

Abingdon Learning Trust Climate Action Plan

25/26

In accordance with DfE Sustainability Leadership and Climate Action Plan Guidance (2025)

Area and action	Who	Success when
1. Leadership and Governance		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trust Sustainability Lead: Appoint a member of the Trust Central Team to oversee climate strategy across all schools. 	CEO – Dr Fiona Hammans	Key staff appointed and cross-Trust meetings x2 per year
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School-Level Champions: Each school will designate a sustainability lead to coordinate local actions. 	Fitzharrys – Catherine Hartley John Mason – Aidan Conroy Rush Common – Sarah Coleman St Michael's CofE - Sandy Jaeger	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governance Oversight: The Trust Board's Finance and General Purposes (F&GP) Committee will monitor progress 	CEO lead (COO support)	Termly reporting and integration into strategic planning
2. Vision and Strategic Objectives		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Net Zero Commitment and Values Alignment: The plan reflects the Trust's core 		The Trust aims to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2035

values—Quality, Opportunity, Collaboration, Ambition, and Community. Sustainability is a Strategy longitudinal theme			
3. Carbon Use Reduction and Energy Efficiency			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop enhanced and explicit links between this plan and the Estates and Facilities Management Plan (EFMP) 	Estates and Facilities Manager	EFMP and Climate Action identify strategic outcomes at Trust level	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure schools have effective heating. and hot weather mitigation plans in place 	COO and Estates Team HTs	Hot weather plans for staff and students in place in each school Between 5 and 10% reduction in energy use in 25/26 compared to 25/25	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Management: 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue joint procurement and contract management to reduce energy costs. 	COO		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expand use of smart metering and LED lighting. 	COO and Estates Team		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explore renewable energy installations (e.g. solar panels) and apply for Salix or other green grants. 	COO and Estates Team		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICT Strategy: Leverage the Trust’s ICT strategy and Cyber Essentials rollout to reduce digital energy consumption. 	COO and MSP		
4. Curriculum and Engagement			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum Integration: Embed climate education across subjects, with emphasis on sustainability, biodiversity, and climate justice. 	Sustainability Lead	Reported activity in Trust Annual Report 2025	

• Student Voice: Establish Eco Councils in each school to lead initiatives and contribute to Trust-wide planning.	Sustainability Lead	
• Staff Development: Include sustainability in CPD and governance training, building on existing NGA and CST subscriptions.	HT/ Sustainability Lead	Report on CPD activity to F&GP in autumn 2026
5. Waste and Resource Management		
• Recycling and Procurement:		
- Standardise recycling across all schools.	COO	Recycling in place consistently; contracts reviewed routinely
- Review supplier contracts to ensure alignment with the Trust's carbon net zero strategy.	COO	
- Promote sustainable procurement practices for catering, cleaning, and classroom resources.	COO	
6. Travel and Transport		
• Active Travel Promotion: Develop school travel plans encouraging walking, cycling, and public transport.	HTs	Schools have active School Travel Plan by autumn 26
7. Biodiversity and Grounds		
• Nature-Based Learning: Use school grounds for biodiversity projects and outdoor learning.	School Sustainability Leads	Grounds used and improved
• Community Partnerships: Collaborate with local environmental groups for tree planting and habitat restoration.	School Sustainability Leads/Eco Councils	

8. Monitoring and Reporting		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Review: Publish a sustainability report alongside the Trust's financial statements. 	CEO	Annual Report details changes from previous years and reviews impact of this action plan – autumn 26
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk Management: Integrate climate risks into the Trust's Risk Register and mitigation strategy. 	COO	Regular review by Risk and Audit Committee of Risk Register

Climate Justice Explained

Definition: Climate justice is the understanding that climate change is not just an environmental issue, it is also a matter of fairness and equity.

Key Principles of Climate Justice:

- Not everyone is equally responsible for causing climate change.
- Not everyone is equally affected by its impacts.
- Action must be inclusive, protecting and empowering vulnerable communities.
- Solutions must be fair, ethical, and socially responsible.

Why It Matters in Schools:

- Teaches students the social and ethical dimensions of climate change.
- Encourages empathy and civic responsibility.

- Ensures all pupils have a voice in shaping climate solutions.
- Supports a whole-school approach to sustainability.

Climate justice helps build a fairer, greener future for everyone.