



Small Steps – Big Impact

Tor Bridge High School

Sustainability Lead: Jack Richards

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Who to turn to for support:

(In escalation order)

TWT Sustainability Team

TBH 1st: Jack Richards – jrichards@torbridge.net

TBH 2nd: Claire Burnard – cburnard@torbridge.net

1. Mark Acher - TWT Point of Contact – mark.acher@tedwraggtrust.co.uk
2. Julia Prince – Head of Estates – Julia.Prince@tedwraggtrust.co.uk
3. Julie Fossey – Director, Ted Wragg Institute – Julie.Fossey@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.

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.

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

Our local context:

Background to our Sustainability journey – how have we got here?

Tor Bridge High is at the early stages of its sustainability journey and we are excited about the initiatives we have planned for the coming years.

We have already purchased an electric vehicle to move our students between schools and have made adjustments to our building management system to ensure efficiency and reducing our carbon footprint.

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)
Thursday 6 th November	Tedfest – Drop in session PM at TBH or via Teams	Optional session
Thursday 20 th November	Share a first version of your school Climate Action Plan with your SLT and Mark Acher (TWT Estates)	All Sustainability Leads
Thursday 27 th November	Quality Assurance Panel Review & Feedback	Julie Fossey, Mark Acher, Claire Tribe (Governor) + TBC
Friday 5 th December	Share with SLT in School	School SLT
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 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.	JRI	Week or Month			No costs except promotional materials. Time to launch and supporting during event			Reduces unnecessary electricity usage, lowering the school's carbon footprint	
Switch off Days	Have specific days when there is a school focus on 'Switching off' This may be more practical to do in the spring/summer term.	JRI	Week			Use school signage / display boards to promote.			This is a first step in saving energy – not easy to monitor without smart meters	
Cleaning of Solar Panels	Dirty solar panels can decrease the performance of panels by a significant amount. Examples in the Trust of 50% improvement reported.	CBU	Week			Engage contract to access to the solar panels needs to be reviewed – roof access.			Once cleaned the panels need to be scheduled for regular cleaning.	

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<p>Sign your school up to education nature park</p> <p>Join the national or local educational nature park program to enhance outdoor learning.</p>	<p>Schools can participate in local or national education nature park programs to connect pupils with nature-based learning experiences. These programs provide hands-on engagement with biodiversity, conservation, and sustainability. By participating, pupils gain a deeper appreciation of the environment, and schools can access valuable teaching resources and support for outdoor learning initiatives.</p>	JRI	term			Resources to support your biodiversity journey. Help available to come to your site.			<p>Encourages nature conservation and awareness of climate action.</p> <p>No direct financial benefits but long-term educational value.</p>	
<p>Participate in the RSPB Birdwatch</p> <p>Take part in a national birdwatch survey to monitor local wildlife.</p>	<p>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.</p>	JRI	2 weeks			<p>No cost; resources are provided by the RSPB.</p> <p>Requires scheduling time for participation and data submission</p>			<p>Does not save money but promotes and awareness of nature in your school</p>	



Adaptation & Resilience





Scoring -

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
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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
<p>Organise a walk to school week</p> <p>Promote and encourage a Walk to School week as a means of raising awareness of the effects of commuting and transport.</p>	<p>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.</p>	JRI	1			<p>Costs may include promotional materials, but overall budget impact is low.</p> <p>Staff time is required to plan, organize, and promote the event.</p>			<p>Encourages a reduction in car journeys, thereby lowering emissions.</p> <p>No direct monetary benefit, though it could save parents on fuel costs.</p>	
<p>Create a School Eco Committee</p> <p>Establish a pupil-led group to drive sustainability initiatives.</p>	<p>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</p>	JRI	Annual			<p>No cost beyond organising meetings.</p> <p>Requires commitment to regular meetings and project work</p>			<p>Leads to long-term environmental improvements</p> <p>Indirect financial benefits through improved sustainability practices.</p>	

<p>Introduce a Sustainability Lesson in Every Subject</p> <p>Integrate sustainability topics into all subjects to build pupil awareness.</p>	<p>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, 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>JRI</p>	<p>Annually</p>			<p>Requires little to no funding, as it involves modifying existing lesson plans.</p> <p>Some time will be needed to adapt curriculum materials and train teachers.</p>			<p>Long-term behavioural change among students can lead to emissions reductions.</p> <p>No direct financial savings but may lead to reduced resource consumption over time.</p>	
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