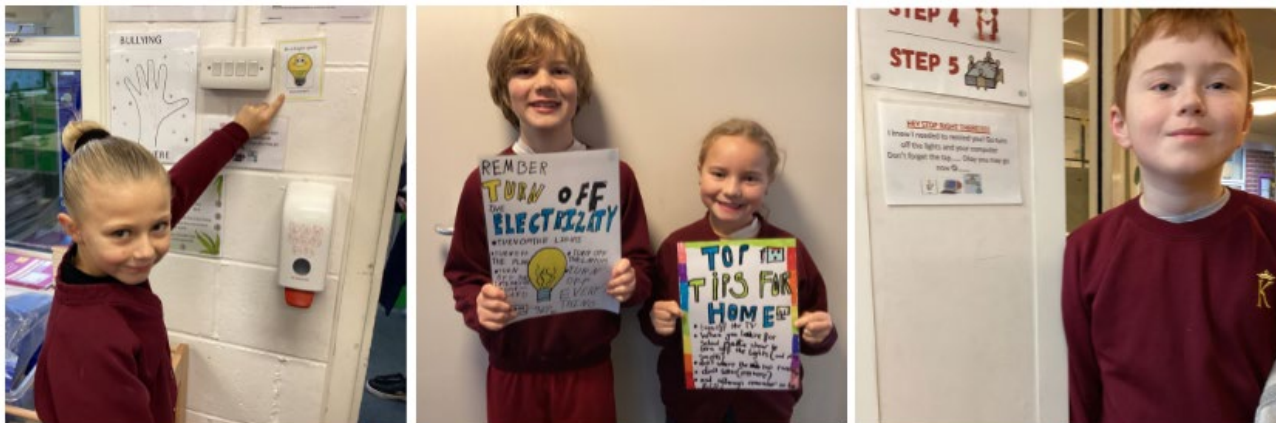




Top tips for climate action from Kingsham Primary School

Kingsham Primary School's climate action journey with the West Sussex Wastebusters Programme

By Katy Newnham, Director (Wastebusters)



Kingsham Primary School has excelled in the [West Sussex Wastebusters Programme](#) and Planet Protector Challenge, earning the Ambassador Award for their outstanding efforts. Here are their top tips for schools looking to achieve success in climate action and sustainability:

1. Start small – let it grow naturally

- You don't need to do everything at once. Begin with one or two manageable projects and build from there.
- Children's enthusiasm will drive initiatives forward – listen to their ideas and let them take ownership.

2. Involve the whole school community

- Encourage everyone to participate, from staff and pupils to parents and local businesses.
- Set up a recycling station at the front of the school so families can contribute.
- Use school communications like newsletters, blogs, or social media to spread awareness.

3. Empower pupils – let them lead the way

- Form a student-led eco-team (ours is called the Green Gang) to steer sustainability efforts and lead projects. Ideally 2 pupils per class.
- Allow children to choose their roles – some may prefer public speaking, while others might excel in creative tasks like making posters.
- Let pupils vote for eco-leaders – at Kingsham, older children give speeches, or picture drawing or any reason they would like to join, to apply for roles in the Green Gang.

4. Embed sustainability into school culture

- Reinforce sustainable habits in daily routines – for example, Kingsham pupils take turns monitoring energy use in classrooms.
- Use visual reminders, such as posters and stickers to encourage responsible actions (e.g: "Switch Off!" for lights and appliances).

- Get pupils involved in hands-on learning – Kingsham has an allotment, where students grow their own food using collected rainwater.

5. Use Wastebusters' Eco-Savings Account to track impact

- Monitor energy, waste, and water savings automatically with the Eco-Savings Account in the Wastebusters platform.
- Use the tracking tool to show pupils and staff the real-world impact of their actions, keeping motivation high.

6. Make sustainability fun and rewarding

- Host toy swaps, tombolas, and upcycling activities to raise funds and promote reuse.
- Use incentives like book vouchers, recycling rewards, and certificates to encourage participation.
- Kingsham doubled their recycling rewards (£230) by reaching Ambassador School status!

7. Connect to other school priorities and curriculum

- Link Planet Protector Challenge missions with Eco-Schools, Living Streets travel schemes, and other sustainability initiatives.
- Tie sustainability to the core curriculum – for example, using maths to calculate energy savings or English to write persuasive eco-campaigns.

8. Take advantage of free resources and support

- Use the Climate Action Planning Tool to automate and tailor your school's sustainability plan.
- Get free signage, posters, and stickers from the Planet Protector Challenge pack.
- Invite West Sussex County Council/Wastebusters to deliver a 'Recycle It Right' assembly – Kingsham's pupils found it incredibly engaging! Contact info@wastebuster.co.uk to book your assembly today!
- Lesson plans and free resources available from Wastebusters.

9. Celebrate success and keep momentum going

- Track achievements using the Planet Protector Leaderboard to encourage friendly competition.
- Regularly highlight successes – share updates in school assemblies, newsletters, and online.
- Keep it fresh by introducing new challenges, like Kingsham's recent focus on biodiversity and sustainable transport.

10. Adapt and find creative workarounds

- Not every idea will be feasible, but modifying and scaling projects is always possible.
- Kingsham adapted their apple surplus by making pies instead of pressing juice, reducing waste and raising money.
- If a project seems too ambitious, start small and see how it can evolve over time.

For more information on how your school can get involved and take climate action, email info@wastebuster.co.uk or visit the [Wastebusters website](#).