

Sustainability Policy at X School

X School and PTA have begun a journey towards greater sustainable development. Sustainable development means meeting the needs of all people now – including protecting the natural habitats that are essential to our survival – without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

Multiple sources of evidence suggest that being a sustainable school raises standards and enhances young people’s well-being. Research supports the idea that this is because sustainable schools engage young people in their learning, thereby improving motivation and behaviour, and also promote healthy school environments and lifestyles. Saving resources such as energy and water can also save schools significant sums of money. There are also physical and psychological benefits related to walking or cycling to school, eating more healthily and spending time in nature.

How do schools generate carbon?

Greenhouse gas emissions from the schools sector are divided into four main sources:

- energy use in school buildings;
- pupil and staff travel to and from school, and other journeys undertaken on school business
- emissions produced by companies that supply goods and services to schools, for example, a school food provider. This could include emissions related to their use of energy to run their buildings and produce their food products, as well as the emissions associated with transporting their products to school sites; and
- emissions from waste produced by schools.

Key area’s to begin to engage sustainable purchasing and behaviours are:

Food & Drink	Supply healthy, local and sustainable food and drink, showing strong commitments to the environment. Maximise use of local suppliers
Energy & Water	Focus on energy efficiency, renewable energy and water conservation. Harvesting grey water recycling
Traffic and Travel	Use vehicles only when necessary and provide exemplary facilities for healthier less polluting or less dangerous mode of transport. Adopt a no idling policy for all vehicles outside of school premises
Purchasing and Waste	Minimise waste and adopt sustainable procurement practices, using goods and services of high environmental standards from local sources where practicable, and increase value for money by reducing, reusing and repairing and recycling as much as possible.
Buildings and Schools	Manage and, where possible, design their buildings in ways that visible demonstrate sustainable development to everyone who uses the school. Through their grounds, schools could bring pupils closer to the natural world, capture their imaginations in outdoor play, and help them learn about sustainable living.
Local well-being	Be models of corporate citizenship within their areas, enriching their education mission with activities that improve the environment and quality of life of local people