



Sustainability & Climate Action Plan 2025–2028

Vision & Commitment

Orchard Community Trust is committed to becoming a net zero, climate-resilient, and environmentally responsible Trust by 2030, in line with the DfE's Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy. We will achieve this by embedding sustainability across our culture, campus, curriculum, and community — ensuring our schools act as beacons of environmental leadership.

Strategic Priorities (2025–2028)

- A) **Carbon Reduction:** Reduce Scope 1 & 2 emissions by at least 30% against 2025 baselines by 2028
- B) **Energy & Estates:** Improve energy efficiency, smart controls, Heat Decarbonisation Plans
- C) **Travel:** Encourage sustainable transport and update travel plans
- D) **Waste & Resources:** Reduce waste, increase recycling, embed social value in procurement
- E) **Water & Biodiversity:** Improve water efficiency, tree planting, Nature Park
- F) **Curriculum & Culture:** Embed climate literacy, prepare pupils for green careers
- G) **Governance & Reporting:** Clear accountability, annual reporting, ISO 14001 progress.

Year-by-Year Action Plan

Year 1: 2025–2026 – Foundations & Data

- Governance & Leadership: Appoint Trust Sustainability Lead and school champions; establish Sustainability & Climate Action Committee
- Data Collection: Complete audits, report via DfE toolkit, establish Scope 3 baseline
- Quick Wins: Switch to LEDs and smart meters, adopt Let's Go Zero pledge
- Curriculum & Culture: Launch pupil eco-councils, staff carbon literacy training, annual Sustainability Week.

Year 2: 2026–2027 – Implementation & Engagement

- Decarbonisation: Develop Heat Decarbonisation Plans, replace end-of-life boilers if needed with low-carbon solutions, explore renewables
- Travel & Transport: Update travel plans, install cycle storage and consider EV charging
- Waste & Procurement: Trust-wide waste audits, embed sustainability into contracts
- Biodiversity & Water: Launch tree planting, engage with Nature Park, install smart water meters.





ORCHARD

— Community Trust —

Year 3: 2027–2028 – Scaling & Integration

- Carbon & Energy: Achieve 30% emissions reduction, switch to green tariffs, begin renewable rollout
- Curriculum & Careers: Fully embed sustainability, link with STEM and green careers
- Community Engagement: Launch Green Schools, Green Communities programme
- Governance & Reporting: Attain ISO 14001 certification, publish annual Impact Report

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

- A) **Carbon Reduction:** % reduction in tCO₂e (Scopes 1, 2, 3)
- B) **Energy:** % of academies with smart controls; % reduction in electricity and gas
- C) **Waste:** % recycled; % food waste reduced
- D) **Water:** % reduction per pupil
- E) **Biodiversity:** Number of trees planted; schools engaged in Nature Park
- F) **Curriculum:** % of schools embedding sustainability; number of eco-projects
- G) **Community:** Number of community engagement projects.

Long-Term Outlook

- To have Net zero carbon buildings and travel by 2030
- To decarbonise heating across all schools by 2040 (or earlier with funding)
- To have renewable energy generation on feasible sites
- To have sustainability fully integrated into governance, teaching, and community leadership.

