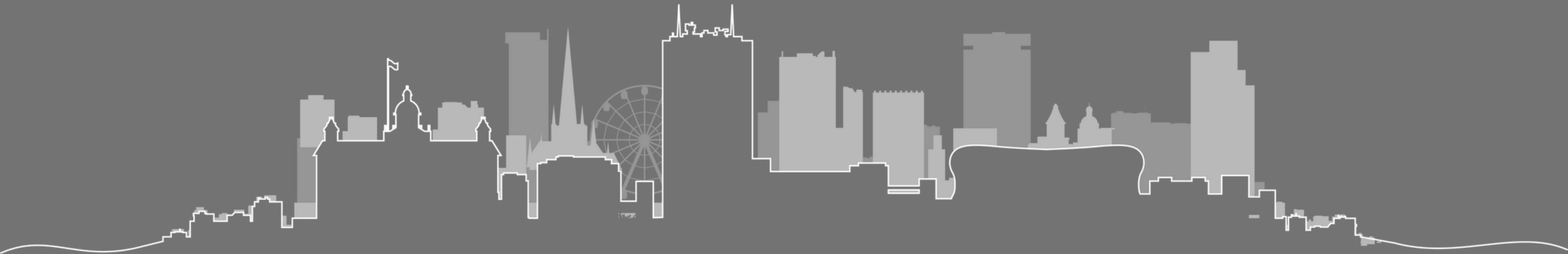




**KING EDWARD VI
FOUNDATION
BIRMINGHAM**

Educational excellence for our City

Environmental
Sustainability Statement



"The next decade is decisive"



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The above is a statement from the organisers of the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26), Glasgow.

As an employer of almost 2,000 individuals serving over 10,000 pupils across twelve schools in the UK's second city (and the twenty-fifth largest city in Europe, including Russia), the actions that the King Edward VI Foundation takes corporately and in terms of the individuals in or associated with it will have an impact.

We have a moral and existential duty to act. The strength for action lies in the will of large numbers of our individuals, not least the highly committed pupils from across the Foundation, who have vocally called upon the Foundation to act, and whose thoughts constitute many of the initiatives outlined in this statement.

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The Foundation acknowledges that sustainability is a subject that extends far beyond environmentalism and 'green' issues. As the author Adam Werbach has pointed out, "Sustainability is much bigger because it takes into account every dimension of the business environment: social, economic, and cultural, as well as natural." The Foundation makes a significant contribution to social, economic and cultural sustainability, for example through its focus on disadvantaged students and equality, diversity and inclusion. There is also a significant amount of activity across our schools in relation to environmental sustainability, as is highlighted by the work of passionate and well-informed student sustainability societies.

The urgent task now is to coordinate and maximise the impact of our environmental sustainability initiatives to meet the challenge conveyed by the organisers of COP26.

To that end, the Foundation has set out the following priorities in its Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

Our key priorities are:



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Education, inspiration and awareness

We will further develop our educational provision and curriculum to address environmental sustainability through student-led activity and educating students about their own actions, while raising awareness of environmental sustainability issues (and broader sustainability issues relating to economic, social and cultural factors) within and beyond the Foundation.

Estates, energy and transport

We have procured expert advisors to measure our current energy usage and work with us develop a plan to reduce emissions, ensuring strategic planning and investment decisions are aligned with low-carbon transition.

Leadership and partnerships

We will include pupils, parents, governors, teaching and support staff in decisions affecting environmental sustainability, working with our internal team and partners to encourage individual and corporate responsibility.

Financial, procurement and investment practices

We have a carefully thought-out approach to ethical investing (including but not limited to environmental sustainability factors) and will use our leverage as an investor, property-owner and procurer to promote environmental sustainability.

Progress has been made in:



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- Appointing external consultants to undertake energy audits at our twelve schools, baselining our current usage and developing energy reduction programmes, including a Heat Decarbonisation Plan;
- Forming a Foundation-wide Environmental Sustainability Group to develop an action plan which converts the Foundation Environmental Sustainability Strategy into a set of detailed initiatives with clear timescales, and works with student sustainability societies from our schools to harness their knowledge and enthusiasm;
- Entering into agreements with Severn Trent Water to plant Tiny Forests on two of our school sites as part of 2022 Commonwealth Games legacy scheme to offset carbon emissions;
- Exploring the possibility of establishing a solar farm on land owned by the Foundation, potentially providing enough energy to power over 10,000 homes per annum;
- Working with our investment advisors to regularly review our investment portfolio, taking into consideration Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) ratings, carbon metrics and a wide range of ethical considerations; and
- Working with our property advisors to scope out the requirements of the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) in relation to the Foundation's property portfolio.

There is much to be done, but through the Environmental Sustainability Strategy and the progress made to date, the Foundation is demonstrating a long-term commitment to positive action and change in this all-important area.



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