The 3-18 Education Trust

Climate Action Strategy Document – 2025 to 2028

Every individual is in a great school.

Approved: Oct 2025

Introduction

In line with the DfE Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy, The 3-18 Education Trust (Our Trust) has developed a Climate Action Strategy to reduce its environmental footprint, particularly in the drive to achieve net zero.

Through education we have the privilege to be able to engage directly with children and young people who:

- Are passionate about the natural world
- Want to do their best to protect it
- Can influence their wider communities

Through their learned and lived experiences, we will provide opportunities to develop a broad knowledge and understanding of the importance of nature, sustainability and the causes and impact of climate change and to translate this knowledge into positive action and solutions.

Vision

Our Trust believe that as a large organisation with the opportunity to teach and inspire, we have a responsibility to educate our children and their communities and provide them with the skills needed in a future world damaged by climate change.

Our Trust has committed to the ambitious target of becoming carbon neutral by 2050.

Strategic Aims

Our Trust will focus on reducing the carbon output in Scope 1 of the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, which focuses on the emissions from activities owned or controlled by our Trust. Examples include emissions from combustion in owned or controlled boilers and Trust-owned vehicles) and Scope 2, which relates to emissions from consumption of purchased electricity such as heating, lighting and cooling.

Our Trust will seek to work with partners in the supply chain who share a similar ambition to reducing carbon in Scope 3, which includes emissions that are as a consequence of the Trust's actions, but the source is not owned or controlled, and which are not classed as Scope 2 emissions. For example, staff commuting and uniform manufacturing.

Our Trust will use a milestone approach when reducing carbon emissions and will do this through The 3-18 Education Trust's Climate Action Plan.

The Climate Action Plan has been developed with 4 key action areas driving this change:

1. Decarbonisation – Calculating and taking action to reduce carbon emissions, such as becoming more energy efficient.

2. Adaption and Resilience – Plans to reduce or adapt to risks resulting from climate change.
3. Biodiversity – Engaging with outdoor projects.
4. Climate Education, Training & Jobs – Ensuring our Trust is providing education about climate change and that teaching staff are supported to do so.

Action Areas

Decarbonisation

- Work towards all school buildings being fully LED
- Introduce Building Management Systems (BMS) where possible in all schools
- Use thermal imaging to identify the least efficient buildings
- Reduce electricity consumption by changing user habits
- Increase the number of light sensors in school buildings
- Revise the School Condition Allocation (SCA) procedures to introduce environmental sustainability criteria
- Increase the number of renewable energy sources onsite
- Roll out trust wide solar scheme
- Ensure sub-contractor suitability is assessed as part of project tender requirements

Supply Chain

- Reduce carbon emissions directly associated with our school's uniforms
- Reduce the Trust's printing and paper usage
- Ensure our ICT usage is efficient with minimal environmental impact

Adaption and Resilience

- Educate students on the impact of travelling to school
- All schools to have safe and secure bike storage options
- Adopt a staff electric car leasing scheme (in conjunction with the DfE)
- Encourage the use of bikes as a transport method to school for both students and staff
- Eliminate single use plastics from our schools
- Work with catering contractors to reduce food waste across all schools
- Adopt schemes for recycling books and resources
- Reduce water consumption

Biodiversity

- Introduce a tree planting scheme across all schools in the Trust
- Engage with the DfE National Education Nature Park Scheme
- Engage with local businesses and other stakeholders to improve school and local areas
- Engage students with nature and biodiversity during lessons

Climate Education, Training & Jobs

- Provide opportunities for young people to learn and experience green skills and careers
- Embed environmental sustainability in all areas of the curriculum
- All schools to appoint a Sustainability Lead
- Environmental sustainability as an agenda item at student committee/parliament meetings
- Provide CPD opportunities relating to environmental sustainability
- Building relationships with local government leaders to drive forward the Climate Action Plan.

Student Voice

To provide students a platform to become leaders within the community, our Trust will ensure all schools have student-led Eco Councils, which feed into the trust-wide sustainability learning community. The Eco Councils empower students to become confident leaders. They also:

- Inspire their enthusiasm to help drive positive change
- Increase their practical knowledge of sustainability and climate change
- Create a sense of pride in their education setting
- Enable them to share their knowledge and enthusiasm in their local communities
- Enable them to engage their parents, carers and wider community in sustainability and climate change

Governance

The Trust Board (through the Audit & Risk Committee) will oversee the implementation of the Climate Action Plan and will delegate responsibility to a lead governor to support, drive and embed the culture change within the academy.

The Board of Trustees has made the following commitments:

- They will ensure sustainability is on the Board and Local Governing Body (LGB) agendas at least once a year
- Each year a dedicated amount of the School Condition Allocation (SCA) funding towards environmental projects. The amounts will be reviewed each year in line with our strategy goals
- Each school will appoint a sustainability lead

Measuring Impact

Our Trust will conduct an assessment of the current environmental impact and carbon footprint. Collecting baseline data on energy consumption, waste generation, water usage, transportation patterns and greenhouse gas emissions.

The data study will allow our Trust to understand the scale of the challenge and recognise what we need to do in the coming years. It provides the foundation of the Climate Action Plan.

A metric dashboard will be created to demonstrate where improvements have been made across our Trust and also where improvements are needed.

The table below details the metrics our Trust will use to measure the impact of its climate action strategy. The metrics below will be shared and discussed at the Audit & Risk Committee meetings.

Metric	**Detail**
Carbon footprint in tCO2 per annum	Annual carbon footprint for The 3-18 Education Trust estate
CO2 emissions saved in tCO2 per annum	Offset CO2 emissions per annum driven by our Trust's climate actions
Percentage of solar generated energy across the Trust estate	How much energy is generate from the Trust's solar panels.
Display Energy Certificate (DEC) rating	DEC shows the energy performance of a building based on the actual energy consumption recorded over the previous 12 months. The rating is shown on a scale from A to G, where A is the lowest CO2 emissions (best) and G is the highest CO2 emissions (worst)
Full Intensity Ratio	This measures the cumulative tCO2 of all 3 emissions scope per student
Intensity Ratio SECR	The Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting (SECR) ratio measures gross energy emissions in metric tCO2e per student.
Solar Savings per annum	Forecast annual energy savings due to the solar panel install