

## Going green in Sunderland - Part 1:

### Pupils enter the ClimateDome

From the very start of their BSF journey, Sunderland schools have been clear that they wanted to take the sustainable route. When the first four new school buildings welcome pupils in September 2009, they will boast a host of sustainable design features such as biomass boilers, solar water heating, a sedum roof and demonstration wind turbines.

The new designs have been guided by those with the most vested interest in the future of our planet - the students.

Hylton Red House School pupils discussed their green BSF school design when the ClimateDome came to town. They also investigated the effects of climate change and identified ways to make a difference in school through interactive games, workshops and quizzes.

Neil Rodgers, the school's deputy headteacher, said: "The event was particularly timely with construction for the new building now here. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience, which was an excellent way for them to learn about the effects of climate change and how their new academy will be an eco-friendly place to learn."

Year eight pupil Bobbi Robertson said: "We learnt what climate change is doing to the planet and how different species might become extinct. We also talked about what you can do in school to help the environment and I think it's really good that our new school will have lots of different things to save energy, especially as we spend most of our time here. My family already recycle but I'm going to do more, I've pledged to turn off my mobile phone charger when I'm not using it and use energy saving light bulbs at home."

Fellow year eight pupil Calvin Hope said: "It's been really interesting learning how climate change affects everything around us, even home insurance prices. When I was in the ClimateDome I pledged to always turn my TV off standby and I'll tell my parents they should keep the heating down and use the washing machine less. It's good to think that we'll have one of the first green academies because it means we can look after the environment at school as well as at home."

For Red House, and for other Sunderland schools, the journey to a sustainable future promises to be an exciting one, in which pupils are leading the way.



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## Going green in Sunderland - Part 2:

### Eco-friendly city site for latest college development

City of Sunderland College is nearing completion of construction for a new state-of-the-art sixth form centre, which will offer greater choice for future generations of young people as they consider their education experience.

Groundwork began on the £6.5 million St Peter's Sixth Form Campus early this year, on the north bank of the River Wear, next to



Sunderland University's St. Peter's Campus.

The centre will be open for September's in-take of students.

St. Peter's is part of the reciprocal arrangement between Sunderland City Council, City of Sunderland College, local schools and Sunderland Model academies. The arrangement currently offers post-sixteen educational provision for pupils at Hylton Red House, Castle View and Monkwearmouth schools.

In September 2009, Castle View School will become Castle View Enterprise Academy when Hylton Red House School becomes Red House Academy, both in state of the art new BSF buildings. Castle View will be sponsored by Northumbrian Water and the council.

Students, staff and visitors to St Peter's Sixth Form will be encouraged to use greener forms of transport, such as local bus and metro services combined with walking and cycling. It's hoped the move will not only improve the health and fitness of campus users, but the environment too.

Drivers will be asked to leave their cars at home as part of the plan. Instead the College will issue all new students and staff with travel packs, informing them on sustainable travel options. There will however be a limited amount of car parking spaces provided for disabled users, and secure parking on site for cyclists.

City of Sunderland College's Principal, Angela O'Donoghue (pictured), said: "We want to promote a healthy and responsible approach to everyday travel to our new site. Students and staff will be encouraged to use the city's excellent travel links and, in doing so, to do their bit for the environment. We feel that a fresh approach is needed to ensure we do the best we can for our students and the city. By reducing traffic and congestion in this way, we are giving the city and its people a brighter future."



Sunderland already has a series of established cycle and pedestrian lanes and is part of the national Cycle Network C2C route. The surrounding area is well lit, combined with safe crossings for pedestrians - meaning it couldn't be easier for cyclists and pedestrians to get moving.

For more information on St Peter's Sixth Form visit [www.citysun.ac.uk](http://www.citysun.ac.uk)

[Click here for a different artist's impression of City of Sunderland College's new sixth form campus at St Peter's.](#)