



# **Small Steps – Big Impact**

**Sidmouth College**

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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.*



### 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.  monitor electricity the week before and the week after	MXS	Jan 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.	MXS/MS	Month			Smart meters can monitor this on a 30 minute basis. Access via a website.			This will allow the school to save energy/money by not heating/running appliances outside of core hours.	

<p>Carry out a building energy audit Assess energy use and identify opportunities for efficiency improvements.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Initially carry out internal audit using site team</p>	<p>MS</p>	<p>3 Months</p>			<p>Costs depend on whether internal staff or external consultants conduct the audit. Requires data collection and analysis over time.</p>			<p>Identifying inefficiencies leads to lower energy consumption and carbon emissions.</p>	
<p>Lower Carbon Catering (e.g., Meat-Free Mondays) to reduce carbon footprints through supply and waste</p>	<p>Conduct food waste audit – how many KG a day/week. Work with catering to review menu. Work with the catering team to introduce one or two days a week where the menu is plant-based or uses locally sourced, low-food-mile ingredients.</p> <p>Encourage staff and students to bring empty Tupperware / clean plates and cutlery to avoid single use trays and cutlery.</p> <p>Monitor before publicising changes, introduce with focus week, follow up with to drive habit change</p>	<p>MXS/EB</p>	<p>3 Months</p>			<p>Dependent on student uptake – will need to be monitored for financial sustainability</p>			<p>Livestock farming is a major methane source. Plant-based meals generally have a much lower carbon footprint than beef/lamb dishes. Single-use paper packaging contributes to carbon emissions through energy-intensive production, deforestation, and methane release from landfills</p>	

<p>Paper Reduction through reduced printing and embracing digital workflows</p>	<p>Set a target to reduce photocopying volume by 10% year-on-year. Set defaults to double-sided: Configure printers to default to double-sided (duplex) printing. Facilitate shift to a digital-first collaboration environment to minimise the need for physical documents. Organise centralised file collaboration through MS Teams. Digital notes and information sharing for meetings through appropriate Teams.</p>	<p>CT</p>	<p>3 Months</p>			<p>Can be tracked via copier logs in PaperCut.</p>			<p>Saves trees, water, and the high energy costs of paper production.</p>	
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Sign your school up to education nature park Join the national or local educational nature park program to enhance outdoor learning.	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.	MM	Year cycle			Resources to support your biodiversity journey. Help available to come to your site.			Encourages nature conservation and awareness of climate action.  No direct financial benefits but long-term educational value.	
Tree planting to support biodiversity.	Planting native plants and trees. Increasing green space improves air quality, provides habitats for wildlife, and creates healthier environments for students. Lease with site team prior to any changes.	MS	3 Months			Costs vary depending on landscaping needs and plant selection.			Plants absorb CO2, improve air quality, and support ecosystem health.  Long-term savings through reduced heat island effects and stormwater management costs.	
Create a School Pollinator Garden / Mini Meadows Plant a pollinator-friendly garden to	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	MM	6 Months			Costs include seeds, soil, and occasional maintenance.			Supports carbon sequestration and ecosystem balance.	

support bees and butterflies.	biodiversity and support local ecosystems. Lease with site team prior to any changes.					Initial setup requires planting and occasional upkeep			Low direct savings but potential educational benefits.	



## 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.	MS	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.				
Tree planting for shade and water management	Deciduous native trees species suitable for managing waterlogged soil planted in high use areas of the school playing field identified as prone to flooding in winter that would also be used for seating in Summer	MS	3 Months			A small number of trees will have a long-term impact however this will take up to 15 years			Deciduous trees block summer sun (cooling) but let winter sun in (warming). They help manage soil moisture	
Update 'Severe Weather Strategy' for Heatwaves	Formalise a protocol for heatwaves (e.g., relaxed uniform rules, early start/finish times, moving classes from top floor to ground floor).	MXS	3 Months			No cost. Will need to consider potential impact to school days.			Resilience is about procedure as well as infrastructure. Having a plan <i>before</i> the heatwave hits ensures education continues with minimal disruption.	











## 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
<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>	MM	Month			<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>Organise a pupil-led Energy and Waste Audit</p> <p>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>	Eco Committee	6 Months			<p>Minimal costs involved, as audits mainly require staff and pupil participation.</p> <p>Requires data collection, analysis, and action planning.</p>			<p>Identifying inefficiencies can significantly cut emissions.</p> <p>Potential cost savings from improving energy and resource efficiency.</p>	
<p>Met Office Climate Boot Camp</p> <p>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>	NY	3 Months			<p>The programme is already set up for schools.</p> <p>Time co-ordinating and preparing pupils – Careers lead.</p>			<p>Pupils who attend are engaged more deeply with careers in the green economy.</p> <p>No cost savings</p>	

<p>Audit sustainability through school curriculum across all departments</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>MXS HODs</p>	<p>2 Months</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>	