

Small Steps – Big Impact



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Who to turn to for more information:

School Sustainability Lead

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TWT Sustainability Team

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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. Simple successes will build momentum.

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
Thursday 26th September	Launch of Climate Action Plan at Sustainability Conference	All Sustainability Leads, TWT Sustainability Team (JF, JAP, MA)
Friday 12 th December	Publish Climate Action Plan to school website.	School SLT
Spring Term - TBC	Online Network Meeting	All Sustainability Leads & TWT Estates
May – TBC with each school	Review of Climate Action Plan with TWT Estates – on site visit	All Sustainability Leads & TWT Estates
Wednesday 24 th June	Summer Sustainability Conference @ Great Moor House	All Sustainability Leads, TWT Sustainability Team, Sustainability Governors

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.

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

This one has been done for you. Our Trust leadership and your school leadership have made a commitment to this Climate Action Plan.

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 day to encourage staff and pupils to turn off unused lights, appliances and electronics.	Earth Hour is a global annual event that encourages people to switch off all non-essential lights for one hour to show support for our planet. This year, we will bring that spirit into school by making Switch Off Day even more impactful. We'll challenge each class to see how long they can keep their lights and non-essential devices switched off during the day. To kick things off, we'll hold an assembly introducing the campaign, explaining the importance of Earth Hour, and sharing tips on how everyone can get involved.	MW	March 2026			No direct financial cost. Time will be required to collaborate with the Earth Council and prepare an assembly.			Reduces unnecessary electricity usage, lowering school's carbon footprint.	

<p>Energy Consumption Monitoring</p>	<p>Confirm with Site Managers whether smart meters are currently installed or obtain the planned installation date. Once installed, monitor smart meter readings at different times of the day over a one-week period to identify patterns in energy consumption. Use this data to set clear reduction targets.</p>	<p>Emma Harris/Mark Acher</p>	<p>April 2026 Review: June 2026</p>		 	<p>The only direct cost will be for installing smart meters. Additional time will be required to monitor readings, record consumption data, review progress, and set reduction targets.</p>	 		<p>The school will reduce energy consumption and achieve significant cost savings by setting ambitious targets and actively cutting unnecessary energy use.</p>	
<p>Replace all bulbs with LED bulbs</p>	<p>EX2 Electrical will replace all existing bulbs throughout the school with energy-efficient LED fixtures equipped with motion sensors, significantly reducing energy consumption.</p>	<p>Site managers</p>				<p>Costs will be covered by the Trust. Implementation will be managed by an external company, resulting in minimal impact on school operations.</p>	 	 	<p>The school will reduce energy costs by ensuring lights are used only when necessary and by switching to LED lighting. LEDs consume significantly less electricity, have a longer lifespan, and lower maintenance costs compared to traditional bulbs, making them both energy-efficient and cost-effective</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

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
Create a wildflower garden in the grounds of the main building and the Early Years' 'Discovery Garden'.	We will plant a variety of bee- and butterfly-friendly wildflowers and plants to boost biodiversity across the school grounds and surrounding areas. This will create habitats for pollinators, support local ecosystems, and enhance the natural environment. Fencing will be installed to safeguard this area from pupil access while still providing visibility, enabling students to observe and learn about biodiversity.	MW Earth Council Site Managers	March 2026			We would need to fund the purchase of seeds for planting and could explore sponsorship opportunities with local garden centres to support the school garden. Dedicate time to gather essential tools (such as spades and trowels) and prepare the site by clearing and readying the area for planting.			Promotes carbon sequestration and supports ecosystem balance. While it does not deliver significant cost savings, the project provides strong educational value and raises awareness of environmental sustainability.	
Build an insect hotel.	We have received a generous donation of a large bug hotel, which will be installed in a location that is both prominent and	MW Earth Council	April 2026			No additional cost involved. Time will be required to securely install it in the ground.			Supports ecosystem balance while delivering strong educational value and raising awareness of environmental issues.	Completed Nov 2025.

	accessible to insects. This placement ensures pupils can easily see it, helping them understand its vital role in supporting biodiversity and local wildlife								Although there are no direct cost savings, the project fosters understanding and engagement with nature.	
Participate in the RSPB birdwatch.	We will register the school for the annual nationwide RSPB Birdwatch to contribute valuable conservation data, develop students' observation skills, and raise awareness of local wildlife.	MW			 	The only cost involved is photocopying the survey materials. Staff will need time to engage with pupils and explain the process, and each class will dedicate approximately one hour to surveying bird life.			While this project does not generate direct cost savings, it plays a vital role in raising awareness of nature and habitat loss within the school community, while actively supporting a respected national charity.	Completed in 2025. Next involvement will be in 2026
Work with the Devon Wildlife.	We will partner with The Wildlife Trust through their Wildlife Champions campaign, which empowers children to make positive changes in school grounds and local communities. The Trust will visit the school three times to support the Earth	MW Earth Council	Multiple times throughout the Year.	  	  	Exwick Heights currently pays Devon Wildlife Trust an annual fee of £460. Staff and pupils will need to dedicate time during school sessions to collaborate with		 	There is no direct financial benefit to the school; however, the project delivers meaningful environmental impact. Through collaboration with Devon Wildlife Trust, the Earth Council will implement changes	Completed in 2024 and 2025. Repeated with a new focus in 2026.

	<p>Council with a chosen biodiversity project. Additionally, the Earth Council will attend a Wildlife Conference at a local valley park to take part in further actions such as tree planting and habitat creation.</p>					<p>DWT, and some preparation will be required by MW to coordinate activities and resources.</p>			<p>that enhance the school grounds and support local ecosystems.</p>	
<p>Improve access and opportunities for pupils to use wilder areas of our school grounds.</p>	<p>Exwick Heights benefits from extensive green spaces and natural habitats, many of which are currently underused and difficult to access due to overgrowth.</p> <p>To make sustainable improvements, we propose a phased long-term plan:</p> <p>Feasibility Study – Assess the work required to improve safe access to selected areas.</p> <p>Community Engagement – Research and connect with local community interest groups who could volunteer to clear and</p>	<p>MW Site Managers Emma Harris</p>	<p>1st stage: May 2026</p> <p>2nd stage: July 2026</p> <p>3rd stage: Dec 2026</p> <p>4th stage: April 2027</p> <p>5th stage: Sept 2027</p>	 	  	<p>To keep this project manageable, we plan to collaborate with local community interest groups who can volunteer their time for clearing and maintenance. The primary costs will relate to additional materials, while staff will need to allocate time to oversee and progress through each stage of the plan.</p>	 		<p>This project aligns with our commitment to ensuring every pupil at Exwick Heights has meaningful access to green, wild spaces while learning about the local environment, its protection, and its importance. The environmental benefits will be significant and far-reaching. Although the initiative does not immediately reduce school costs, it will lead to long-term savings by reducing reliance on external providers.</p>	

	<p>maintain pathways and gathering spaces.</p> <p>Partnership Development – Establish a working relationship with a chosen group and create a long-term maintenance strategy.</p> <p>Educational Integration – Train staff on the educational potential of these areas and provide a bank of activities for use with classes.</p> <p>Curriculum Access – Create dedicated times in the school timetable for pupils to regularly explore, engage with, and learn about the natural environment with their class.</p>									
Take part in No Mow May	We will dedicate a section of our school grounds to participate in <i>No Mow May</i> , allowing grass and wildflowers to grow naturally throughout the month. This initiative will create vital habitats for	Site managers Country-wide management.	May 2026			No additional cost to the school. The only time required will be to create clear signposting that raises awareness among pupils and parents.	 		While this project does not generate direct cost savings, it plays a vital role in raising awareness of nature and habitat loss within the school community and small changes that can also be	

	pollinators such as bees and butterflies, boost biodiversity, and give pupils the chance to observe seasonal changes in nature. Staff and pupils will be informed about the purpose of the area, and it will be used for outdoor learning activities linked to ecology and conservation.								made at home to support the campaign.	
Use resources and advice from Education Nature Parks	Through participation in Education Nature Parks, pupils will experience hands-on, nature-based learning focused on biodiversity, conservation, and sustainability. These programs provide practical activities, teaching resources, and support for outdoor learning initiatives, helping students connect with the environment in meaningful ways.	MW Emma Harris	July 2025		  	No direct cost involved. Time will be required to research available resources and develop a clear implementation plan for the school. Additional support is available for on-site assistance	 		Encourages nature conservation and awareness of climate action. No direct financial benefits but long-term educational value.	



Adaptation and Resilience



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	Request the TWT Estates team to conduct aerial inspections of our school buildings to check roofs and gutters for blockages or damage. Scheduling these inspections twice a year—before autumn leaf fall and in early spring—will help prevent damage caused by blockages and identify maintenance issues early.	Site Managers Emma Harris	Twice annually			No cost involved. The only requirement is to notify the school that a drone will be flown over the premises, which can be scheduled during lessons or before/after school hours.			Although the environmental impact is minimal, this measure could help the school avoid costly long-term repairs by preventing blockages and damage that would otherwise require external contractors.	
Fit solar film on the windows to reduce heat gain and energy consumption.	During the summer months, each classroom is equipped with a fan to help maintain a comfortable temperature. The extensive windows facing the playground admit substantial sunlight, causing heat to build up within the rooms. In winter, the opposite is true and underfloor heating is turned on to balance some of the thermal loss through the windows. Installing	Site Managers Emma Harris	To start in June 2026			Moderate upfront cost with long-term energy savings and improved classroom comfort. While time will be needed to complete each phase, the actual			By minimizing heat gain in summer and heat loss in winter, the need for fans and underfloor heating decreases significantly. Less reliance on electrical cooling and heating systems means reduced greenhouse	

	<p>solar film on windows helps regulate indoor temperatures by reducing heat gain in summer months and heat loss in winter thus reducing reliance on electrical fans and heating systems leading to lower energy consumption.</p> <p>This project will be implemented in several phases as part of a long-term plan.</p> <p>Research – Identify suitable window films that improve energy efficiency while maintaining visibility for safeguarding purposes.</p> <p>Pilot – Trial the selected film in a classroom that experiences significant heat gain during summer months.</p> <p>Evaluation – Review the effectiveness of the trial, assess feasibility for wider application, and analyze cost implications.</p> <p>Implementation – Apply the film to windows across the school where needed</p>					<p>application of the film—if approved—will be quick and minimally disruptive.</p>			<p>gas emissions. Reduced use of fans and heating systems translates into long-term savings on electricity.</p>	
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<p>Audit and reduce single-use plastics.</p>	<p>We will work with the Devon Waste Education Project (DWEP) to audit the school's plastic use, identifying opportunities to eliminate single-use plastics or replace them with sustainable alternatives. Use the audit results to set clear targets for reducing waste and increasing recycling. Actions will include installing recycling bins in all classrooms and communal areas and delivering pupil education through assemblies. Schedule follow-up audits to monitor progress and identify further improvements.</p>	<p>MW Earth Council DWEP</p>	<p>June 2026</p>			<p>Minimal costs when working with DWEP, as recycling bins are provided free of charge by Devon County Council. Time will be required to conduct the audit, liaise with cleaning staff, and share findings with both staff and pupils.</p>			<p>Reduces plastic production and minimizes landfill waste, contributing to a cleaner environment.</p> <p>Delivers cost savings by implementing changes that decrease reliance on plastic products.</p>	<p>Audit completed in Spring 2024.</p> <p>Second audit of recycling completed Autumn 2025.</p> <p>Ongoing.</p>
<p>Careful sourcing of replacement appliances.</p>	<p>We will ensure that when we need to replace outdated appliances, replacements will be prioritised by environmental impact and then cost.</p>	<p>Site managers Emma Harris</p>	<p>ongoing</p>			<p>The cost difference is likely to be moderate, as most modern appliances are now designed to meet energy efficiency standards.</p>			<p>Upgrading to energy-efficient appliances reduces utility costs, lowers carbon emissions, and supports the school's commitment to sustainability.</p>	

<p>Make considered choices in catering services and equipment.</p>	<p>We will ensure that, wherever possible, catering resources are sourced and provided with sustainability in mind. Key actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing Meat-Free Mondays to reduce meat consumption, which is linked to greenhouse gas emissions, while promoting plant-based meals that require fewer resources. • Implementing a pre-order system for pupil meals to minimize food waste. • Prioritizing reusable containers over disposable cardboard alternatives. • Eliminating individual yoghurt pots by preparing fresh yoghurt in-house <p>1. Conduct a secret survey with Year 6 to see how much food is wasted over a week by weighing the</p>	<p>Emma Harris Kitchen staff</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>			<p>Initial investment required for reusable containers.</p> <p>Additional time will be needed to prepare and distribute homemade yoghurt.</p>			<p>Over time, the initial investment in reusable containers will be offset by eliminating the need to purchase disposable alternatives.</p>	
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	<p>waste bags at the end of each lunch service.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Conduct assemblies on why food waste matters (environmental and social impact) and how pupils can reduce waste. 3. After the awareness surveys, conduct a publicly announced survey on a specific day. 4. Compare results with the secret survey to measure the impact of awareness. 									
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Climate Education and Green Skills



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
Create a school Eco Committee (Earth Council).	The School Council will set key environmental aims and actions for the year to reduce the school's environmental impact, promote biodiversity, and educate pupils. They will collaborate throughout the year to implement changes and design engaging assemblies to raise awareness.	MW	Throughout the year			No direct financial cost involved. However, time commitment will be required for group collaboration at scheduled intervals throughout the year.			Leads to longer-term environmental improvements and education. Indirect financial benefits through improved sustainability practices.	Completed 2022, 2023, 2024 and new group formed in Autumn 2025.
Use time in SMSC assemblies to educate pupils on key environmental issues.	We will use school assemblies to introduce and reinforce key environmental issues, highlighting practical actions pupils can take at home and in school. Each assembly will focus on a specific theme with a clear takeaway message to inspire change.	MW	1 per term.			No cost. Time needed to prepare resources for assembly and include the Earth Council members as much as possible.			Encourages pupil education and active engagement with environmental issues, fostering a sense of responsibility and a desire to make a positive impact. No direct financial cost.	

<p>Participate in World Environment Day.</p>	<p>We will provide teachers with ready-to-use slides and resources to deliver a full day of off-curriculum lessons and activities aligned with World Environment Day themes. Pupils will be encouraged to dress according to an environmental theme in exchange for a donation to a charity selected by the Earth Council.</p>	<p>MW</p>	<p>5th June 2026</p>			<p>There may be some cost for purchasing materials; however, expenses can be minimized by sourcing items from Scrapstore and thrift shops in Exeter.</p> <p>Significant time will be required to plan and review lessons for each year group, gather resources, and coordinate with staff in advance.</p>			<p>Promotes pupil education and active engagement with environmental issues, inspiring a sense of responsibility and a desire to create positive change.</p> <p>No direct financial cost.</p>	
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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](#)