

Environmental Sustainability Strategy

Our Sustainability Commitments



Northern Star Academies Trust is a Trust Partnership with sustainability at its heart. We are acutely aware of the severe threats to our environment and climate, made even more significantly urgent to resolve as a result of the global pandemic. In facing such an existential crisis, we see our role as educators is to lead by example; to explicitly teach our children and young people how to live and learn in a sustainable way, and to actively listen to their concerns and to act upon them. In responsibly leading our Trust we are bringing a new level of ambition to our strategic plans for achieving environmental sustainability over the next five years.

Our intention is to model whole-system integrated sustainability in our daily actions – by reflecting, reviewing and redefining our priorities. In doing so, we strive to implement a compelling vision to deliver long-lasting change in how we educate our children and young people.

OUR HEADLINE COMMITMENTS ARE:

- Working towards making Northern Star Academies Trust a sustainable circular Multi-Academy Trust. To support this, and as a result of being inspired by the Ellen McArthur Foundation we wish to integrate the Circular Economy principles into the way we lead, manage and procure our whole organisation.
- Implement an innovative **Green Curriculum Promise** that supports our schools to educate by making explicit connections between the places our pupils live and their learning, including the natural and built environments and the resources that underpin and flow through their school.
- Introduce ambitious targets to **increase re-use, recycling and reduce landfill waste**
- **Remove single use plastic** from all our schools through sourcing and promoting reusable items where possible
- **Improve energy efficiency** of all school sites through greener energy supply and building efficiency
- Create more **'green learning spaces'** across our school estates for education, recreation and growing food.

To achieve these commitments and our wider actions, our Environmental Sustainability Strategy is structured around four pillars, each connected to our overarching NSAT Promise – they are Community, Curriculum, Environment and Innovation. The pillars act as a simple, organising principle for our schools to work towards Whole-Trust sustainability.

To ensure accountability and public reporting of our sustainability progress our Trust Governance model takes full account of how we will measure and evaluate the impact we are making.



CIRCULAR ECONOMY

A circular economy is about designing out waste and pollution, keeping products and materials in use, and regenerating natural systems.

Organisational Health

We will achieve organisational health through cohesive leadership and organisational clarity.

Our 4 delivery pillars:

COMMUNITY

Culture, Values,
Health and
Wellbeing



- Pupil Wellbeing
- Staff Wellbeing
- Leadership
- Professional and Personal development
- Transport and travel to schools

2021 ACTIONS:

- Align our organisational culture with a vision for sustainability
- Promote and develop our walking and cycling infrastructure
- Develop our involvement in community green spaces and woodland sites

CURRICULUM

Deliver a 'Green
Curriculum
Promise'



- Identify explicit opportunities both in the taught curriculum, extra-curricular and whole Trust curriculum to learn about environmental sustainability and the circular economy
- Facilitate professional development for teachers on the explicit teaching of sustainability

2021 ACTIONS:

- Evaluate NSAT school's curriculum model (PSHE, SMSC, Citizenship, SRE)
- Develop staff and pupil's knowledge of the circular economy

ENVIRONMENT

Physical Place/
Experience



- Estate (internal and external school environment)
- Food & Consumption
- Heat & Energy
- Utilities
- Waste
- Procurement

2021 ACTIONS:

- Undertake a forensic analysis of all the factors listed above
- Conduct an analysis of all the waste produced in our schools
- Analyse how we can secure energy efficiency of all NSAT sites through greener energy supply and building efficiency
- Create more 'green spaces' on school site – (build soil – composting sites/ areas for growing)
- Making more and better use of purchasing resources that are ethically sourced, renewable, recyclable or biodegradable
- Ensure all Member, Trustee and Local Governor meetings remain 'paperless' wherever possible



INNOVATION

Research and
incubation of
new ideas



- Mobilise the best evidence from research to inform our decision making
- Sponsor research studies which become articles in academic journals on sustainability in education

2021 ACTIONS:

- Primary schools Year of Waste Challenge
- Secondary Schools Biodiversity analysis
- Strategically plan for an Environmental Alternative Provision
- Annual report to school communities and stakeholders, setting out progress and actions to meet the Trust's sustainability targets as part of the NSAT Promise

