

The American School in London

Climate Action Plan 2025

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Responsible party	Director of Finance and Operations
Approved by	Buildings and Grounds Committee
Approval date	January 2026

Climate action plan mission: To build on ASL's existing sustainability and energy efficiency work to reduce environmental impact, strengthen climate resilience, and foster a school-wide culture of environmental stewardship that empowers our community to contribute to a more sustainable future.

1. Introduction

This Climate Action Plan sets out how The American School in London (ASL) will reduce its environmental impact, strengthen climate resilience, and embed environmental responsibility across campus operations, education, and community life. It responds to emerging national expectations for schools to have formal Climate Action Plans in place and supports the delivery of ASL's Sustainability Policy.

The Plan builds on ASL's established sustainability activity and on evidence from the ESOS Phase 3 Initial Energy Assessment, which identified seven priority opportunities with a potential reduction of approximately 280 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per year. Heating and

lighting were identified as the most significant sources of energy consumption, and these areas form a major focus of this Plan.

The Plan prioritises action across the following interconnected themes:

- Energy and buildings performance
- Sustainable operations (including waste, water, and food systems)
- Sustainable transport
- Climate resilience and environmental stewardship
- Curriculum integration, student leadership, and community engagement

Delivery of the Plan is overseen through ASL's sustainability governance arrangements, with annual review and reporting to support accountability and continuous improvement.

ASL has already made significant progress in improving energy efficiency, reducing waste, and engaging students and staff in sustainability initiatives. This Climate Action Plan builds on that foundation by providing a structured framework for prioritising actions, coordinating delivery, and strengthening monitoring over time.

2. Scope

This Climate Action Plan applies to all ASL-controlled sites and school-related operations, including the main campus and the School's separate sports and playing fields facilities. The Plan covers energy use, buildings, transport, water, waste, and sustainability activity associated with these sites, together with school-related travel and operational practices.

Where relevant, the Plan also considers the wider impacts of school activities, including contracted services and community engagement.

3. Governance and Leadership

The Board of Trustees holds ultimate responsibility for sustainability and climate-related matters. Oversight of this Plan is delegated to the Buildings & Grounds Committee.

Operational leadership is provided by the Director of Finance and Operations, supported by the Facilities Manager and the Sustainability Committee, a cross-functional group representing academic, operational, and community perspectives.

Governance arrangements include:

- strategic oversight by the Board of Trustees;
- monitoring and challenge through the Buildings & Grounds Committee;
- coordination and delivery oversight through the Sustainability Committee;
- designated champions for key thematic areas; and

- integration with operational practices, facilities and capital planning, financial strategy, risk management, and educational development.

Progress against the Climate Action Plan will be reviewed at least annually, with updates provided to the Buildings & Grounds Committee and, as appropriate, to the Board of Trustees.

4. Baseline and Evidence

This Plan is informed by ASL's ESOS Phase 3 Initial Energy Assessment, which provides an evidence-based understanding of energy use and carbon impact across the School's estate and operations.

The IEA identified heating (47.1% of kWh) and lighting (11.1% of kWh) as the most significant sources of energy consumption and highlighted a set of priority opportunities for improvement.

The tables below show the baseline and annual monitoring data from the schools' Streamlined Energy and Carbon Report:

	Emission Source	Units	Baseline	Last Year	Report Year
			19/20	22/23	23/24
Scope 1	Gaseous Fuel	Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	455.6	566.3	529.6
	Passenger Vehicles	Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	0.5	0.7	0.7
	Sub Total	Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	456.2	567.1	530.3
Scope 2	Grid Electricity	Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	461.1	427.2	453.0
	Sub Total	Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	461.1	427.2	453.0
Scope 3	Grey Fleet	Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Water supply	Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	6.2	2.4	2.7
	Water treatment	Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	12.7	4.4	3.1
	Sub Total	Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	18.8	6.9	5.8
TOTAL EMISSIONS		Emissions (tCO₂e)	936.1	1,001.1	989.1
Variance to baseline		%		6.9%	5.7%
Carbon Offsets & Green Tariffs Purchased		Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	0.0	414.1	438.9
TOTAL EMISSIONS WITH OFFSETTING		Emissions (tCO₂e)	936.1	587.0	550.3
Variance to baseline		%		-37.3%	-41.2%

	Emission Source	Units	Baseline	Last Year	Report Year
			19/20	22/23	23/24
Scope 1	Gaseous Fuel	Energy (kWh)	2,478,379	3,102,539	2,895,353
	Passenger Vehicles	Energy (kWh)	1,961	2,920	2,709
	Sub Total	Energy (kWh)	2,480,340	3,105,459	2,898,063
Scope 2	Grid Electricity	Energy (kWh)	1,803,963	2,209,086	2,187,796
	Sub Total	Energy (kWh)	1,803,963	2,209,086	2,187,796
Scope 3	Grey Fleet	Energy (kWh)	0	0	0
	Sub Total	Energy (kWh)	0	0	0
TOTAL ENERGY		Energy (kWh)	4,284,303	5,314,545	5,085,859
Variance to baseline		%		24.0%	18.7%

Note: The School's baseline year coincided with the Covid-19 pandemic and reflects an atypical period of campus operation. Energy consumption and emissions in the baseline year may therefore not be representative of normal operating conditions. This context will be taken into account when interpreting trends and reviewing future performance.

The Plan will continue to draw on:

- ESOS assessments and supporting technical studies;
- energy, water, and waste management information;
- operational reviews; and
- evolving best practice guidance.

5. Strategic Themes and Priority Actions

5.1 Energy and Buildings Performance

ASL has established a strong foundation of energy management and infrastructure improvement, supported by formal technical assessment. This Climate Action Plan builds on that foundation by prioritising delivery of high-impact projects, strengthening energy management practices, and embedding energy and carbon performance more explicitly into long-term estates planning.

Current Foundation

- Completion of the ESOS Phase 3 Initial Energy Assessment (IEA), identifying seven priority opportunities with a potential reduction of approximately 280.3 tonnes of CO₂e per year.
- Detailed analysis showing the most significant uses of energy are:
 - Heating (47.1% of kWh)
 - Lighting (11.1% of kWh)
- An established programme of infrastructure improvements, including:
 - Replacement of fluorescent lighting with LED across campus,
 - replacement of end-of-life air management systems with more efficient systems,
 - installation of electricity-generating solar panels at Canons Park,

- installation of a swimming pool cover, and
- procurement of 100% renewable electricity for the Waverley campus.
- Energy monitoring systems and ESOS documentation in place to support oversight and reporting.

Focus of this Plan

Over the life of this Plan, ASL will focus on moving from assessment to delivery and optimisation by prioritising and implementing the ESOS Phase 3 opportunities, including:

- AHU upgrades (fans and heat recovery)
 - potential saving of 1,180,171 kWh and 217.4 tCO₂e per year
- Energy management and awareness initiatives
 - potential saving of 110,331 kWh and 21.5 tCO₂e per year
- Sub-metering and improved data capture
 - potential saving of 74,717 kWh and 14.4 tCO₂e per year
- Installation of additional solar PV
 - potential saving of 59,452 kWh and 12.3 tCO₂e per year
- Swimming pool cover
 - potential saving of 49,864 kWh and 9.7 tCO₂e per year
- Upgrade of LTHW pumps
 - potential saving of 16,555 kWh and 3.4 tCO₂e per year
- Back-of-house lighting upgrades to LED
 - potential saving of 7,398 kWh and 1.5 tCO₂e per year

In addition, ASL will focus on:

- strengthening energy monitoring and management capability;
- integrating energy and carbon performance more explicitly into capital planning, refurbishment programmes, and asset replacement cycles; and
- using improved data to inform future decarbonisation planning and investment priorities.

This approach aims to achieve measurable reductions in energy use and carbon emissions, while supporting long-term estate resilience and performance.

5.2 Sustainable Operations and Resource Stewardship

ASL has established a strong operational foundation in waste management, water conservation, and sustainable service delivery. This Climate Action Plan builds on that foundation by shifting focus from implementation to continuous improvement, data-informed decision-making, and waste prevention.

Current foundation

- Well-signed recycling stations for paper, plastics, and batteries are available across campus.

- Food waste is collected and converted into biofuel and compost.
- The School's catering provider operates sustainability standards aimed at reducing single-use plastics and packaging and undertakes sustainability audits.
- Water-efficient toilet flush systems and taps have been installed in refurbished washrooms.
- Planned preventative maintenance includes routine plumbing inspections, supported by a leak detection system on the main incoming supply.
- Monthly water meter readings are taken and monitored.
- Hydration stations record numbers of plastic bottles avoided each year.

Focus of this Plan

Over the life of this Plan, ASL will focus on strengthening the effectiveness, visibility, and impact of sustainable operations by:

- improving the quality and consistency of waste segregation and recycling practices;
- Improving the measurement of food waste to serve as a basis for targeted action to reduce waste;
- progressively integrating sustainability considerations into procurement and supplier management.

This approach is intended to move beyond system provision toward measurable improvement and behaviour change.

5.3 Sustainable Transport and Travel

ASL recognises that school-related and business travel contributes to environmental impact. The School has established structured transport arrangements and operational guidance to support more sustainable travel choices. This Climate Action Plan builds on that foundation by strengthening efficiency, reducing emissions, and improving understanding of transport impacts.

Current foundation

- Operation of a shared school bus service to reduce individual vehicle journeys.
- Regular review and refinement of routes, scheduling, and occupancy.
- Introduction of communal stops to better serve students outside designated busing areas.
- Consolidation of routes where siblings attend different divisions to reduce duplicate journeys.
- Engagement with transport providers, including one operator running a zero-emission fleet.
- Operational practices addressing the complexity created by multiple daily departure times, which can result in separate journeys for siblings.
- Operational guidance promoting:
 - virtual meetings where appropriate,

- public transport,
- active travel, and
- responsible business travel choices.

Focus of this Plan

Under this Plan, ASL will focus on:

- continuing to improve the efficiency and utilisation of the School bus programme;
- increasing the proportion of low- and zero-emission vehicles serving the School over time;
- progressively improving understanding of emissions associated with school-related and business travel to inform future priorities, partnerships, and policy development.

These actions aim to reduce transport and travel-related emissions while maintaining safe, accessible, and reliable travel arrangements.

5.4 Climate Resilience and Environmental Stewardship

ASL recognises that sustainability extends beyond emissions reduction to include climate resilience, environmental protection, and long-term stewardship of the campus. This Climate Action Plan introduces a more explicit and coordinated focus on climate risk, adaptation, and environmental enhancement.

Current foundation

- Ongoing estates maintenance, renewal, and asset replacement programmes that address building condition, performance, and reliability.
- Consideration of environmental performance within capital projects and refurbishment works.
- Established green spaces across campus that contribute to wellbeing and environmental quality.

Focus of this Plan

Over the life of this Plan, ASL will strengthen its approach to resilience and stewardship by:

- incorporating climate-related risks such as overheating, drainage, and extreme weather more explicitly into estates planning and capital decision-making;
- identifying opportunities to enhance green spaces, biodiversity, and outdoor learning environments;
- aligning future development projects with long-term environmental performance and resilience objectives.

This will support the School's preparedness for evolving environmental conditions and long-term operational resilience.

5.5 Curriculum Integration, Student Leadership, and Engagement

Sustainability and climate awareness are integral to ASL's educational mission. The School has established a strong culture of student engagement and cross-curricular activity. This Climate Action Plan builds on that foundation by strengthening coordination, visibility, and the connection between operational sustainability and learning.

Current foundation

- A student-led Sustainability Council meets throughout the school year
- Faculty integrate sustainability themes into existing subject areas, including the use of environmental and energy topics in science, mathematics, and social studies.
- Students are supported to lead their own sustainability and environmental projects.
- Sustainability initiatives are promoted across the School community through events, campaigns, and projects.

Focus of this Plan

Under this Plan, ASL will seek to strengthen the educational impact of sustainability activity by:

- increasing coordination and visibility of sustainability learning across divisions;
- expanding the use of campus operational data as learning resources where appropriate;
- strengthening links between student initiatives, operational priorities, and community engagement;

These actions aim to integrate sustainability more deeply into the culture, curriculum, and daily life of the School.

5.6 Communication, Monitoring and Reporting

ASL already communicates sustainability activity and energy performance to the School community. This Climate Action Plan builds on that practice by progressively strengthening the consistency, coordination, and strategic use of information.

Current foundation

- An established [energy and sustainability dashboard](#) available to the community.
- Monthly reports shared through bulletin boards and screens around the School.
- A Streamlined Energy and Carbon Report supporting baseline understanding and review.
- Sustainability initiatives and updates shared through School communications.
- Oversight of sustainability activity through the Sustainability Committee.

Focus of this Plan

Under this Plan, ASL will focus on:

- strengthening the use of data and management information to support operational and strategic decision-making;
- supporting structured annual review of progress against the Climate Action Plan;
- developing clearer internal reporting to governance committees;

This will support accountability, continuous improvement, and the ongoing development of monitoring capability.

6. Implementation and Development

The Climate Action Plan provides a strategic framework for coordinated delivery. Detailed implementation planning, prioritisation, and resourcing will be progressed through the Sustainability Committee and relevant operational teams.

As ASL's monitoring capability develops, the Plan will be supported by progressively clearer:

- action plans and milestones;
- performance indicators;
- and reporting arrangements.

This staged approach is intended to ensure credibility, practicality, and continuous improvement.

7. Monitoring, Review, and Reporting

ASL is committed to strengthening its approach to monitoring and evaluation over time.

The Climate Action Plan will be reviewed annually to:

- assess progress against priority actions;
- identify emerging risks and opportunities;
- refine priorities and future initiatives; and
- support reporting to governance bodies.

Updates will be provided periodically to the Buildings & Grounds Committee, with an annual summary report informing Board oversight and wider sustainability reporting.

8. Continuous Improvement

This Climate Action Plan is a living document. It will evolve in response to:

- improvements in data quality and monitoring capability;
- progress against ESOS recommendations;
- regulatory and best-practice developments;
- technological change; and
- the aspirations of the ASL community.

Through this process, ASL aims to steadily strengthen its environmental performance, climate resilience, and sustainability culture.