



PETERBOROUGH KEYS
ACADEMIES TRUST

PKAT Sustainability Strategy

2024-2028

Contents

1. Introduction	3
1.1 Impact of Climate Change	3
1.2 Legislation.....	3
2. Vision and Strategic Aims	4
2.1 Vision	4
2.2 Strategic Aims.....	4
3. Action Areas	5
3.1 Education and Careers.....	5
3.2 Estate and Buildings	5
3.3 Supply Chains and Procurement	5
3.4 Travel.....	6
3.5 Consumption and Waste.....	6
4. Measurement of Impact	6
5. Outline and Commitments	6
6. Next Steps	7

1. Introduction

Every day we witness the extraordinary and catastrophic impact of climate change and 21st century lifestyles to our planet, yet we are ignoring the warning signs to change. Climate change and its effects are accelerating, with severe weather damage expected to increase and intensify and the world "dangerously close" to abrupt and irreversible changes.

Peterborough Keys Academies Trust (PKAT) 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.

PKAT has committed to the ambitious target of becoming carbon neutral by 2035, with five priority action areas driving this change. We are committed to investing in our buildings to make them more efficient, reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, investigating our supply chains and operations, reducing wastage, and encouraging sustainable travel.

1.1 Impact of Climate Change

Climate change puts children's most basic rights at risk, seriously affecting their access to health, food, water, clean air, education and protection. Around the world, the growing number of extreme weather events is putting more and more children's lives in danger. Every year, environmental factors take the lives of 1.7 million children under five.

For an even greater number of children, these events mean a reduced chance of a happy, healthy future. When floods hit, schools and health clinics are destroyed. When droughts occur, children spend less time in school because they must walk miles to collect water. Rising sea levels and toxic air pollution turn children's communities into hazardous environments to grow up in. (UNICEF)

1.2 Legislation

World leaders, governments and large corporations are making promises and setting long term goals to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions and prevent further damage from climate change.

The following commitments have been made:

- UNESCO's 'ESD for 2030' (Education for Sustainable Development) which sets out the key role of education in the successful achievement of the United Nation's 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

- The Paris Agreement which is a legally binding international treaty on climate change. It was adopted by 196 Parties at COP 21 in Paris, on 12 December 2015 and entered into force on 4 November 2016. Its goal is to limit global warming to well below 2, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels.
- UK Government's Net Zero Strategy "Build Back Greener" which aims for all sectors of the UK economy to be net zero by 2050.
- The Environment Act 2021 which is the UK's new framework for environmental protection.
- "The UK's 25-year plan for the Environment" which is a comprehensive plan for England's natural environment from the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra). It is part of the UK Government's goal to be the first generation to "leave our environment in a better state than we found it".
- The Department for Education's "Sustainability and climate change strategy" (April 2022).

PKAT believes that we need to make significant changes sooner than the UK Government's ambition to be net zero by 2050.

2. Vision and Strategic Aims

2.1 Vision

PKAT's sustainability vision is:

"We will engage with PKAT pupils, staff and communities, providing the resources and opportunities to protect our environment and together aspire for a sustainable future."

2.2 Strategic Aims

1. To develop a system of annual reporting to be able to quantify the Trust's impact in each of the five action areas.
2. Reduce carbon emissions related to energy consumption at all PKAT schools.
3. Creating a better environment for our pupils by improving biodiversity, reducing air pollution, and creating environmentally sustainable working practices.
4. Creating exciting opportunities for pupils to engage in climate change and environmental studies.

3. Action Areas

PKAT acknowledges that to meet our strategic vision and aims, we need to do more than just reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. We have therefore outlined five key action areas that we will focus on over the next three years.

3.1 Education and Careers

Prepare our students for a world damaged by climate change and a future of green skills and careers.

- Provide opportunities to young people to learn and experience green skills and careers
- Engage pupils with nature and biodiversity during lessons
- Embed environmental sustainability into all areas of the curriculum
- All schools to appoint an Environmental Champion to lead on strategy
- Create an environmental sustainability pupil committee
- Provide CPD opportunities relating to environmental sustainability

3.2 Estate and Buildings

Make our buildings and estates more energy efficient and reduce the reliance on fossil fuels.

- All school buildings to have LED lighting by 2025
- Introduce Building Management Systems at all schools by 2028
- 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
- Decarbonise the heating systems at three of our schools by 2035
- Revise the School Condition Allocation Policy to introduce environmental sustainability criteria
- Improve air quality in classrooms
- Introduce a tree planting scheme across PKAT schools
- Increase the number of renewable energy sources onsite
- Ensure sub-contractor suitability is assessed as part of project tender requirements

3.3 Supply Chains and Procurement

Reduce the environmental impacts of our procurement and supply chain.

- Ensure future procurement for catering acknowledges the need to prepare environmentally sustainable meals
- Reduce carbon emissions directly associated with our school's uniforms
- Reduce the Trust's paper usage to 50% by 2028

- Ensure our ICT usage is efficient and with minimal environmental impact
- Procure a renewable energy supplier

3.4 Travel

Reduce carbon emissions from staff and student travel and offset the balance of emissions.

- Educate pupils on impact of travel to school
- Introduce a Trust policy for electric car charging points
- All PKAT schools to have safe and secure bike storage options
- Adopt a staff electric car leasing scheme
- Encourage the use of bikes, including EV bikes, as a transport method to school

3.5 Consumption and Waste

Reduce the carbon emissions and biodiversity impact of our consumption and waste.

- Reduce energy consumption in schools
- Adopt schemes for recycling books and resources (e.g., books2Africa scheme)
- Increase recycling bins within buildings to make it easy and accessible
- Reduce water consumption
- Eliminate single use plastic from our schools by 2028
- Work with catering providers to reduce food waste across all schools
- Increase the repair, repurpose and reusing of items before disposing of them

4. Measurement of Impact

PKAT will create a metric to analyse each of the action areas and ensure both the baseline and progress are measured and presented to the Board at least annually. The metric will provide a numeric scale which can be rated as follows:

- RED (1-3)
- AMBER (4-7)
- GREEN (8-10)

5. Outline and Commitments

PKAT has ambitious plans to reduce our environmental impact, reaching carbon net zero by 2035. This strategy provides a framework for the Trust and our family of schools to work towards our environmental sustainability goals over the next three years.

The Board of Trustees have made the following commitments:

- We will ensure sustainability is on Board and Academy Committees agendas at least annually.

- Each year we will dedicate a proportion of our School Condition Allocation funding towards environmental projects. The amount will be reviewed each year in line with our strategy goals.
- Each school and the central team will appoint an “Environmental Champion” to lead on these issues locally
- To reduce carbon consumption by 2030.
- To support appropriate bids for additional funding to decarbonise buildings and environmental opportunities

6. Next Steps

The Trust’s action plan for 2024-28 is attached and demonstrates how we will work towards our ambition and commitments.