

Carbon Literacy Project



We've been accredited as a

Bronze Carbon Literate Educator

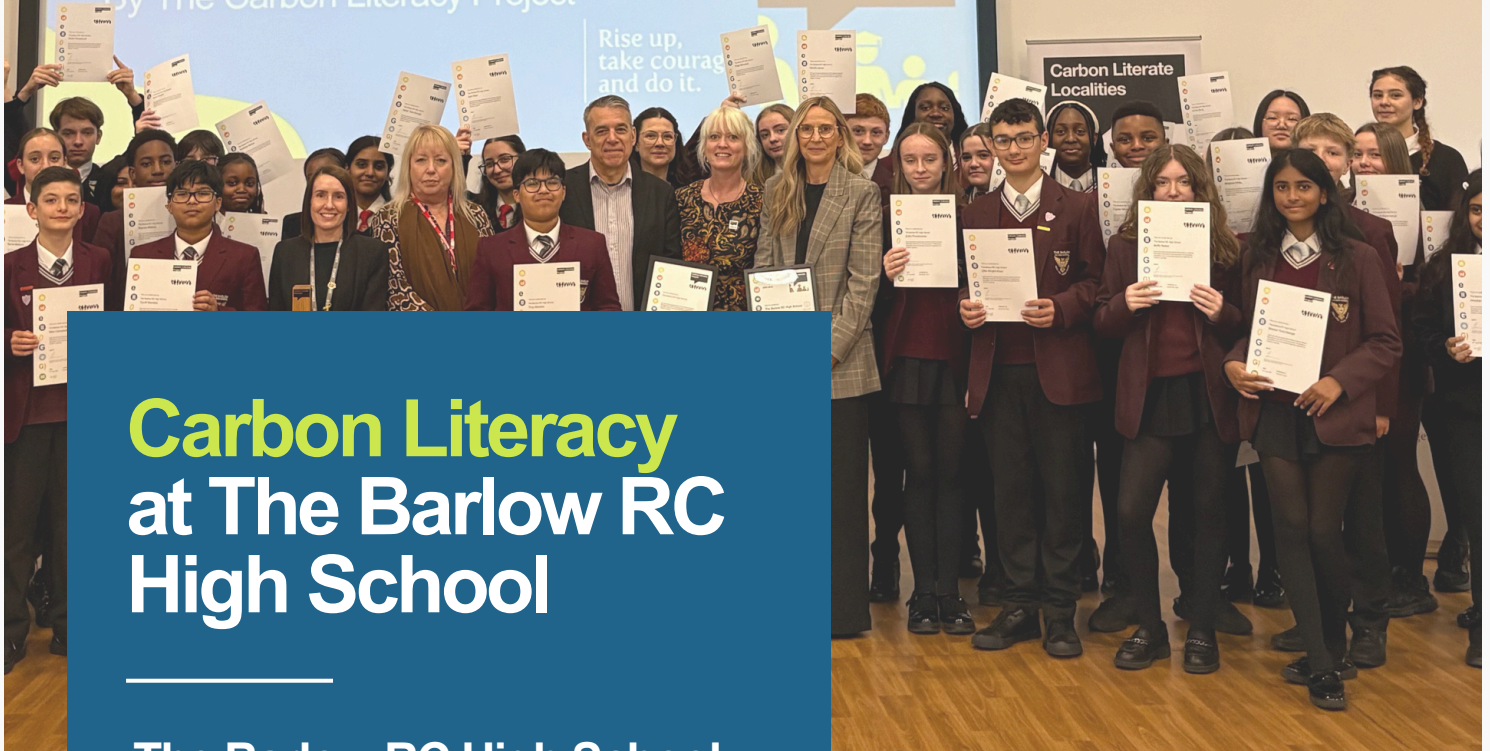
By The Carbon Literacy Project



Carbon Literate
Educator
Bronze

Rise up,
take courage
and do it.

Carbon Literate
Localities



Carbon Literacy at The Barlow RC High School

The Barlow RC High School has pioneered the delivery of Carbon Literacy for its students, cultivating a **culture of climate action** and earning it recognition as the first school to achieve **Bronze Carbon Literate Educator** status.

The school's proactive approach has influenced **operational and curriculum changes** across the school, demonstrating how climate action can be built in instead of a bolt-on to **deliver real results** and inspire tomorrow's climate leaders.

THE BARLOW
RC HIGH SCHOOL



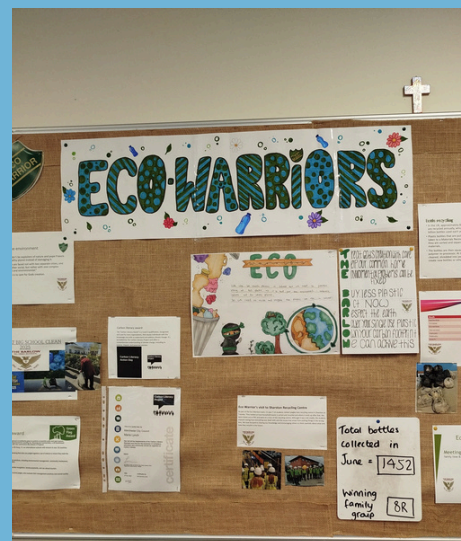
Pioneering climate leadership in schools

The Barlow High School's sector-leading decision to train its students in Carbon Literacy and become a Carbon Literate Educator was rooted in its vision, as a Catholic school, to promote excellence by creating opportunities, learning from each other, and broadening horizons.

Supporting students through eco-anxiety



- The school recognised that climate change is a really important issue which isn't specifically targeted in schools.
- Pupils **worry** about the environment and **what their future is going to look like**.
- While the school had an active eco-club, there was an **appetite** among students and the supporting staff **to do more**.



Overcoming barriers in a busy school

Utilised local funding

to cover the cost of certificates and the Carbon Literate Educator application.



Access to course materials

Carbon Literacy Training Collective Speak Carbon allowed the school to use its accredited Carbon Literacy course for students aged 11–18, avoiding the need to develop their own course before a shareable toolkit is released.



End of term timing

Successfully fit their Carbon Literacy training day around a busy school diary, on the last day of term before the summer holidays.



Staff facilitators

Certified Carbon Literate staff helped to facilitate the training, supporting students throughout the day.



Action planning time

Dedicated time during the training day for students to complete their Carbon Literacy action plans.



Creating a culture of climate action

Carbon Literacy has changed how The Barlow RC High School thinks and acts across the board, creating a sense of shared responsibility to reduce emissions. Sustainability has become a part of everyday thinking.

Embedding climate education into school life

- The school now has **two sustainability leads**; one focuses on integrating sustainability into the curriculum, while the other concentrates on non-curricular actions.
- Carbon Literacy will be included in **Personal Development lessons** from the new academic year, at the request of the eco club, which is central to sustainability efforts.
- The school has implemented **system-wide changes**, from waste management to lesson planning, embedding sustainability into the school's DNA.

School actions

- Solar panels fitted.
- Whole school fitted with LEDs.
- Plastic recycling facilities in every room.
- Encouraging reusable bottle use with Barlow branded reusable bottles.



Student actions

- Walking more or taking the bus instead of traveling by car.
- Eating less meat, meat-free Mondays.
- Not buying fast fashion.
- Educating others about climate action, such as being involved in training with local primary schools, or friends and families.



A global leader in climate action

- The **first school** to achieve **Carbon Literate Educator** status, reflecting a world-first commitment to embed climate education and action into its school's ethos through Carbon Literacy.
- The school hopes its climate leadership signals the school **sector's appetite for climate action** and sustainability to be **built in, not a bolt-on**, to government strategic direction.



**Claire Wallace,
Headteacher**



"We're proud to lead the way in climate education. This [Bronze Carbon Literate Organisation] accreditation shows our commitment to empowering students to take real action for a better future."

The Barlow High School's Carbon Literacy journey



July 2024

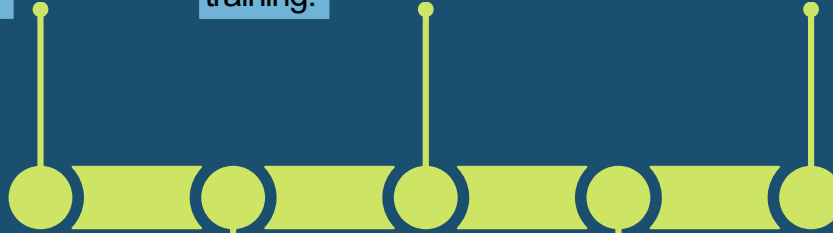
3 staff members trained through Manchester City Council's 'Carbon Literacy for Educators' course.

June 2025

Staff attended a Delivering Successful CL workshop to help facilitate Carbon Literacy training.

August 2025

Gained Bronze Carbon Literate Educator status.



April 2025

Hosted the Carbon Literacy for School Staff Toolkit pilot & trained 3 Governors.

July 2025

38 students from the Chaplaincy team trained in a Carbon Literacy training.



Future plans

- 1 Plan to utilise the 'cut your carbon' tool, available through Eco Schools, to measure the school's carbon footprint.
- 2 Aim to embed Carbon Literacy training into staff onboarding, to ensure Carbon Literacy is built into staff skills building.
- 3 Intend to get involved in the next Carbon Literacy Action Day, aligned with the UN climate negotiations.
- 4 Exploring creating a course for other catholic school staff in their local group of Catholic schools.
- 5 Ambition to achieve Silver Carbon Literate Educator status, by training more students, staff and members of the community.



Rebecca Stacey,
Schools
Coordinator, The
Carbon Literacy
Project

"It's a privilege to witness the impact and empowerment that comes from a school developing its climate action leadership with Carbon Literacy. The demonstration of values with actions shows the integrity and commitment of the school leadership, and we can't wait to see where their journey leads to next."