



# **Small Steps – Big Impact**

**West Exe School**

**Sustainability Lead: Hannah Corfield**

## 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.

Wherever you are on your sustainability journey, this non-statutory guidance and the support now available can help you get started or take the next step.

#### What does progress or success look like?

1. Our schools have a **lower impact on Climate Change** than at the start of the programme
2. Our **school community is more pro-active** in addressing issues of climate change and engage in the Climate Action Plan.
3. **Sustainability Lead is truly the Climate Action Facilitator** and has engaged others to deliver on objectives identified in the school’s Climate Action Plan. Their role has been sustainable to them.



### 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
Reduce food miles	Change school catering supplier to achieve a reduction in food miles by using more local suppliers	Rachel Carter	Done			Implemented			Information on the impact to be requested	April 2025
Meat free Monday	The canteen won't serve meat in the main meals on Mondays	Student voice	Done			Implemented			Will request sales data from main meal sales prior to the switch to meat free Monday to review impact	April 2025
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.	HMC	Spring 2026			No costs except promotional materials. Time to launch and supporting during event			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.	HMC/HCO	January 2026			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.			This will allow the school to save energy/money by not heating/running appliances outside of core hours.	
Carry out a building energy audit to 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 upgrades, and behaviour-based energy-saving strategies.	HMC	July 2026			Costs depend on whether internal staff or external consultants conduct the audit. Requires data collection and analysis over time.			Identifying inefficiencies leads to lower energy consumption and carbon emissions.	July 2026
Encourage sustainable commuting	Encourage the use of electric vehicles for travelling to school by installing EV chargers on site. Raise the profile of cycling, car-sharing.	HMC/HCO	Spring 26			EV charger installation aiming to be done via a subsidised scheme. Salary sacrifice for staff to purchase a bicycle to commute can be promoted for free.				

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
Habitat mapping	Working with Education Nature Park to undertake an initial habitat mapping exercise that future biodiversity mapping can build on	CTC/KKF	Month			Initial mapping of West Exe grounds undertaken				June 2025
Undertake a baseline biodiversity mapping exercise across school site	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 pesticide use. Engaging pupils in biodiversity monitoring promotes conservation awareness and scientific curiosity.	CTC/KKF	Summer 2026			This will build on the previous habitat mapping activity				
Consider participating in the RSPB Birdwatch	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	MFN/HMC	January 2026			This activity is likely suited to a young audience, consider using it as part of transition activity as a way of familiarising Year 6 students with the West Exe site			Does not save money but promotes and awareness of nature in your school. No cost; resources are provided by the RSPB.	

	observation skills, raises awareness of biodiversity, and contributes valuable data for conservation efforts.					using Student Ambassadors to support			Requires scheduling time for participation and data submission	
Create a School Pollinator Garden / Mini Meadows Plant a pollinator-friendly garden to support bees and butterflies.	A school pollinator garden provides a habitat for bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects. By planting native wildflowers and nectar-rich plants, schools can contribute to biodiversity and support local ecosystems.					Costs include seeds, soil, and occasional maintenance.  Initial setup requires planting and occasional upkeep. Explore potential for part of a student elective.			Supports carbon sequestration and ecosystem balance.  Low direct savings but potential educational benefits.	
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.					Uses natural and recycled materials, making it a low-cost initiative.  Quick to implement and requires no maintenance. Explore potential for part of a student elective.			Supports ecosystem health indirectly.  No direct cost savings.	
Revitalising the sensory garden	The sensory garden has become overgrown and needs maintenance to make it a usable space again.	HCO/CGF	Spring 2026			Use Countrywide to do an initial cut back and then agree ongoing maintenance arrangements.			Won't generate direct cost savings but will provide a space to support our students in nature.	



## 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
Plan and run a 'fast fashion' campaign	The campaign would educate students on the costs of clothing production and promote buying second hand/recycling/vintage and include running a 'swap shop'	TBC	July 2026			This idea to be discussed through student voice channels and potentially through a student elective			Doesn't directly save school money but aims to increase the awareness of students of their consumption choices on sustainability and resources	
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.	BST to coordinate	Term			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	
Apply solar film to windows to reduce heat gain and energy consumption.	High temperatures in classrooms is a significant ongoing problem at WES. This has been managed with portable air conditioning units which is not wholly Installing solar film on windows helps regulate indoor temperatures by reducing heat gain in summer and heat loss in winter. This reduces the reliance on air conditioning and heating systems, leading to lower energy	HMC with support from Rachel Carter	July 2026			Moderate cost, but provides long-term energy savings and improved classroom comfort.  Would require PFI approval and support but is a priority before next summer			Reduces energy consumption for heating and cooling, lowering overall carbon emissions.  Lowers utility bills by improving thermal efficiency, reducing air conditioning reliance	









	consumption and improved comfort in classrooms. Solar film also reduces glare, protects furniture from UV damage, and extends the lifespan of interior materials by preventing sun-related wear.									
Continue to reduce the usage of single use plastics in school Identify and eliminate unnecessary plastic waste in school operations.	Plastic water bottles have already been eliminated from the canteen, continue identifying areas where single-use plastics can be eliminated or replaced with sustainable alternatives.		July 2026			Minimal costs associated with switching to reusable alternatives. Consider including activity in a student elective.	  	 	Reduces plastic production and landfill waste. Saves costs on disposable plastic products.	
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. Schools should also consider digital alternatives to minimise paper use.	BST to coordinate	Term			Slightly higher costs than regular paper, but bulk purchasing can offset this.  Immediate implementation possible with supplier changes.	 	 	Reduces emissions from paper production and waste processing.  Long-term savings by reducing overall paper consumption	
Source Cleaning Products with Eco-Certifications. Use biodegradable and non-toxic cleaning products.	Traditional cleaning products contain harmful chemicals that can pollute water and air. Schools can transition to eco-friendly alternatives certified by environmental agencies, reducing exposure to toxins and supporting sustainability efforts.	Liaise with Rachel Carter re existing products	January 2026	 		Some eco-friendly products may be slightly more expensive.  Immediate switch possible with supplier adjustments	 	 	Reduces pollution from chemical runoff.  Long-term health benefits reduce medical costs.	



## 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
Organise a walk to school week Promote and encourage a Walk to School week as a means of raising awareness of the effects of commuting and transport.	Encouraging pupils and staff to walk, bike, or use public transport instead of driving can reduce emissions and improve local air quality. A Walk to School Week helps raise awareness about the environmental and health benefits of active travel.	HMC/LJP	April 2026			Costs may include promotional materials, but overall budget impact is low.  Staff time is required to plan, organise, and promote the event and will be most effective in better weather			Encourages a reduction in car journeys, thereby lowering emissions.  No direct monetary benefit, though it could save parents on fuel costs.	
Review Student Voice input - 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.	HMC/LJP	January 2026			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.	
Introduce a Sustainability Lesson in Every Subject. Integrate sustainability topics into all subjects to build pupil awareness.	Embedding sustainability into the curriculum across all subjects helps pupils develop an awareness of environmental issues. Science classes can discuss climate change, geography can cover ecosystems,	SLT/HMC/VEG	July 2026			Requires little to no funding, as it involves modifying existing lesson plans.  Some time will be needed to adapt curriculum materials			Long-term behavioural change among students can lead to emissions reductions.  No direct financial savings but may lead to reduced resource	

<p>Audit of where it is taught/addressed in school. Do they have development opportunities or just 'a lesson'</p>	<p>and mathematics can explore energy consumption statistics. By integrating sustainability into daily learning, pupils can develop a mindset of environmental responsibility and apply these principles beyond the classroom</p>					<p>and train teachers.</p>			<p>consumption over time.</p>	
<p>Organise a pupil-led Energy and Waste Audit Engage pupils in assessing the school's energy use and waste production.</p>	<p>A school-wide audit allows pupils to evaluate energy use and waste production, identifying areas for improvement. This hands-on approach helps pupils understand real-world sustainability challenges and implement practical solutions such as reducing electricity use, recycling more effectively, and cutting down on single-use plastics.</p>		<p>July 2026</p>			<p>Minimal costs involved, as audits mainly require staff and pupil participation, explore as part of a student elective.  Requires data collection, analysis, and action planning.</p>			<p>Identifying inefficiencies can significantly cut emissions.  Potential cost savings from improving energy and resource efficiency.</p>	
<p>Met Office Climate Camp Make use of the TWT Met Office Partnership</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>HMC/CTC/ KKF</p>	<p>Climate Camp 11<sup>th</sup> March 26</p>			<p>The programme is already set up for schools. Time co-ordinating and preparing pupils – Careers lead.</p>			<p>Pupils who attend are engaged more deeply with careers in the green economy.  No cost savings</p>	

## 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](#)