



Pennine Academies Yorkshire

Climate Action Plan 2025–2030

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Foreword from the CEO

At Pennine Academies Yorkshire, we believe that the role of education extends beyond academic achievement, it is also to inspire responsible citizens who will shape a sustainable future. Climate change is one of the most pressing challenges of our time. As a Multi Academy Trust, we have both the opportunity and the obligation to lead by example.

Over the past two years, we have taken decisive action to modernise our estate, reduce our carbon footprint, and embed sustainability into our operations. This plan builds on those achievements and sets a clear, strategic course for the next five years, aligned with the Department for Education's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy.

Our actions will be guided by four strategic pillars:

1. **Decarbonisation** – Reducing emissions and improving energy efficiency.
2. **Adaptation & Resilience** – Preparing our schools for climate impacts.
3. **Biodiversity** – Protecting and enhancing the natural environment.
4. **Climate Education & Green Careers** – Equipping our pupils with the skills and knowledge for a sustainable future.

This plan sets measurable targets and identifies priority projects. We will continue to work in partnership with local authorities, community stakeholders, and national programmes to secure the resources needed to achieve net zero.

Together, we can ensure that our schools not only educate, but also lead the way in climate action.

Executive Summary

This Climate Action Plan sets out Pennine Academies Yorkshire's strategic approach to sustainability from 2025 to 2030. It details the Trust's vision, achievements to date, and clear actions to reduce carbon emissions, improve energy efficiency, enhance biodiversity, and integrate climate education across the curriculum.

Our achievements include major building efficiency projects, sustainable catering initiatives, and proactive operational energy management. These have already delivered tangible benefits in cost savings, reduced environmental impact, and improved learning environments.

Indicative carbon savings from these initiatives suggest we are already on a positive trajectory. However, these figures are provisional and will be validated through a full external decarbonisation review.

The plan provides a year-by-year roadmap with measurable outcomes across the DfE's four priority areas, ensuring accountability and progress tracking.

1. Vision & Strategic Alignment

Pennine Academies Yorkshire is committed to:

- Achieving significant operational emissions reductions by 2030.
- Embedding sustainability principles into all decision-making processes.
- Ensuring every pupil understands climate change and the role they can play in addressing it.
- Working collaboratively with staff, pupils, families, and partners to maximise impact.

This plan aligns directly with the **DfE's four priority areas**:

Priority Area	Trust Commitment
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Decarbonisation	Reduce operational energy consumption, modernise building systems, adopt renewable energy, and decarbonise heating.
Adaptation & Resilience	Ensure all sites are prepared for climate impacts such as flooding, overheating, and extreme weather.
Biodiversity	Enhance green spaces, increase tree planting, support wildlife habitats, and promote nature-based learning.
Climate Education & Green Careers	Integrate climate literacy into the curriculum, develop eco-leadership skills, and promote careers in the green economy.

2. Achievements to Date (with Indicative Carbon Savings)

Note: Carbon savings are provisional, based on industry benchmarks, and will be confirmed following the external decarbonisation review.

Initiative	Description	Benefits	Indicative Annual Carbon Savings (tCO₂e)
Phase 1 Roof Project: Crossley Hall Primary	Upgraded insulation and weatherproofing.	Reduced heat loss, improved comfort, lower energy bills.	4–6
New Roof: Laycock Primary School	Full roof replacement.	Enhanced thermal efficiency, reduced maintenance costs.	3–5

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New Roof: Hollingwood Primary	Modern materials and insulation.	Lower heating demand, extended building lifespan.	3–5
Full Updated Boilers, Emitters & Distribution: Grove House Primary	High-efficiency heating system.	Lower gas use, consistent heating, reduced emissions.	8–10
Boiler Replacement: Laycock Primary	Modern, efficient boiler.	Reduced fuel consumption, lower costs.	4–6
Water Heater Updates: Crossley Hall Primary	Efficient hot water provision.	Reduced energy demand, improved reliability.	2–4
CIF Phase 2 Bid: Crossley Hall Primary	Planned further upgrades including insulation.	Greater efficiency and comfort.	4–6*
CIF Bid: Farnham Primary Roof Replacement	Planned roof and insulation improvements.	Long-term energy and maintenance savings.	3–5*
Centralised Lunch Preparation	Farnham kitchen serving multiple schools.	Reduced equipment use, lower emissions from deliveries.	1–2
Local Catering Provider & Produce	Locally sourced food.	Supports local economy, reduces transport emissions.	1–2
Decarbonisation Plan Review	External expertise to guide investment.	Evidence-based understanding of the current	N/A

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		position, specialised planning and access to funding to support future developments.	
Sustainable Charging Solutions	Exploring EV charging for community use.	Promotes sustainable travel, wider societal impact.	N/A
Contract Sustainability Reviews	Embedding sustainability in procurement.	Reduced consumption, better monitoring.	N/A
Site Walks & Energy Reduction	Proactive identification of savings.	Immediate reductions in wastage.	1–3
Timed Boiler Usage	Localised heating controls.	Reduced unnecessary heating.	2–3
Trade Waste	The Trust has reviewed waste collection contracts across all schools, with a focus on maximising recycling rates and reducing landfill waste.	Promotes recycling and sustainability initiatives.	
Transport	We have modernised our minibus fleet.	Promotes energy-efficiencies with low-emission vehicles, supporting	

		sustainable travel for pupils and staff	
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*Projected savings pending project approval.

3. Strategic Priorities 2025–2030

Short Term (2025–2026)

- Complete external decarbonisation review and set baseline emissions.
- Secure CIF and grant funding for additional projects that support sustainability efforts
- Begin biodiversity enhancement programme in all schools.

Medium Term (2027–2028)

- Implement LED lighting retrofits in all schools.
- Roll out renewable energy generation (solar PV) where viable.
- Upgrade remaining heating systems to low-carbon solutions.
- Expand active travel schemes for staff and pupils.
- Embed climate education modules across all key stages.

Long Term (2029–2030)

- Achieve a 40% reduction in Trust-wide emissions from 2025 baseline.
- Fully integrate sustainability into procurement and supply chain policies.
- Deliver measurable biodiversity net gain across all sites.

4. Roadmap 2025–2030 (by DfE Priority Area)

Year	Decarbonisation	Adaptation & Resilience	Biodiversity	Climate Education & Green Careers
2025 - 2026	Complete decarbonisation review. Secure funding for further roof/heating upgrades.	Conduct climate risk audits for all sites.	Launch biodiversity enhancement in all schools.	Introduce climate modules in PSHE & Science.
2026 - 2027	Begin Trust-wide LED rollout. Secure funding for further decarbonisation projects.	Implement flood prevention measures where needed.	Plant the first phase of trees and develop the existing wildlife areas/nature gardens.	Establish pupil Eco Councils Trust-wide.
2027-2028	Install solar PV in priority sites.	Review and improve ventilation for heat resilience.	Expand biodiversity projects to include ponds & meadows.	Run first Trust Green Careers Fair.
2028 - 2029	Upgrade remaining heating systems to low-carbon.	Continue adaptation works as per audits.	Achieve measurable biodiversity net gain.	Integrate climate topics in all curriculum areas.
2029-2030	Achieve 40% emissions reduction from 2025 baseline.	Ensure all buildings meet resilience standards.	Maintain and expand biodiversity projects.	Embed green careers pathways in careers guidance.

5. Monitoring & Governance

- **Data Collection:** Energy, water, and waste data collected termly via Trust-wide reporting system. Key trends need to be identified and shared, where relevant, with the schools causing concern so meaningful
- **Carbon Accounting:** Annual calculation of Trust's operational carbon footprint.
- **Reporting:** Progress reported to Trust Board twice annually; summary published on Trust website.
- **Review Cycle:** Full Climate Action Plan review every three years, with interim annual updates.
- **Accountability:** Sustainability Lead responsible for delivery; Headteachers responsible for site-level implementation.

Appendix A – Achievements & Benefits Table

Initiative	Full Description	Key Benefits	Financial Implications	Indicative Annual Carbon Savings (tCO ₂ e)
Phase 1 Roof Project – Crossley Hall Primary	Upgraded roof with modern insulation and weatherproofing, replacing inefficient legacy structure.	Reduces heat loss; lowers heating demand; improves comfort for pupils and staff; extends building lifespan.	Upfront capital investment offset by reduced annual heating bills.	4–6

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New Roof – Laycock Primary	Full roof replacement with improved insulation and water resistance.	Improved thermal efficiency; reduced maintenance; better learning environment.	Capital cost partially grant-funded ; long-term operational savings.	3–5
New Roof – Hollingwood Primary	Replacement of outdated roof with high-performance insulated structure.	Cuts heat loss; improves weather resilience; reduces energy consumption.	Capital investment offset by reduced maintenance and heating bills.	3–5
Full Updated Boilers, Emitters & Distribution – Grove House Primary	Installation of high-efficiency boilers, radiators, and heat distribution system.	Reduces gas consumption; ensures even heating; enhances comfort.	Capital outlay with significant operational savings on gas costs.	8–10
Boiler Replacement – Laycock Primary	Upgrade to modern condensing boiler system.	Lower fuel usage; reduced carbon footprint; improved reliability.	Medium capital cost; quick return via reduced fuel bills.	4–6
Water Heater Updates – Crossley Hall Primary	Replacement of outdated units with high-efficiency models.	Energy and cost savings; improved service reliability.	Low–medium cost; operational savings in energy bills.	2–4

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CIF Phase 2 Bid – Crossley Hall Primary <i>(Planned)</i>	Further roof and insulation upgrades pending CIF funding.	Additional heat retention; reduced bills; increased comfort.	Dependent on CIF success; high ROI if funded.	4–6*
CIF Bid – Farnham Primary Roof Replacement <i>(Planned)</i>	Full roof replacement with upgraded insulation materials.	Significant energy savings; improved weather resilience.	Funding-dependent; long-term cost benefits.	3–5*
Centralised Lunch Preparation	Farnham kitchen produces meals for Farnham & Hollingwood Primaries, reducing duplication.	Lower energy usage; fewer deliveries; streamlined staffing.	Operational efficiencies reduce ongoing catering costs.	1–2
Local Catering Provider & Produce	Partnered with local suppliers to reduce food miles and support the local economy.	Cuts transport emissions; promotes community links.	Potential slight cost increase offset by reduced transport costs.	1–2
Decarbonisation Plan Review	Engagement with external specialists to map out energy and emissions reduction pathways.	Ensures data-driven investment decisions; maximises funding opportunities.	Consultancy cost; return via optimised project funding bids.	N/A

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Sustainable Charging Solutions <i>(Planned)</i>	Exploring EV charging infrastructure for community and staff use.	Encourages low-emission travel; supports community sustainability.	Capital cost offset by usage fees or grants.	N/A
Contract Sustainability Reviews	Embedding environmental KPIs into procurement contracts.	Reduces waste and consumption; improves supplier accountability.	May require contract renegotiation ; potential cost savings.	N/A
Site Walks & Energy Reduction	Regular inspections to identify and implement quick efficiency wins.	Immediate savings; builds staff awareness.	Minimal cost; rapid payback.	1–3
Timed Boiler Usage	Introduction of localised heating schedules and controls.	Prevents unnecessary heating; reduces emissions.	Minimal cost; immediate savings in fuel usage.	2–3

*Projected savings pending project approval.