

# What is a **Sustainability governor?**

The sustainability governor role includes all the usual responsibilities of a governor, with the added focus of providing strategic leadership to the school or trust on climate action, sustainability and preparing pupils for green careers. We have matched you with a volunteer who would like to work with you to champion climate action at a strategic level.

## Why are **Sustainability governors** needed?

The Department for Education recommends that every school has a Climate Action Plan and a Sustainability Lead in place by the end of 2025.

Schools should also be preparing to have net zero carbon emissions by 2030. Currently, schools in England are estimated to emit around 9.4 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) per year.

Schools may lack in-house expertise to meet their sustainability obligations. A Sustainability Governor can provide support and signpost to additional resources.

The UK economy will increasingly need "green skills" as it transitions towards a sustainable and low-carbon future; industry links can increase the knowledge of school staff about jobs of the future and widen the aspirations of pupils.

Reducing emissions across schools estates needs prioritisation and strategic oversight, including managing tight budgets, monitoring stakeholder engagement and holding leadership to account - all key roles of a governor

## What will a **Sustainability governor** do?

- ✓ Support school Senior Leadership to improve their understanding of sustainability, and their obligations.
- ✓ Make sure sustainability is embedded in the school's long term strategy
- ✓ Ensure both the school leaders and the governing board are involved in the development and monitoring of the climate action plan, supporting the school's Sustainability Lead to deliver a plan that is effective and in line with strategic priorities.
- ✓ Support school Senior Leadership to embed climate action into the ethos of the school, including effective engagement of all stakeholders.

## What support is there?

Your board are welcome to join the Sustainability Governor Network on LinkedIn by visiting [bit.ly/SustainabilityGovernorNetwork](https://bit.ly/SustainabilityGovernorNetwork)

The network provides essential guidance, resources, and collaboration opportunities to help school governors drive environmental action at a strategic level. It is open to all those involved in school governance.