

Thu 16/07/2026

Dear Colleagues,

AI Staff Survey Results

Thank you for responding in what has been a busy time for staff surveys. The AI working group received 126 responses - a response rate of 43%.

The survey shows that AI adoption across Field Studies Council is mixed and includes those who cover the full spectrum from champions to hesitant or resistant. Many colleagues are curious but cautious. Staff see clear potential benefits, particularly for saving time, but have important concerns around accuracy, ethics, environmental impact and data security. The strongest request was for practical, role-specific guidance and examples. This feedback will now shape future training, guidance and case studies.

Carbon emissions and energy efficiency

I'm pleased to say that the first part of 2026 has seen significant progress on further reducing our carbon emissions and improving our energy efficiency.

We have made good progress in the past two years, with total emissions in 2025 9% lower than 2024. The first part of 2026 (Jan-May) continues that positive trend, with lower emissions than the same period in 2025 - a very positive downward trajectory. Current trends indicate we will exceed our 2026 target of reducing emissions by 20 tonnes of CO₂e, keeping us on track to meet our Science Based carbon reduction Target in 2034.

Our achievements this year have been made possible thanks partly to efficiency savings (so well done on turning those radiators down and lights off!) - we used 6.5% less energy in 2026 compared to the same period in 2025 (Jan-May) but the reduction is mostly due to our ten new EV minibuses, which have contributed to a huge 64% reduction in fleet transport emissions compared to the same period in 2025.

I know that staff are proud of our charity's work in this area, so I'm pleased to see that our carbon reduction initiatives are delivering measurable results and helping us make positive progress towards our Science Based carbon reduction targets.

You can find out more and see a graph and infographic in [this news article](#).

Radio Reach

Last week Joy and I were invited to talk about green careers on the drivetime show of Voice of Islam. That was a new station for us and we were given plenty of time to discuss the rise of green careers and also highlight our Youth Offer in all its forms. This weekend, Juniper's local BBC Radio station will be flagging up the centre's [Festival of Nature](#).

We are still seeing increasing members of staff having a go at radio and it's an easy way to extend our reach for no cost. Building a good relationship with a local station can often mean they will come back time and time again. For more information, advice or training contact Joy and it's a good idea to check in with her before doing interviews just in case there might be anything you need to be aware of in the wider charity.

Special Mention

Thanks to all centre admin and sales staff who have chased up outstanding deposits from customers. The number of group bookings arriving in the next few weeks is actively managed by teams to reduce the number of late cancellations. It can be a bit of a slog but has been extremely effective over the last few weeks because the vital cashflow supports the business and reduces the risk of late cancellations and last-minute changes to staffing.

Welcome to Field Studies Council

New starters this week:

Mandy Ashcroft has joined the team at Castle Head as Casual Hospitality and Catering Assistant

Nina Lee has joined the team at Bishops Wood as Administrator

Also, this week:

Fiona Adie has been promoted to the role of Senior Tutor at Slapton

Gabriella Lockwood has been promoted to the role of Tutor at Epping Forest

Katie Prange has been promoted to the role of Seasonal Tutor at Epping Forest.

Best regards

Mark