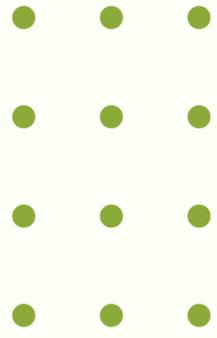




# SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

**Building Long-Term Value Through  
Responsible Education**





# INTRODUCTION

The Moorland Federation, a family of eight small rural schools across West Somerset and Exmoor, is committed to building a sustainable future for our children, communities and environment.



Our Sustainability Strategy establishes a coherent pathway towards achieving Net Zero by 2030, strengthening climate resilience, enhancing biodiversity, embedding climate education and ensuring our estates and operations are fit for the future.

This strategy sets out how sustainability will be embedded across governance, curriculum, estates, finance and community life. It supports strong partnerships where we can utilise external expertise from the Diocese and Includability experts to ensure we are maximising impact.

# SUSTAINABILITY

## VISION & MISSION

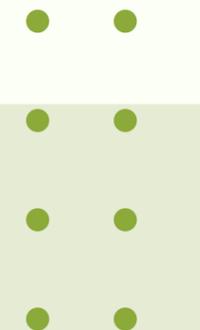
### VISION

To create greener, healthier and more resilient schools where children grow with a deep respect for the natural world, an understanding of sustainability, and the skills to thrive in a changing climate.

### MISSION

- To achieve Net Zero carbon operations by 2030 in alignment with Somerset Council and the Diocese of Bath & Wells
- To embed sustainability across curriculum, governance and community engagement.
- To model responsible stewardship of our rural environment.
- To ensure sustainability enhances wellbeing, belonging and opportunity for every child.

Rooted in our federation vision of *Growing Together, Learning for Life*, sustainability is not an add-on; it is integral to how we educate and lead.



# THE BUSINESS CASE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Climate change presents operational, financial and reputational risks to schools.

- Oversized or inefficient heating systems
- Dependence on oil heating
- Limited energy monitoring systems
- Rising energy costs and tariff volatility

A structured Net Zero pathway reduces exposure to:

- Escalating oil and electricity prices
- Future compliance pressures
- Building inefficiency and thermal discomfort
- Biodiversity loss across our rural sites

Data-led decision making (half-hourly electricity data, roof surveys, energy management systems) strengthens resilience



# THE BUSINESS CASE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Energy efficiency measures such as:

- LED upgrades
- Pipe insulation
- Smart hot water controls
- Improved loft insulation

Offer immediate cost savings and improved building performance.

Solar PV models and Power Purchase Agreement options present long-term financial benefits without significant upfront capital.

Sustainability is therefore both environmentally responsible and financially prudent.



**Cost Efficiency**

# THE BUSINESS CASE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

As rural schools deeply embedded within Exmoor communities, sustainability strengthens our identity.

Our pilot proposal identifies opportunities to:

- Develop farm and field to our plates education
- Utilise allotments, forest schools and local expertise
- Partner with farmers, wildlife trusts and community groups

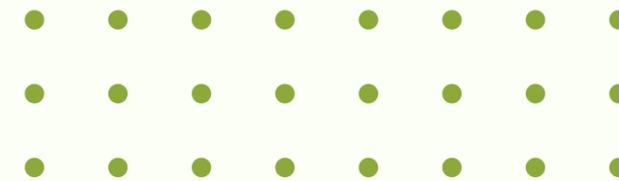
This enhances:

- Pupil engagement
- Community partnership
- Federation distinctiveness
- Funding opportunities (PSDS, Salix, Hinkley, community grants)

Sustainability becomes a strategic advantage in strengthening enrolment confidence and community trust.



# ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY



- Collection of half-hourly energy data across sites
- Use of Building Energy Management Systems where available
- LED lighting upgrades
- Insulation improvements
- Smart heating controls
- Behavioural energy awareness (staff checklists, pupil energy champions)



**Resource  
Efficiency**

# ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

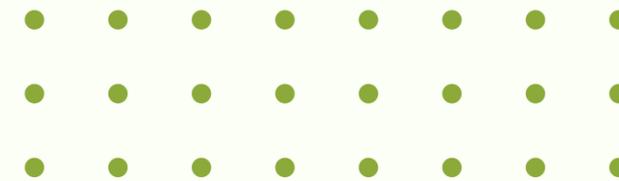


- Farm and field to our plates education initiatives
- Exploring food growing, composting and biodiversity integration
- Promotion of reduced hot water use and energy (turning off lights and electrical equipment such as computers)

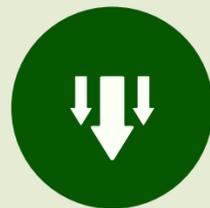


## Waste Management

# ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

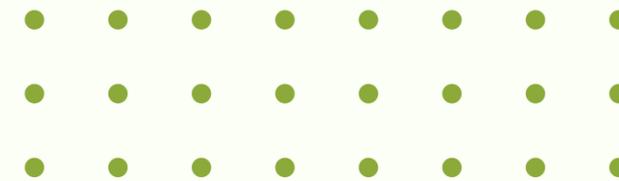


- Transition from oil to Air Source Heat Pumps (where feasible)
- Hybrid heating solutions where appropriate
- Solar PV expansion under diocesan partnership models
- Exploration of green electricity tariffs
- Alignment to Somerset Council Net Zero 2030 target



**Emissions  
Reduction**

# ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY



- Biodiversity audits with Somerset Wildlife Trust
- Development of Biodiversity and Outdoor Learning Plans
- Enhanced use of school land for ecological recovery
- Tree planting, wildflower areas and habitat creation
- Nurture, protect and develop our existing green areas



**Biodiversity &  
Nature**



# SOCIAL

# RESPONSIBILITY

## Employee Well-Being

Thermally comfortable, well-ventilated and well-maintained buildings improve working conditions and reduce stress.

Energy monitoring and improved heating efficiency directly support healthier indoor environments.

## Education & Green Skills

Sustainability is embedded across:

- Science
- Geography
- RSHE
- RE and Collective Worship

Eco Teams and cross-school Green Leaders Network build pupil agency and leadership.

This aligns with Somerset's Green Skills ambition and supports SMSC development.

## Inclusive Practices

The proposal highlights development of outdoor spaces supporting SEND regulation and belonging.

Sustainability is therefore not only environmental, but inclusive and wellbeing-driven.

## Community Engagement

Our pilot proposal emphasises:

- Partnerships with Woodland Trust, Exmoor National Park, the National Trust and Somerset Wildlife Trust
- Engagement with farmers, bee keepers and community experts
- Potential community energy models
- Hosting sustainability-focused events

Sustainability strengthens belonging and intergenerational learning.



# MEASURING SUSTAINABILITY PERFORMANCE

Performance will be tracked through:



## Environmental Metrics

- Annual carbon footprint reduction
- Energy consumption trends
- Renewable generation levels
- Biodiversity indicators



## Financial Metrics

- Energy cost savings
- Grant funding secured
- Payback projections on investments



## Educational & Social Indicators

- Eco Team participation
- Curriculum integration audits
- Attendance and wellbeing indicators (where appropriate)

Regular reporting to the Governing Board will ensure transparency and accountability.



# IMPLEMENTATION AND INTEGRATION



**Operational  
Integration**

- Updated Heat Decarbonisation Plans
- Data logging and environmental monitoring
- Smart controls and insulation upgrades
- Timetabling efficiencies and room usage review



# IMPLEMENTATION AND INTEGRATION

## ROLE:

## RESPONSIBILITY:

Vice Chair (Lead Governor)

Strategic oversight & reporting

Executive Headteacher

Operational leadership

Chief Operations Officer

Operational delivery

Diocese of Bath & Wells

Strategic partner

Somerset Council

Climate alignment partner



**Leadership  
Commitment**



Sustainability will form part of the annual governance review cycles.

# IMPLEMENTATION AND INTEGRATION



**Employee  
Engagement**

- Staff energy awareness initiatives
- Behaviour change campaigns
- Clear heating and end-of-day protocols
- Eco Champions and sustainability leads within schools

Change will be collaborative and data-informed.



# PARTNERSHIP COLLABORATION



**Diocese of  
Bath & Wells**

Strategic partnership for:

- Solar PPA models
- Heat decarbonisation funding
- Closed Schools Fund exploration
- Alignment to diocesan Climate Action Plan



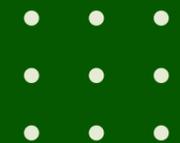
**Somerset  
Council**

- Alignment to 2030 Net Zero target
- Engagement with Climate Team
- PSDS and Salix coordination



**Includability**

- Training and awareness opportunities for stakeholders
- Collaboration with impact partners through community, such as B1G1
- UN Sustainable Development Goals strategy



# UN SUSTAINABILITY DEVELOPMENT GOALS

## ALIGNMENT

By recognising the importance of the UN SDGs within its Sustainability Strategy, the Moorland Federation strengthens its commitment to:

- Long-term environmental responsibility
- Financial resilience
- Educational excellence
- Inclusive and healthy communities
- Strong partnerships

This alignment positions the Federation not only as working toward Net Zero by 2030, but as contributing meaningfully to a global movement for sustainable development - rooted firmly in the landscape, values and communities of Exmoor.

Reinforcing that sustainability in schools is not only about buildings, it is about wellbeing, inclusion, education, stewardship and community strength.



**3** GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



## Good Health & Wellbeing

- Connected Strategy Areas:**
- Improved thermal comfort
  - Outdoor learning and biodiversity development
  - Healthy food education
  - SEND outdoor spaces

**Impact:**  
Healthier environments for staff and pupils, improved mental wellbeing, stronger sense of belonging.

**4** QUALITY EDUCATION



## Quality Education

- Connected Strategy Areas:**
- Climate education embedded
  - Eco Teams and Green Leaders
  - Integration of sustainability into SMSC and curriculum design

**Impact:**  
Children develop climate literacy, ecological understanding and green skills aligned with Somerset priorities.

**7** AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



## Affordable & Clean Energy

- Connected Strategy Areas:**
- Solar PV development and PPA exploration
  - Transition to Air Source Heat Pumps
  - Green energy tariffs
  - LED lighting upgrades and smart controls

**Impact:**  
Reduced carbon intensity, lower energy costs, increased renewable generation.

**11** SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



## Sustainable Communities

- Connected Strategy Areas:**
- Community energy discussions and diocesan partnerships
  - Engagement with farmers, parish councils and local wildlife groups
  - Hosting sustainability events and expanding site use

**Impact:**  
Stronger rural resilience and intergenerational sustainability leadership.

**12** RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



## Responsible Consumption & Production

- Connected Strategy Areas:**
- Energy monitoring
  - Behaviour change initiatives
  - Hot water usage reduction and insulation improvements
  - Food education and sustainable food systems

**Impact:**  
Reduced waste, smarter resource use and sustainable behaviour embedded into daily practice.

**13** CLIMATE ACTION



## Climate Action

- Connected Strategy Areas:**
- Commitment to Net Zero by 2030
  - Alignment with Somerset Council Climate Strategy
  - Heat Decarbonisation planning
  - Carbon monitoring and reduction targets

**Impact:**  
Structured, measurable reduction of emissions across all eight schools.

**15** LIFE ON LAND



## Life on Land

- Connected Strategy Areas:**
- Biodiversity audits
  - Tree planting and habitat restoration
  - Ecological learning zones and outdoor classrooms

**Impact:**  
Protection and restoration of local ecosystems across Exmoor school sites.

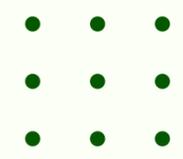
**17** PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



## Partnerships for Goals

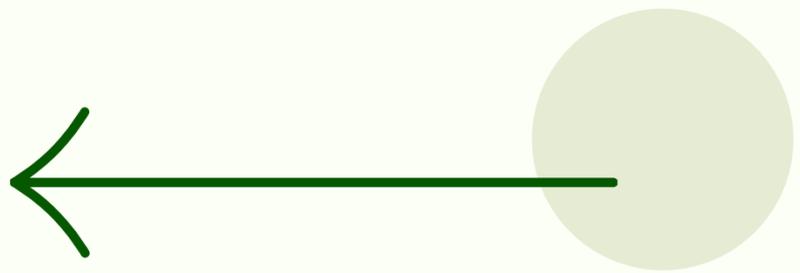
- Connected Strategy Areas:**
- Partnership with Diocese of Bath & Wells
  - Collaboration with Somerset Council
  - Includability Community
  - Exploration of community energy models

**Impact:**  
Collective leadership, shared expertise and scalable sustainability solutions for rural schools.



# SDG

# IMPACT



# CONCLUSION

The Moorland Federation Sustainability Strategy sets out a structured, realistic and ambitious pathway to Net Zero by 2030.

It recognises that sustainability is:

- A governance responsibility
- A financial necessity
- An environmental obligation
- An educational opportunity
- A community strength

By embedding sustainability across estates, curriculum, leadership and partnership, we are not only reducing carbon - we are shaping resilient, future-ready schools rooted in the landscape of Exmoor and committed to long-term stewardship.

Together, we are building small but mighty rural schools that lead with purpose, data, collaboration and hope.

