



## Submission

Leighton Clarke was the driving force behind rapid, measurable recycling improvement at Brighton Metropolitan College in 2025. As Cleaning Team Manager, he turned a “recycling improvement” aim into a working, site-led system that staff and students can use every day, helping the college meet its recycling goals.

Leighton’s approach was practical and grounded in how buildings actually operate. He worked closely with cleaning teams, facilities colleagues and site leads to understand existing bin provision and real disposal behaviour, then led on-site reviews to agree the right locations based on footfall, contamination hotspots, servicing practicality and storage constraints. He coordinated ordering and logistics, delivered the physical rollout across two campuses in buildings with over 10 floors, and ensured consistent bin infrastructure and clear signage were installed so everyone could recycle with confidence.

Crucially, Leighton delivered this with local operational ownership. He helped implement changes that can be challenging in practice, while keeping the system workable for cleaning routines and day-to-day operations. This “done with the site, not to the site” approach meant decisions were made quickly and correctly, with the new recycling set-up working fast with spectacular results.

Impact (supported by Recorra reporting):

- East Campus reached a 48% recycling rate in Dec 2025, improving by 14 percentage points month-on-month (Nov to Dec). In one month, 166 kg more material was captured for recycling and residual waste reduced by 80 kg.
- MET Central Campus reached a 45% recycling rate in Dec 2025, improving by 12 percentage points month-on-month (Nov to Dec). In one month, 278 kg more material was captured for recycling and residual waste reduced by 586 kg.

These results were achieved within weeks, demonstrating exceptional leadership, pace, and operational competence. The pilot provides a repeatable blueprint for wider rollout across Chichester College Group, with Leighton’s delivery approach as the standard to follow.

Quote:

A big thank you to Alice, Leighton and all the staff (and students as we scale it up) involved in improving recycling across the MET college. Your hard work, positive attitude, and willingness to do things a bit differently has already made a real difference.

The improvements are already being noticed, and it’s great to see everyone working together to support a greener campus. I look forward to rolling this out across the rest of the CCG sites.

Thanks again — it’s really appreciated.

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