

IMAT CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

2025-2030

Aspiration - Inclusion - Kindness - Resilience

Introduction and Vision

Innovate Multi Academy Trust recognises the vital role that schools play in tackling climate change and promoting environmental stewardship within their communities. As a group of 6 small village schools, we are deeply connected to our local environment and community, and we are committed to reducing our environmental impact while educating our pupils to become responsible global citizens.

This Climate Action Plan sets out our vision, priorities, and actions for the next five years, in line with the Department for Education's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy (DfE, 2023). Our goal is to move towards net-zero emissions by 2030, while embedding sustainability throughout our curriculum, estate management, and community culture.

Developing green, climate-resilient schools not only inspires pupils to adopt sustainable habits but also extends that positive influence to their families and communities. Furthermore, upgrading our physical environment directly enhances the physical and mental wellbeing of our young people.

By witnessing sustainability in action across their schools, pupils gain valuable, hands-on experiences that enrich and contextualise their education.







Our Commitments

We will:

- Reduce our carbon footprint and energy use across the school sites.
- Promote biodiversity and sustainable management of our grounds.
- Integrate sustainability and climate education into the curriculum.
- Reduce waste and improve recycling and re-use.
- Encourage sustainable travel among staff, pupils, and parents.
- Engage the local community in our sustainability journey.

Alignment with DfE's Sustainability Strategy

This Climate Action Plan aligns directly with the Department for Education (DfE) Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy. It fulfills the mandate for all UK schools to have a nominated Sustainability Lead and a comprehensive Climate Action Plan in place. Our targets map directly to the DfE's four action areas: Green Infrastructure, International Leadership, Supply Chains and Climate Education.

Strategic Objectives Across the Four Key Areas

1. Infrastructure & Energy: Transition away from fossil fuels by installing solar panels, and LED lighting.
2. Biodiversity & Land: Increase green canopy cover across the trust through pupil-led planting initiatives.
3. Operations & Supply Chain: Mandate sustainable procurement policies, ensuring food and office supplies are sourced locally or ethically.
4. Education: Appoint a sustainability lead and Implement a standardised climate literacy framework across all year groups.







Local Strategies

The West Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy can be accessed here.

Baseline Assessment (2025)

We have completed an initial sustainability review to understand our current position:

Area	Current Status	Key Issues Identified
Energy	Gas boiler, mixed LED/fluorescent lighting	Inefficient heating and insulation in main building
Water	Standard fittings	Potential for water-saving devices
Waste	Mixed recycling collection	Limited food waste segregation
Grounds	Green space with some planting	Opportunity to increase biodiversity and outdoor learning areas
Travel	Majority of pupils travel by car	Limited bike/scooter storage
Curriculum	Environmental topics covered through Science and Geography	No whole-school sustainability framework







Current Position, 2026

- Appointed sustainability lead staff member in every school
- LED lighting and sensor lights installed across all schools
- Recycling commitment across 6 schools
- Tree planting packs ordered from the Woodland trust
- Continued investment in CIF applications for energy-saving equipment such as new, more efficient boilers and led/emergency lighting, replacement windows
- Reduction of paper usage (including catering team)
- Pupil-led eco groups
- Walk/cycle to school initiatives
- Training courses for teaching staff via The National College
- Zenergy portal is used to track electric and gas usage
- Dimensions curriculum https://dimensionscurriculum.co.uk/our-curriculum/
- Staff training on climate change



Key Action Areas

A. Energy and Carbon Reduction

Goal: Reduce energy consumption by 30% and transition to renewable sources where possible.

Actions:

- Commission an energy audit to identify inefficiencies and opportunities for improvement.
- Audit overall IT infrastructure to discover where energy use can be reduced, as well as managing the effective use at pupil and staff level
- Replace all lighting with LED fittings by 2026.
- Review and upgrade heating controls and insulation (loft, windows, doors) by 2027.
- Consider where drafts occur resulting in heat loss and what might be done to mitigate this.
- Install solar panels (subject to feasibility and funding) by 2028.
- Implement an annual “Switch Off” campaign led by pupils.
- Monitor and publish monthly energy data to track progress.

Responsibility: Head of School, School Office Manager, Site team

Funding Sources: DfE Energy Efficiency Fund, Salix Loans, local council grants

B. Waste Reduction and Resource Management

Goal: Reduce waste by 40% and improve recycling rates to 80% by 2030.

Actions:

- Introduce separate recycling and food waste bins in classrooms and the staffroom. **Completed**
- Partner with the local council for food waste collection. **Completed**
- Run a “Zero Waste Week” each term to promote reduction and reuse.
- Implement paper and printing reduction measures, including double-sided printing and digital communication.
- Create an Eco-Committee to monitor waste and lead awareness campaigns.
- Reduce water usage through more effective management, including storing water for grounds use.

Responsibility: Eco-Committee, Office Administrator

C. Biodiversity and School Grounds

Goal: Enhance local biodiversity and create outdoor learning opportunities.

Actions:

- Develop a school biodiversity plan with wildlife-friendly planting and habitats (bug hotels, bird boxes, wildflower areas).
- Create an edible garden and composting area maintained by pupils.

Key Action Areas

C. Biodiversity and School Grounds continued

- Implement Field Survey direct observation and sampling of organisms in a specific area to gather detailed information on species monitored by pup
- Plant one tree per pupil by 2030 in partnership with local community groups.
- Use the grounds for Forest School and outdoor curriculum activities.
- Join the Eco-Schools Green Flag Programme for recognition and structure.

Responsibility: Site Assistant, Premises Partner, Forest School Leader, Eco-Committee

D. Sustainable Travel

Goal: Reduce single-car journeys by 25% by 2028.

Actions:

- Conduct an annual travel survey for parents and staff.
- Develop a School Travel Plan promoting walking, cycling, and car-sharing.
- Install bike and scooter racks and offer “Bikeability” training. Partially complete-definitely in place at Weedon-check other sites
- Introduce Walk to School Wednesdays or “Park and Stride” zones.

Responsibility: Head of School, School Council

E. Curriculum and Pupil Engagement

Goal: Embed climate education and sustainability across all subjects.

Actions:

- Map current curriculum to identify sustainability links.
- Deliver at least one sustainability-themed unit or project per term.
- Establish Eco Champions in each class.
- Organise Climate Action Days and assemblies.
- Collaborate with local organisations (e.g., wildlife trusts, energy groups) for enrichment opportunities.

Responsibility: Curriculum Lead, Class Teachers, Eco-Committee

F. Community and Partnerships

Goal: Build partnerships to strengthen sustainability across the community.

Actions:

- Share our Climate Action Plan on the school website and in newsletters.
- Host an annual Sustainability Open Day to showcase pupil projects.
- Partner with the Parish Council and local environmental groups.
- Explore shared energy or waste initiatives with nearby schools.

Responsibility: Head of School, LSC, PTA

Monitoring and Reporting

Progress will be reviewed annually by the LSC/Board of directors. Annual reports will be published on the school website and shared with the community.

Targets Summary (to 2030)

Area	2025 Baseline	2030 Target
Energy	100%	30% reduction in use
Waste	100%	40% reduction
Recycling	40%	80% recycling rate
Travel (car use)	80%	60%
Trees Planted	0	1 per pupil
Curriculum Coverage	Partial	Fully embedded in all key stages

Governance and Accountability

This Climate Action Plan is owned by the Local School Committee and will be managed operationally by the Head of School and School Office Manager, with input from the Eco-Committee and wider school community. It will be reviewed and updated annually to ensure continuous improvement and alignment with new opportunities, technologies, and policies.

Conclusion

Through this Climate Action Plan, Innovate Multi Academy Trust aims to become a model of environmental responsibility within our community. Our pupils will not only learn about sustainability- they will live it, seeing firsthand how their school takes meaningful steps to protect the planet. Together, we can ensure a cleaner, greener, and more resilient future for our children and generations to come.









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