

Climate Action Roadmap Our Lady's RC High School





Our Vision

As a hub of our community, we believe Our Lady's can help to transform markets, policy, education, and behaviour, increase community resilience, mitigate climate change, and prepare our students to think and act in new and creative ways. We envision a world where our students are aware of and accountable for the impact they have in creating an environmentally, economically, and equitably sustainable future.



INTRODUCTION

Climate change and ecological destruction are some of the biggest challenges of our time. Our Lady's RC High School, like all institutions, have a responsibility to address them; and to meet the UK government's target to reach net-zero* emissions by 2050

Moreover, here at Our Lady's we are ambitious enough to strive for net-zero by 2030; as a pledge to this we have already signed the Lets Go Zero commitment.

There is currently a great deal of variation in how schools are responding to the climate crisis. We have started our journey here at Our Lady's, initiated the Eco-schools project, converted to fully wind-generated electricity, established a Sustainability Action Team, have looked at how curriculum areas can take learning to our Forest School and started working with Salford Diocese to calculate our Carbon footprint – but we realise this is just the beginning, and more can and needs to be done.

At Our Lady's we have a significant opportunity, to build upon the energy of our students through our Sustainability Action Team and our close ties to our local communities to reduce our environmental impact in innovative ways

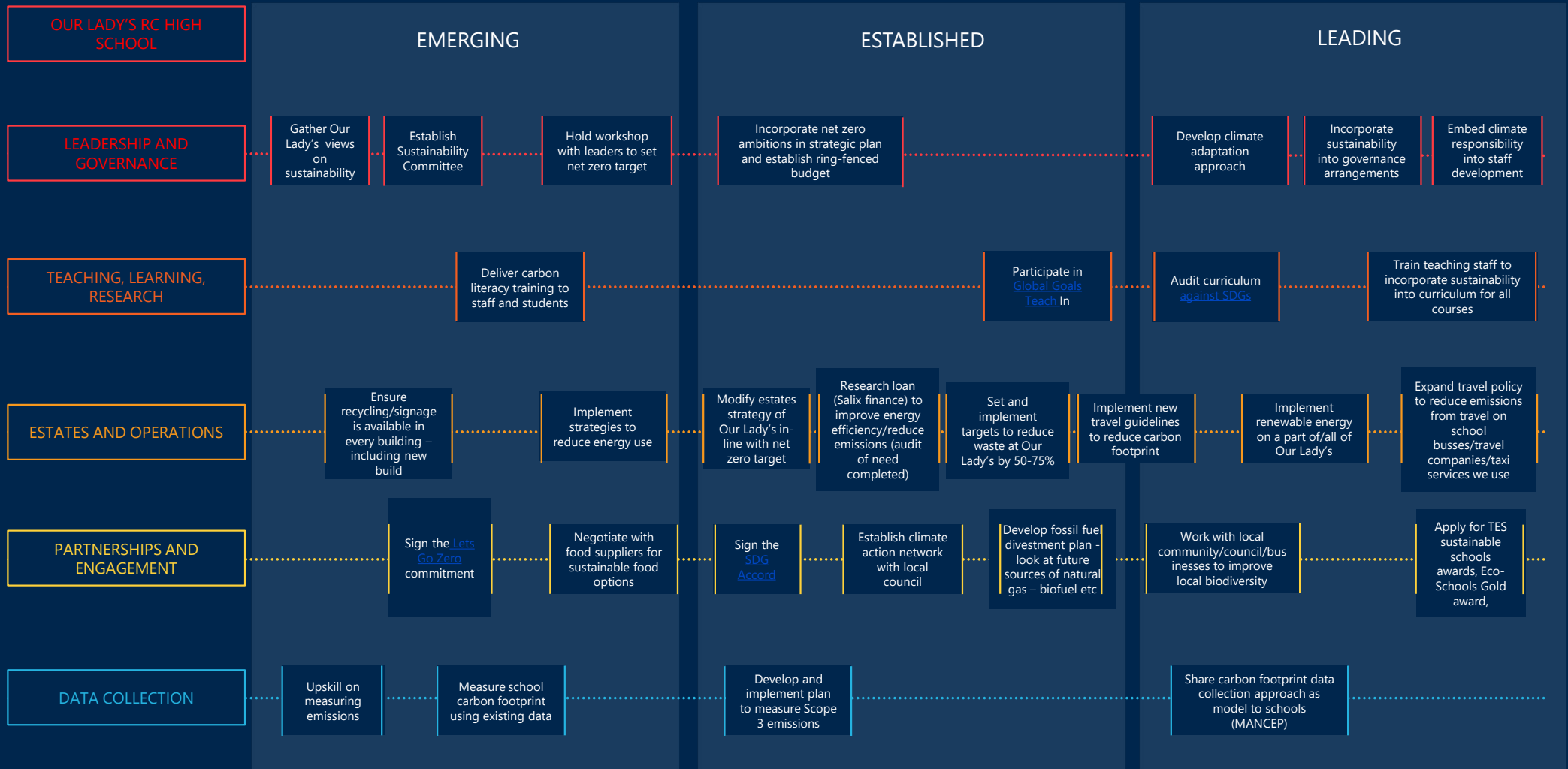
This plan for Our Lady's builds on the proposals established in November 2019 by the Climate Commission for UK Higher and Further Education

This roadmap/plan is based on a range of existing materials, including the EAUC's 'SORTED: Guide to Sustainability in Further Education', the Sustainability Leadership Scorecard, the Climate Emergency Framework, and past winners of the Green Gown and AoC Beacon Awards, among others. It is also based on a workshop with FE college leaders and students, held in June 2020

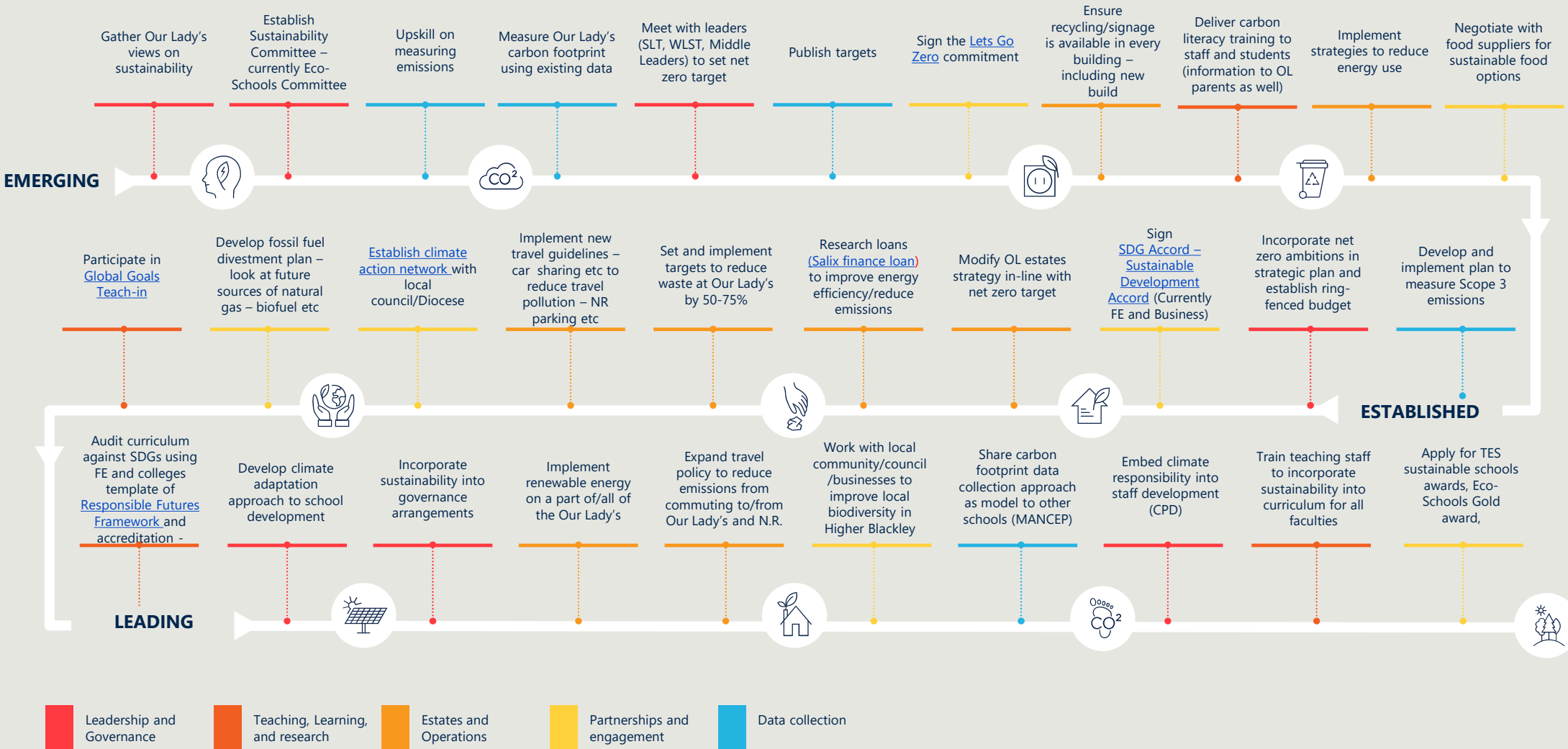


***Net-zero** is effectively creating a balance **between** the amount of greenhouse gases which are released into the atmosphere, and the amount which are taken out.

CLIMATE ACTION ROADMAP ACTIVITIES BY AREA

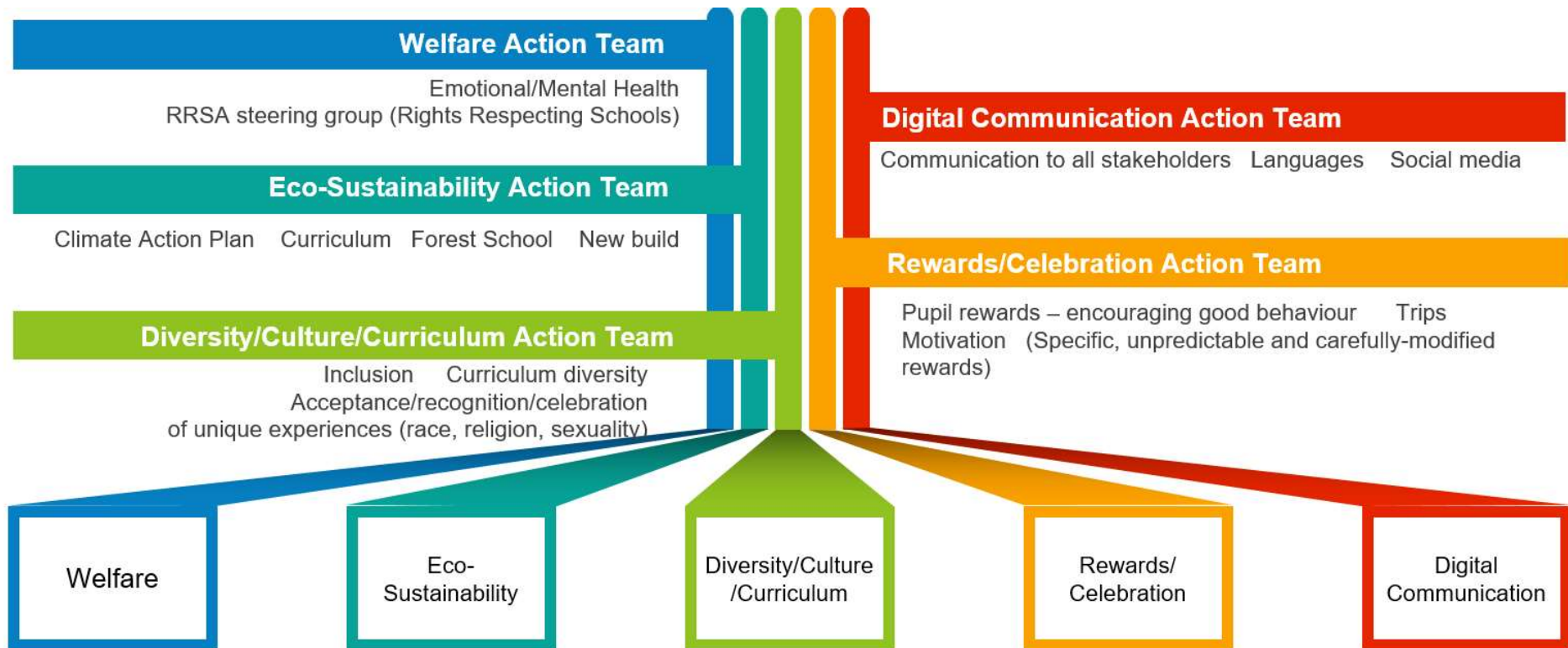


Our Lady's RC High School Climate Action Roadmap

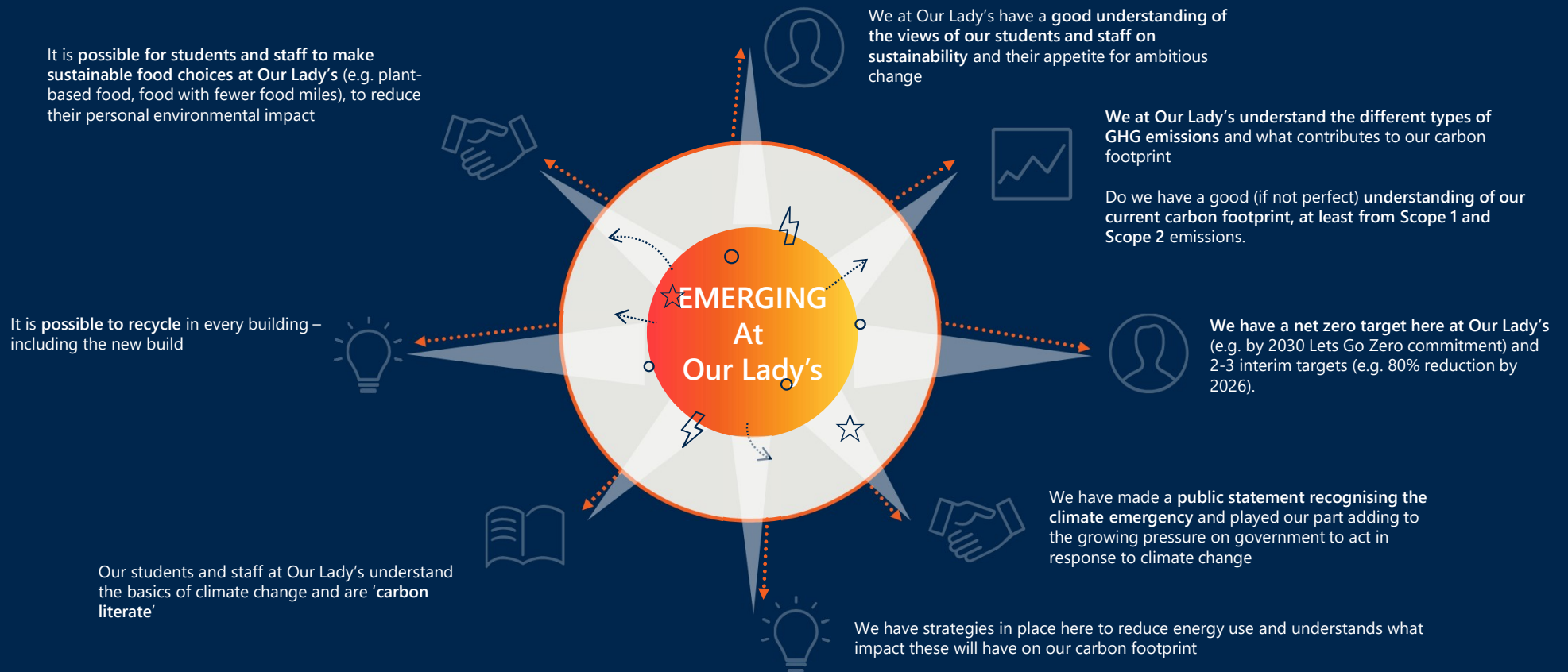


Student Voice

Student voice at Our Lady's acknowledges that all of our students have unique perspectives on learning, teaching, and schooling, and should have the opportunity to actively shape their own education. It refers to the values, opinions, beliefs, perspectives, and cultural backgrounds of the individual students and groups of students in Our Lady's, and how they can make a change based on their choices, interests, passions, and ambitions.



WHAT DOES AN 'EMERGING' OUR LADY'S LOOK LIKE?



WHAT DOES AN 'ESTABLISHED' OUR LADY'S LOOK LIKE?

We understand what parts of our investment portfolio are invested in fossil fuel companies. We have a plan to divest from fossil fuels and achieve a green investment portfolio – we have started this and we are moving forward with our commitment to wind-generated electricity.

We have established relationships with the local community – including our partner primary schools, and council with a shared aim to combat climate change locally

Our 10-year estates strategy reflects our commitment to our net zero targets, including an ambition to optimise the use of the estate, refurbish buildings to improve their efficiency where necessary, and applying [BREEAM](#) standards to new buildings when we consider this

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have become 'part of the conversation' at Our Lady's, through the signing of the SDG Accord and the Global Goals teach in. Our Lady's community are aware of the SDGs and students have a sense of how they might apply to their subject of study

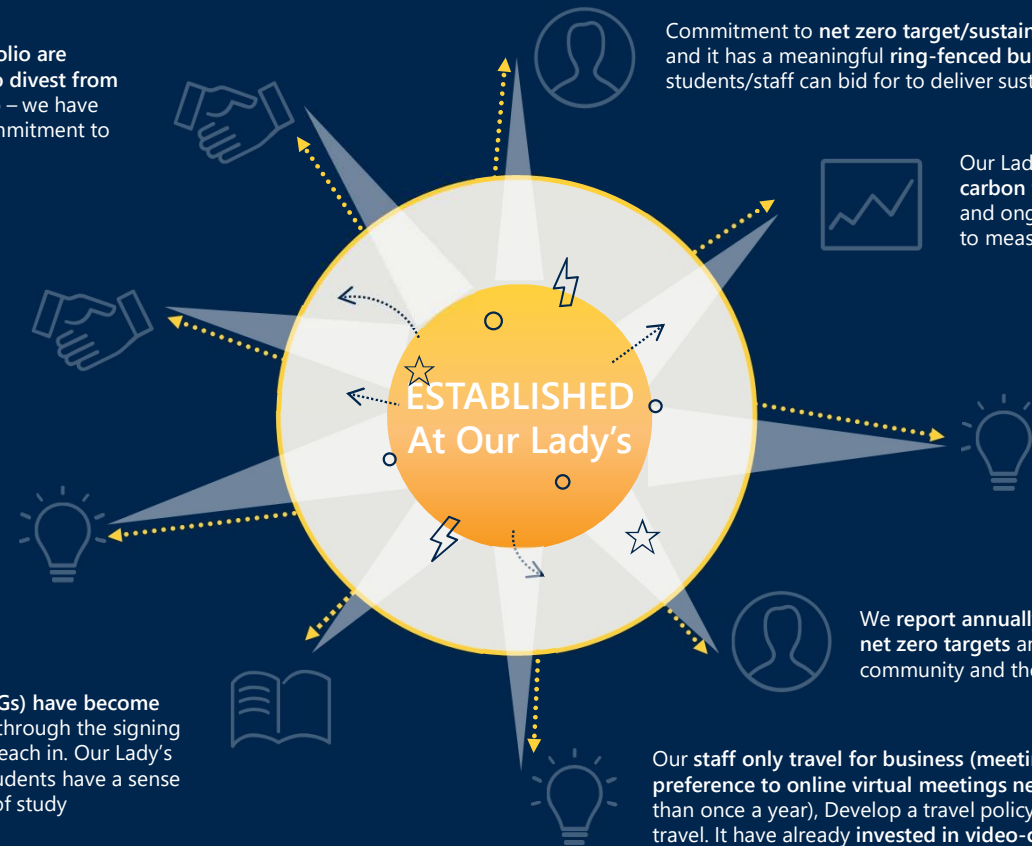
Commitment to net zero target/sustainability is reflected in our strategic plan and it has a meaningful ring-fenced budget to deliver on it (which includes funds students/staff can bid for to deliver sustainability projects)

Our Lady's have a strong and precise idea of our carbon footprint, including our Scope 3 emissions, and ongoing mechanisms in place to collect the data to measure it

We have undertaken/is currently undertaking an ambitious project to reduce emissions from our buildings with the help of possible loans (e.g. Salix Finance loan) – if needed (not a necessity, but worth looking in to)

We report annually on our progress on meeting our net zero targets and interim targets, to the school community and the public

Our staff only travel for business (meetings etc) when it is the last option – preference to online virtual meetings needs to be prioritised (likely less than once a year), Develop a travel policy that aims to reduce emissions from travel. It have already invested in video-conferencing/remote platforms to support remote meetings.



WHAT DOES A 'LEADING' OUR LADY'S LOOK LIKE?

The school is a model to other school's seeking to combat climate change and it shares resources and lessons (e.g. data collection methodology) with others in the sector

All food consumed in school is sustainable, mainly plant-based, and locally and ethically sourced

Our Lady's is well known for our performance on sustainability (through awards like the Green Gown award) and attracts students for this reason (partner primary feeder work)

Our Lady's have a plan in place to adapt to and mitigate climate-related risk (e.g. risk from flooding etc on site)

The school and the region surrounding it are richly biodiverse, with a variety of habitats, including wild spaces



Sustainability is at the heart of our decision-making here at Our Lady's and our leaders are actively working towards delivering its net zero target. Sustainability is a part of induction, CPD, and job descriptions – making it integral to the school's workforce.

Here at Our Lady's we have delivered on our interim carbon emissions reduction targets (e.g. 30% reduction by 2023; 40% reduction by 2025)

Sustainability is a part of every course at Our Lady's, integrated into our curriculum. We are accredited with [Responsible Futures](#) or the equivalent (SLT and Eco-Committee to secure).

Our Lady's is powered by majority renewable energy sources and we have radically reduced our emissions produced by energy used in school

Students and staff travel to Our Lady's in low-carbon ways – we walk, ride bikes, take public transport, and participate in car-sharing schemes (staff and students where necessary)