



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY & CARBON REDUCTION PLAN

Non-school Alternative Provision

Policy title	Environmental Sustainability Policy & Carbon Reduction Plan (Non-school Alternative Provision)
Applies to	All pupils, parents/carers and staff
Policy owner	Directors
Approved on	February 2026
Next Review	February 2027

Policy Statement

Applewood Learning Ltd recognises the environmental and climate responsibilities associated with delivering publicly funded services. We are committed to supporting the environmental objectives of Suffolk County Council and to aligning our operational practices with the principles set out within local authority procurement expectations relating to climate change, sustainability and carbon reduction.

We aim to minimise environmental impact, reduce greenhouse gas emissions where reasonably practicable and embed responsible environmental practice across service delivery and supply chain activity. This policy sets out our commitments to continual improvement and proportionate monitoring in line with the scale and nature of our operations.

Organisational Context

Applewood Learning Ltd provides alternative education provision delivered within community venues, schools, homes and through virtual platforms. The organisation does not operate fixed premises. Environmental impacts are therefore primarily associated with:

- Workforce travel
- Digital and energy usage
- Procurement of goods and services

Our approach reflects this operational profile and adopts proportionate measures consistent with small and medium supplier expectations.



Commitments

Applewood Learning Ltd will:

- Consider environmental impact in operational decision-making
- Support carbon reduction through practical and achievable actions
- Promote responsible resource use
- Encourage environmentally sustainable behaviours among staff
- Engage with environmentally responsible suppliers
- Monitor and review environmental performance on a regular basis
- Seek continuous improvement aligned with public sector expectations

Operational Controls

1 Digital and Energy Use

We will:

- Prioritise digital communication and delivery methods to reduce environmental impact
- Maintain low paper usage through cloud-based working
- Encourage energy-efficient device use by staff
- Use remote meetings as standard practice where appropriate

2 Travel Management

Recognising travel as the most significant impact area, we will:

- Encourage efficient scheduling and journey planning
- Support the use of public transport, walking, car sharing or low-emission vehicles
- Utilise virtual delivery where educationally appropriate
- Review travel patterns periodically to identify reduction opportunities

3 Sustainable Procurement

Applewood Learning Ltd will:

- Consider environmental credentials when selecting suppliers
- Work with partners who demonstrate responsible environmental practice where possible
- Reduce reliance on single-use materials
- Procure locally where practicable to reduce transport impact



4 Waste and Resource Management

We will:

- Minimise printing and material waste
- Reuse and recycle resources wherever feasible
- Ensure appropriate disposal of materials
- Encourage sustainable use of resources during provision delivery

Carbon Reduction Plan

1 Baseline Position

Due to the nature and scale of operations, Applewood Learning Ltd does not currently produce a quantified organisational carbon footprint. Emissions sources are limited and primarily indirect, relating to:

- Staff travel
- Digital working activities
- Procurement

We are committed to developing proportionate monitoring as organisational capacity and data availability increase.

2 Reduction Actions (2026–2029)

Travel Emissions

- Prioritise remote service delivery where appropriate
- Allocate staff geographically where practicable
- Encourage lower-carbon transport options

Digital Efficiency

- Promote energy-efficient technology use
- Encourage responsible digital storage and usage practices

Procurement

- Embed environmental consideration within purchasing decisions
- Reduce disposable materials
- Seek environmentally responsible suppliers



Monitoring Development

- Begin capturing indicative travel data where feasible
- Review simple carbon awareness tools appropriate to organisational scale
- Establish measurable targets as baseline data improves

Continuous Improvement

Applewood Learning Ltd will:

- Review environmental performance annually
- Update actions in response to contractual expectations
- Consider participation in recognised sustainability initiatives where appropriate
- Align organisational growth with environmental responsibility

Governance and Responsibilities

The Directors hold overall responsibility for implementation, monitoring and review of this policy and associated carbon reduction activities.

All staff, contractors and associates are expected to operate in accordance with its principles as part of professional practice.

Review and Approval

This document will be reviewed annually or sooner in response to:

- Legislative change
 - Contractual requirements
 - Organisational growth
 - Procurement authority expectations
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