



Small Steps – Big Impact

TED WRAGG TRUST

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Who to turn to for more information:

School Sustainability Leads

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TWT Sustainability Team

Mark Acher – TWT Point of Contact – estates@tedwraggtrust.co.uk

Our Sustainability Mission Statement

Our family of Ted Wragg Trust schools are committed to fostering a sustainable future by implementing school-based Climate Action Plans. These plans demonstrate our collective commitment to environmental stewardship, aiming to empower our students, staff, and our local communities to contribute meaningfully to a healthier planet. Together, we embark on this journey toward a greener future, understanding that every small step contributes to the larger goal of environmental sustainability.

Background to the Climate Action Plan

Department of Education Guidance

Sustainability leadership and climate action plans in education

The sustainability and climate change strategy for education states: “By 2025, all education settings will have nominated a sustainability lead and put in place a climate action plan”. This includes early years settings, schools, multi-academy trusts, colleges, and universities.

Further information - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sustainability-leadership-and-climate-action-plans-in-education>

Road Map:

Year 1:

Quick win options and understanding where we are – establishing base information.
‘Securing our roots’ to grow in the future.

Year 2:

Establish a plan of what we can do within the capability of our school.
This will allow us to **‘expand our reach’** and grow our ambitions.

Year 3:

Realise the change we have made – reflecting on what has worked and where the next challenge is.

Can we **‘sustain our success’**? Sustainability of progress is at the heart of our approach.

Timeline for this year:

Date	Action	By Whom
Autumn Term		
Thursday 26th September	Launch of Climate Action Plan at Sustainability Conference	All Sustainability Leads, TWT Sustainability Team
Friday 12 th December	Publish Climate Action Plan to school website.	Schools
Spring Term		
February	Online Sustainability Lead Network Meeting	All Sustainability Leads & TWT Sustainability Team
Summer Term		
May	Review of Climate Action Plan with TWT Estates – on site visit	All Sustainability Leads & TWT Sustainability Team
Wednesday 24 th June	Summer Sustainability Conference	All Sustainability Leads, TWT Sustainability Team, Sustainability Governors

Lots of small steps across our family of trust schools will make a big impact.

“the whole is greater than the sum of its parts” Aristotle

There are a number of identified ‘pillars’ that will help guide us through this journey.

5 Pillars of the Climate Action Plan

1. Leadership and Policy
2. Decarbonisation
3. Biodiversity
4. Adaptation and Resilience
5. Climate Education and Green Skills



This is more than just a government strategy – it is our opportunity to empower our community to make small steps in the right direction.



Leadership and Policy

Statement of intent:

“Our family of Ted Wragg Trust schools is committed to leading with purpose in building a sustainable future. Through our Climate Action Plans, we aim to embed sustainability into all aspects of decision-making—from purchases and transport choices to resource management—ensuring that environmental considerations are central to our strategic actions.

We recognise that effective leadership in sustainability requires both securing our roots and expanding our reach: safeguarding the foundations of our schools while innovating to amplify our impact on students, staff, and the wider community. By aligning our policies and practices with these values, we sustain our success and demonstrate responsible stewardship of the planet, inspiring others to join us on this journey toward a greener, more resilient future.”





Decarbonisation

Action	Description	Lead	Timescale (wks/mths)	Cost Score (1-5)	Time Score (1-5)	Notes	Envi Impact Score (1-5)	Cost Impact Score (1-5)	Notes	Date Completed
Run a switch-off campaign to encourage staff and pupils to turn off unused lights, appliances, and electronics.	A switch-off campaign raises awareness about energy consumption and encourages simple behavioural changes to reduce waste. Schools can run competitions, put up reminder posters, and conduct audits to track energy savings. Engaging pupils through classroom discussions can make energy efficiency a long-term habit.	LW CE	Week or Month	2	2	No costs except promotional materials. Time to launch and supporting during event	3	3	Reduces unnecessary electricity usage, lowering the school's carbon footprint	
Energy Consumption monitoring.	Monitor smart meters to review energy consumption at different times of day, the week, weekends and holidays.	JY HV	Month	2	2	Schools that have smart meters can monitor this on a 30 minute basis. Should be able to access via a website. Schools without will transition to Smart Meters soon.	3	3	This will allow the school to save energy/money by not heating/running appliances outside of core hours.	
Carry out a building energy audit Assess energy use and identify opportunities for efficiency improvements.	Conducting a building energy audit helps schools' pinpoint areas of energy waste, from heating inefficiencies to unnecessary lighting. Findings can inform decisions on insulation, lighting	JY HV	3 Months	3	3	Costs depend on whether internal staff or external consultants conduct the audit. Requires data	4	4	Identifying inefficiencies leads to lower energy consumption and carbon emissions.	

	upgrades, and behaviour-based energy-saving strategies.					collection and analysis over time.			
Energy Saving Competition Posters	Primary School focus This can be tied into classroom activities. An assembly can be delivered to launch and celebrate the competition.	AW CE	Month			Use school signage / display boards to promote.			This is a first step in saving energy – not easy to monitor without smart meters



Biodiversity

Scoring - 

Action	Description	Lead	Timescale (wks/mths)	Cost Score (1-5)	Time Score (1-5)	Notes	Envi Impact Score (1-5)	Cost Impact Score (1-5)	Notes	Date Completed
Participate in the RSPB Birdwatch Take part in a national birdwatch survey to monitor local wildlife.	Schools can engage pupils in the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Birdwatch, an annual citizen science event where participants record and report bird sightings. This initiative helps develop observation skills, raises awareness of biodiversity, and contributes valuable data for conservation efforts.	AW LW	2 weeks		 	No cost; resources are provided by the RSPB. Requires scheduling time for participation and data submission	 		Does not save money but promotes and awareness of nature in your school	
Build an Insect Hotel Build habitats for insects and small mammals using log piles and wood pallets.	Log piles and disused wood pallets can be used to create a natural habitat for insects, amphibians, and fungi, enhancing biodiversity and promoting decomposition processes. They can be strategically placed in school gardens to serve as learning tools for ecology studies.	EYFS AW	Term			Uses natural and recycled materials, making it a low-cost initiative. Quick to implement and requires no maintenance.	 		Supports ecosystem health indirectly. No direct cost savings.	
Carry out a nature survey Assess the biodiversity of school grounds and surrounding areas.	Schools can conduct nature surveys to document the species of plants, insects, and animals found on school grounds. This information can help identify areas for biodiversity improvement, such as adding nesting boxes, planting native species, or reducing	AW CE	Week		 	No significant cost, beyond materials for recording observations.			No direct impact but fosters school-wide conservation awareness. No direct financial savings, but potentially could be dependent on the findings of the survey.	Nov-25

	pesticide use. Engaging pupils in biodiversity monitoring promotes conservation awareness and scientific curiosity.										
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Adaptation & Resilience

Scoring - 

Action	Description	Lead	Timescale (wks/mths)	Cost Score (1-5)	Time Score (1-5)	Notes	Envi Impact Score (1-5)	Cost Impact Score (1-5)	Notes	Date Completed
Undertake a roof/gutter survey using the TWT Estates Drone.	Ask the TWT Estates team to fly your campus buildings to check roofs and gutters for blockages or damage. If done twice a year pre-Autumn leaf fall and early Spring. This will avoid damage from blockages and identify maintenance issues.	JY HV	Day			Costs nothing, just need to notify the school that a drone will be flown over the school – done during lessons or before/after school. Schools near Exeter Airport – Estates will communicate with CAA for clearance.				
Use Refillable Whiteboard Markers and Stationery Switch to refillable markers and pens to reduce plastic waste	Remove standard whiteboard markers and pens that are single-use, contributing to plastic waste. Schools can transition to refillable options, reducing landfill waste and lowering procurement costs in the long run.	HV AW	Year			Initial cost of refillable products may be higher but provides long-term savings. Immediate implementation possible			Saves money over time by purchasing refills instead of new products Reduces plastic production and waste disposal emissions	
Switch to Recycled Paper for Printing Use recycled paper to reduce deforestation and waste.	Schools can significantly reduce their environmental impact by switching to recycled or FSC-certified paper for printing. Recycled paper manufacturing requires less water and energy compared to virgin paper, reducing carbon emissions.	HV LM	Week			Slightly higher costs than regular paper, but bulk purchasing can offset this. Immediate implementation possible with supplier			Reduces emissions from paper production and waste processing. Long-term savings by reducing overall paper consumption	Sep-25

	Schools should also consider digital alternatives to minimise paper use.					changes.				
Reduce the amount of food waste the school produces.	Schools reducing food waste can boost environmental health by lowering methane from landfills, creates powerful hands-on learning about sustainability, and fosters civic responsibility.	Kitchen staff	Year			Schools can reduce food waste by focusing on students having longer seating time.				



Climate Education and Green Skills

Scoring - 

Action	Description	Lead	Timescale (wks/mths)	Cost Score (1-5)	Time Score (1-5)	Notes	Envi Impact Score (1-5)	Cost Impact Score (1-5)	Notes	Date Completed
<u>Create a School Eco Committee</u> Establish a pupil-led group to drive sustainability initiatives.	A school eco committee gives pupils the opportunity to lead sustainability projects, influence school policies, and advocate for environmental improvements. This initiative fosters leadership, encourages responsibility	CE	Term		 	No cost beyond organising meetings. Requires commitment to regular meetings and project work	 		Leads to long-term environmental improvements Indirect financial benefits through improved sustainability practices.	Sep-25
Met Office Climate Boot Camp Make use of the TWT Met Office Partnership	This is a program of activities, careers education activities for schools. Pupils attend the Met Office for a day to undertake a workshop. On their return to school, they can share and engage others.	AW	Term	  	 	The programme is already set up for schools. Time co-ordinating and preparing pupils – Careers lead.	 		Pupils who attend are engaged more deeply with careers in the green economy. No cost savings	

Further support and information:

- **Climate Ambassadors:** Matching climate experts with education settings. [Visit Website](#)
- **Education Nature Park:** Go on a journey to get to know your outdoor space and use creative decision -making to improve your grounds for people and nature. [Visit Website](#)
- **Sustainability Support for education:** Enabling schools to start their sustainability journey. [Visit Website](#)
- **Transform Our World:** Offers a Climate Action Planner for schools. [Visit Website](#)
- **Climate Friendly Schools:** Provides templates and resources. [Visit Website](#)
- **WWF – School Sustainability Guide.** [Visit Website](#)
- **British Gas - Get Set for Positive Energy:** Supports energy-saving initiatives. [Visit Website](#)
- **EDF Energy - Net Zero Challenge:** Encourages student-led climate projects. [Visit Website](#)