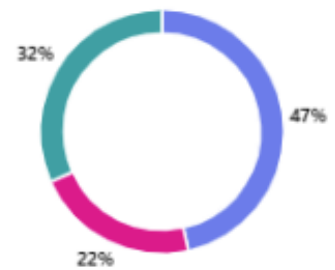
How do you usually travel to college?

Walk	135
Bus	559
Bicycle	28
Car alone	88
Car pool	76



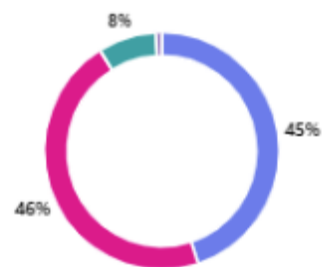
Do you make an effort to reduce energy use in college (e.g. turning off lights, unplugging devices)

Yes	412
No	193
Sometimes	281



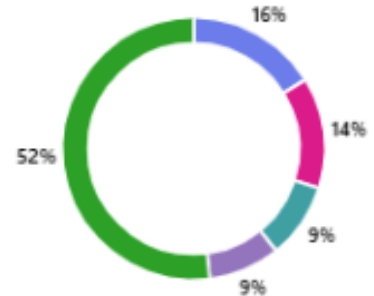
How important do you think sustainability is for colleges?

Extremely important	399
Somewhat important	409
Neutral	71
Not important	7



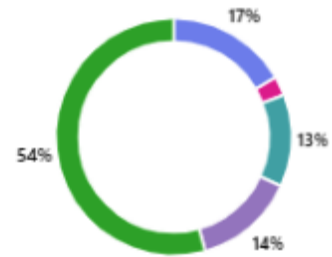
Who should take the lead in making college more sustainable?

● College Leadership	194
● Staff	164
● Students	112
● Government	106
● All equally	623



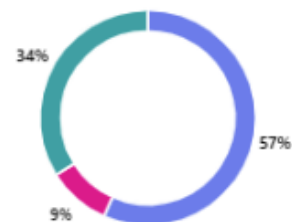
Are you involved in any sustainability themed enrichments?

● Eco Group	148
● Sustainable Urban drainage Systems Project	23
● Wyke Community Action Group	112
● Carbon Literacy	124
● None of the above	483



Would you support college policies that encourage sustainable behavior e.g. banning single use plastics?

● Yes	502
● No	84
● Unsure	300



What is one action that you think the college community should take immediately to improve sustainability?

52 respondents (6%) answered recycle for this question.



Departmental Pledges

Estates

Continue to engage with staff and students about appropriate recycling. Providing the required number of bins to assist with this.

MIS

Reduce printing of MIS resources, encourage digital use, planners etc.
Delete unused/duplicate files data on cloud

History and politics

Recycle board pens - box for used ones in classroom.
Be more proactive with switching off lights/boards when not in use.

MFL

Recycle board pens – box for used ones in the classroom

Psychology and sociology

Turn lights off when we leave a room

English

We will roll out the reselling of books across the department, perhaps offering budget bundles (consisting of used copies of books) to new students.

We will introduce plants to our classrooms.

We will only print the exact numbers of sheets and booklets required, across the department.

Maths

Recycle used whiteboard pens

Health and Social

Think before you print - print the correct amount needed - change colour paper accordingly

Integrate sustainability into lessons

Reusable whiteboard pens

Dance, PA, Drama and Music

Planned themes of dances for next show to make sure costumes are reused and then we are not adding to landfill waste. Look at SOL to embed further into the Charity Gala (Unit 4)

PE and Sport

Bring in your unwanted / unused Sports kit for practical / recycle old Wyke kit

Physics

Switch of the promethium when finished with it

HR

Reduce printing of letters, move towards emailing more.

Further minimize plastic water bottle use, order jug and glasses for meetings

Encourage students to digitally fill in workbooks

Office and Admin

Investigate other options for daily lanyards as these are currently plastic.

Review teams and central drive and delete old archive files

Careers

Reusable brochures and prospectuses which are kept in department rather than being given out and likely discarded.

Some are now made of biodegradable material or simply a QR code (which students always like)

Finance

Monitor the recycle bins