



Quick Guide 4: Driving Environmental and Financial Savings with Wastebuster

This guide is suitable for Sustainability Leads, Headteachers, Premises Managers, Finance Officers and other SLT staff in all state-funded primary and secondary schools in West Sussex.

Purpose

This guide offers practical advice on how the Wastebuster programme can help schools achieve significant cost savings and access free resources and rewards by using the Wastebuster campaigns and linked services to recycle more, reduce waste production, and reduce energy and water consumption.

As well as helping schools make direct savings on their waste and energy services, the programme provides opportunities to access additional resources (e.g. free books/ book vouchers, education materials and more) by participating in school collection services for recyclables brought into school or for promoting community services linked to schools' campaigns.

The programme also supports schools in meeting their obligations under the new DfE sustainability strategy. Helping schools plan, deliver and assess impact on support of their school's Climate Action Plans, required from 2025.

Please note that signposting to additional support for schools seeking to make strategic investments in building and other infrastructure development is provided, but is not a core focus at this time.

Key Benefits

- **Cost Reduction:** Decrease spending on energy, water, and waste disposal.
- **Student Engagement:** Over 1,000 curriculum-aligned resources inspire pupils to take part in missions that help drive efficiencies.
- **Access to Rewards:** such as free books, book credit vouchers and book supply discounts (for schools and families) and more when participating in Wastebuster campaigns and services.
- **Environmental Impact:** Lower your school's carbon footprint, measurable improvements and contributions to environmental performance (e.g. energy, waste, water, biodiversity), enhance and demonstrate your sustainability practices and commitment.
- **Strategic Support:** Access tools and resources designed to align with DfE sustainability and Ofsted financial efficiency policy. Access to dedicated schools support for West Sussex Council maintained schools, including in person assembly visits.

Quick Start Steps

- **Plan your sustainability journey** – Use the [Climate Action Planner](#) to set goals and track your impact. Check the [Year Planner](#) for key campaigns and activities.
- **Choose your missions/ challenge**
 - **All Schools:** Participate in [Wastebuster Campaigns \(on the POD\)](#). Some are suitable for all schools, while others are targeted at primary.
 - **Primary schools:** Join the [Planet Protector Challenge](#) (PPC) – complete missions, earn awards, and benchmark progress with other WSCC schools.
 - **Secondary schools:** Access Wastebuster's extensive resource library.
- **Assess your starting point** – Conduct a baseline assessment using Wastebuster's tracking tools to measure impact and savings across energy, water, waste and more.
- **Take action** – Implement waste and energy reduction strategies using curriculum-aligned resources. Engage your school community in Wastebuster campaigns and services to support change and resulting savings and benefits.

- **Track progress & celebrate success** – Use your Wastebuster Account to review performance, adjust plans to optimise cost savings, and share achievements to inspire continued action.

Core Features and Tools

- **Climate Action Planning framework** for creating and monitoring tailored school sustainability strategies.
- **Tracking and Reporting Tools:** Monitor energy, water, and waste savings to measure environmental and financial performance via your school account.
- **Resource Management Tips:** Practical guides on improving resource efficiency.
- **Case Studies:** Success stories from schools that achieved measurable savings and environmental improvements – sharing knowledge and recognising achievements.
- **Access Dedicated West Sussex Schools support:** from Wastebuster, West Sussex County Council officers and service partners.
- Wastebuster connects schools with other companies, community groups, and national campaigns, providing a cohesive approach to sustainability education and resource efficiency.

Best Practices and Tips

- Engage premises and finance teams to collaborate on sustainability initiatives and campaigns.
- Use data-driven insights to support budget planning, procurement and resource allocation.
- Engage and empower student eco-teams to lead activities/change to create savings via Wastebuster Campaigns, or use the Wastebuster resource library to support your own initiatives.
- Use the programme to support your Climate Action Strategy in alignment with DfE policy.
- Use tracking reports to showcase achievements during Ofsted inspections and celebrate success with the school community.

Measuring Success

- Track success on key metrics such as energy consumption, water usage, waste reduction and recycling service results and rewards, via your Wastebuster school account dashboard and celebrate success with your pupils.
- Report achievements to stakeholders, demonstrating compliance with DfE climate goals and Ofsted efficiency criteria.
- Track your school's environmental savings and achievements using Wastebuster's tools and reports.
- Your school data also contributes to the collective WSCC schools 'Achievement' tracker on the West Sussex Wastebuster Homepage – your school community can take pride in helping create large scale change with other local schools.

FAQs

- **How do I register my school?** As a state-funded school in West Sussex, you automatically have a free account with Wastebuster. For a password reminder, please contact us at info@wastebuster.co.uk.

- ***What resources are available to support our Climate Action Plan?*** Our ready-to-use **Climate Action Plan framework**, helps schools plan, track, report, and reduce environmental impact in line with DfE strategy.
- ***How can we align our sustainability efforts with Ofsted and DfE strategy?*** Wastebuster enables your school to embed sustainability in the curriculum, track impact with a Climate Action Plan, and engage in initiatives that support DfE and Ofsted priorities on leadership, personal development, and environmental responsibility.
- ***Is training available to use the Wastebuster Account and programme?*** Yes, Wastebuster offer a range of training opportunities for staff and will also deliver assemblies and student sessions to support student engagement.

Additional Support and Contact Information

- Contact us: info@wastebuster.co.uk
- Website: wastebuster.co.uk/west-sussex