

Analytical Summary

Over the past 12 months The Polesworth School has seen a considerable reduction in the size of its carbon footprint. The 2024 data (report generated in 2025) showed our footprint to be approximately 4,189.28 tCO₂e (tonnes Carbon Dioxide equivalent), whereas the data from 2025 shows this to have reduced by 75.23% to 1,037.72 tCO₂e. In terms of a headline grabbing figure this would appear to be fantastic, however, when we look more closely there are some clear caveats.

Firstly, there have been some changes to the calculation methodology, 'uniform' for instance was included in the 2024 dataset accounting for 9% of our emissions, yet for 2025 was deemed 'beyond scope', automatically resulting in a saving of >360 tCO₂e, despite the tCO₂e for 'uniform' increasing to 372 (as a result of having more students on roll).

The largest areas of reduction are 'spending', 'student commutes' and 'staff commutes'. The former falling from 917.5 to 117.2 tCO₂e (-87.22%). This figure is largely a result of not having any new classrooms to kit out, however, the reduction has also been aided by an increasingly economically sustainable approach to furniture acquisition. Student and Staff commutes have seen losses of 86.57% and 77.15% respectively, though this is not a result of significant changes in mode of transport or distance of commute. Instead, this variation can be attributed to more robust reporting from players compared to the previous year [and consequently far less reliance on extrapolation] and again a slight tweak to the methods with categories like 'EV' and 'Hybrid' now present as opposed to just 'Car', presumably being attributed lower tCO₂e in the calculations. Reductions can still be made in these areas in future years as the data collection methods continues to be refined, yet such reductions will be far more marginal than those seen between 2024 and 2025.

The areas most within our power to address are those in Scope 1 – 'Fuel Use' and 'Vehicles' of these the former has seen a reduction of 44.86% largely, resulting from having a greater renewable capacity online and changes to the heating schedule. Whilst 'vehicles' has seen an increase in tCO₂e of 415.79% - a change which can largely be attributed to the newly launched taxi service for post-16 students [it's worth noting that this only existed for 4 months yet still produced a sizeable percentage increase in emissions].

Another area experiencing an increase in emissions is 'School Trips' which has risen by 65.97% from 77 to 127.8 tCO₂e, in part due to having two ski trips running to Italy mere months apart. Whilst although in Scope 3 – the canteen is an area under scrutiny at present, this experienced a decline in emissions of 8.38%, due to fewer meals being served/week. There is hope that this could fall further in the future if we benefit from the economies of scale and local sourcing offered by a number of outsourced catering companies, although it must be said that any increase in popularity would consequently lead to a rise in emissions.

Your Carbon Footprint Report

Your schools total carbon footprint is estimated to be: **1,037.72 tonnes co2e*** per year

Operational area	Emissions area	Scope	t co2e*	% **
Energy, Waste & Water	Fuel	1	156.1	15%
	Electricity	2	101.6	10%
	Waste	3	0.1	0%
	Water	3	21.5	2%
Transport	School vehicles	1	19.6	2%
	School trips	3	127.8	12%
	Student commuting	3	223.3	22%
	Staff commuting	3	141.6	14%
Food	Food	3	129	12%
Purchasing & Uniform	Purchasing	3	117.2	11%
	Uniform ***	Out-of-scope	372.1	n/a



* 't co2e' or 'co2e' tonnes means 'tonnes of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent'. Under the GHG protocol, 7 greenhouse gases are tracked and summarised as the equivalent amount of Carbon Dioxide that would produce the same warming effect.

** Percentage of your carbon footprint.

*** Uniform is out-of-scope and therefore not included within the pie chart.

Figure 1 - Carbon Footprint 2025

Carbon Footprint Results & Analysis

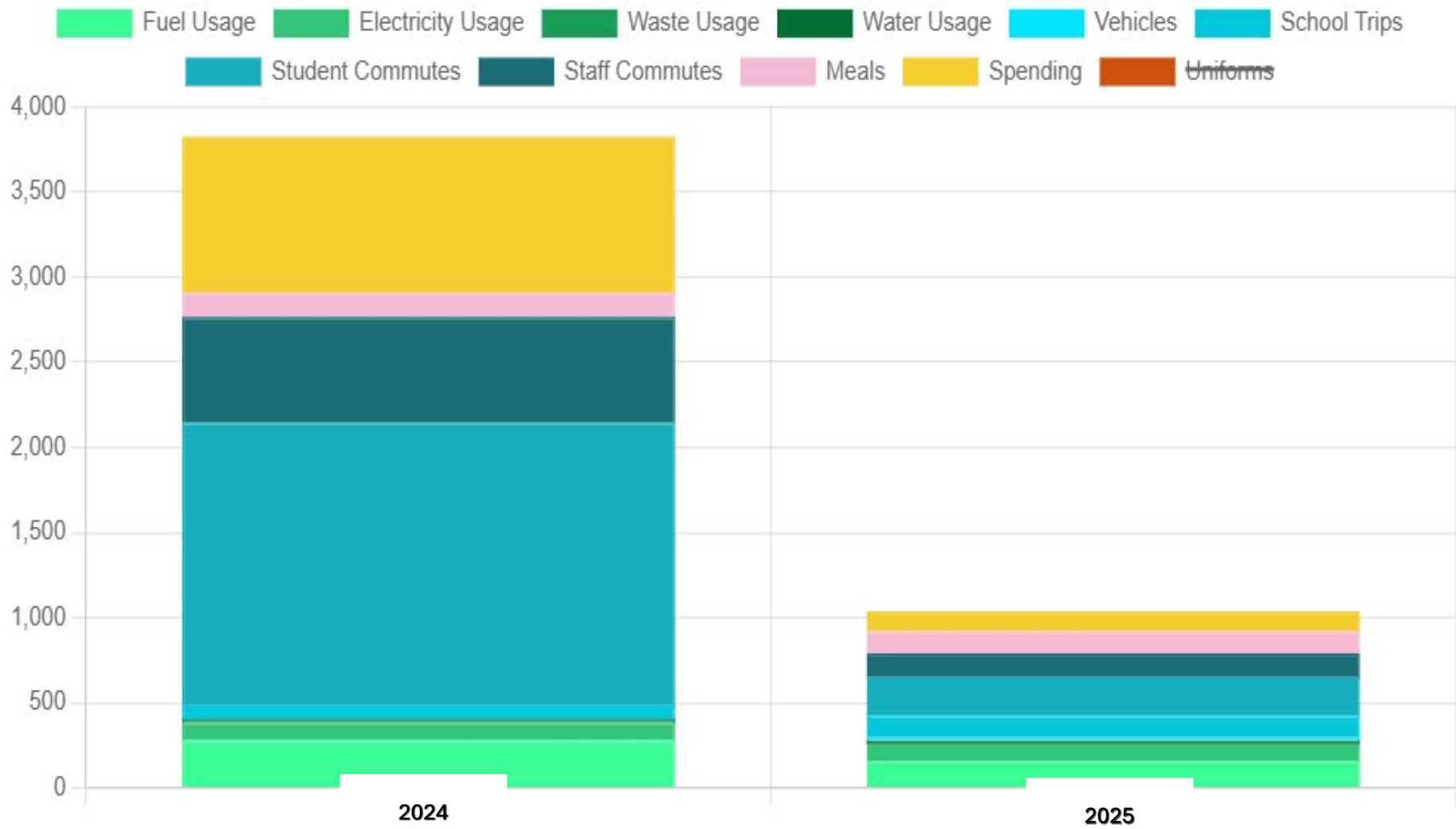
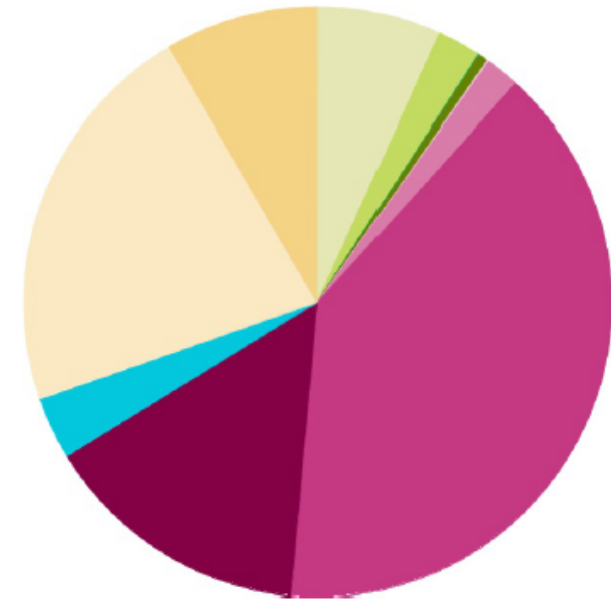


Figure 2 Carbon Emissions over time

Your schools total carbon footprint is estimated to be: 4,189.28 tonnes co₂e* per year

Operational area	Emissions area	t co ₂ e*	% of footprint
Energy & Utilities	Fuel Usage	283.1	7%
	Electricity Usage	99.5	2%
	Waste Usage	0.5	0%
	Water Usage	20.1	<1%
Transport	Vehicles	3.8	<1%
	School Trips	77	2%
	Student Commutes	1663.1	40%
	Staff Commutes	619.6	15%
Food & Drink	Meals	140.8	3%
Purchases	Spending	917.5	22%
	Uniforms	364.4	9%



*'t co₂e' or 'co₂e' tonnes means 'tonnes of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent'. Under the GHG protocol, 7 greenhouse gases are tracked and summarised as the equivalent amount of Carbon Dioxide that would produce the same warming effect.

Figure 3 Carbon Footprint 2024

Methodology Relevant to Analytical Summary

The GHG Protocol sets out three 'scopes' or ways of categorising the different kinds of emissions that a business (or school) creates in its own operations and in its wider 'value chain' (its suppliers and customers).

Operational Emissions: These emissions are referred to as 'Scope 1 & 2' emissions, based on the GHG protocol. They occur in your school's operations and include the direct emissions from the fuel you use in buildings and vehicles and indirect emissions from the electricity you buy.

Value Chain Emissions: Scope 3 emissions occur as a result of everything else that takes place in your school, from the products you buy for students to use, i.e. laptops, notebooks, to the emissions from students and staff travel.

When reviewing your report, it's important that you view it as a whole, and do not just focus upon your largest emissions areas. Not all of your emissions are under your direct control (scope 2 and 3), and therefore you may be limited in the action you can take to reduce your emissions in these areas. As a result, the areas within which you can make the largest impact may not be the areas which emit the most carbon. There is more guidance around this within the Carbon Reduction Guide.

Overview of categories covered by the calculator and the scopes they come under

Operational area	Emissions area	Scope
Energy, Waste & Water	Fuel usage	1
	Electricity usage	2
	Waste usage	3
	Water usage	3
Transport	Vehicles	1
	School trips	3
	Student commuting	3
	Staff commuting	3
Food & Drink	Food & Drink	3
Purchases	Spending	3
	Uniforms	3