



Climate Action Plan

Together We Can

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1.0	Julie Woodley, Head of Operations	23.5.25	New action plan

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Introduction

The Department for Education “Sustainability and climate change: a strategy for the education and children’s services systems” has set their vision for the United Kingdom to be the world-leading education sector in sustainability and climate change by 2030.

They have stated that in England, they will achieve this through the following strategic aims:

1. Excellence in education and skills for a changing world: preparing all young people for a world impacted by climate change through learning and practical experience.
2. Net zero: reducing direct and indirect emissions from education and care buildings, driving innovation to meet legislative targets and providing opportunities for children and young people to engage practically in the transition to net zero.
3. Resilience to climate change: adapting our education and care buildings and system to prepare for the effects of climate change.
4. A better environment for future generations: enhancing biodiversity, improving air quality and increasing access to, and connection with, nature in and around education and care settings.

We share this vision and in line with the Trust strategic plan we have produced a climate action plan to ensure we deliver on these aims. This plan is our starting point and shares the amazing work that our schools are already doing along with actions that we will take to develop a longer-term strategy.

We have appointed a sustainability lead in our trust who works with staff in our schools.

What our schools are already doing

Decarbonisation

- We track our utility usage at each school and have identified some areas where we can reduce usage
- We have installed LED lights in some areas of our schools
- We have installed solar panels at two of our schools
- We have installed an air source heat pump at one of our schools
- We have moved to a “zero carbon for business” energy supply from April 2025

Biodiversity

- We have received free trees and hedges which we have planted with students
- We have planted wildflower areas
- We have re-wilded some areas of our grounds
- We have ponds in our school grounds
- We have created log and turf piles for solitary bees and other insects

Climate education and green careers

- We have forest schools in all our primary schools
- We have student led eco groups in our schools
- We have gardening clubs at some of our schools

Resilience and adaptation

- Our schools relax their uniform policy in times of hot weather
- Along with tree planting we have also installed canopies to increase the shade provided in some of our schools

Active and sustainable travel

- We provide safe, dry bike storage in our schools
- We have travel plans in some of our schools
- We have a staff cycle to work scheme
- Some of our schools provide cycling proficiency
- We have participated in walk to school schemes

Air quality

- We restrict traffic onto school sites at beginning and end of school day

Waste, consumption and recycling

- We purchase recycled paper across our school for use in our printers and photocopiers
- We recycle paper, cardboard, batteries printer cartridges, pens and food waste
- Some of our schools compost waste for the school garden
- We have inform recycling schemes
- One of our schools has signed up to Rethink Waste and has been awarded funding for school eco-project

Food

- Some of our catering providers have signed up with “Olio” food donation scheme
- We work with various caterers across our schools who all have sustainability practices in place with a commitment to source locally and reduce food waste.

Action plan goal: decarbonisation

<i>Action</i>	<i>Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>Tools, resources and information</i>
Understand our schools carbon footprint by identifying where our emissions come from.	Provide data from toolkits and share with Eco leads in schools	1-6 months	Head of Operations, SBM's, Operations Manager, Ops Lead, Premises Managers	Count Your Carbon - Eco Schools (eco-schools.org.uk)
Understand our estate	Audit our current heating systems across our schools	3 months	Head of Operations, SBM's, Operations Manager, Ops Lead, Premises Managers	
Check efficiency of heating system	<p>Check that our building/s management and heating systems are running efficiently and correctly.</p> <p>Explore options for training if needed.</p>	4-6 months	Head of Operations, SBM's, Operations Manager, Ops Lead, Premises Managers	Zero Carbon Action Builder — Retrofit Action for Tomorrow Energy efficiency: guidance for the school and further education college estate - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Continue to reduce carbon emissions in our buildings by changing the light bulbs to LED bulbs in each school building.	Undertake audit of the current situation and develop options to replace lightbulbs.	3 months	Site Staff, Sustainability Lead	
Create a decarbonisation plan for the school that includes its heating systems and considers renewables and air source heat pumps	Collaborate with Diocese to obtain knowledge, resources and explore funding opportunities	6 – 12 months	Trust Head of Operations, Operations Manager	Climate Action Decarbonisation Plan Guide. Public Sector Low Carbon Skills Fund - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
Active “lights off” campaign,	Led by students but holding all adults students to account	3-6 months	Eco Leads	

Action plan goal: biodiversity

<i>Action</i>	<i>Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>Tools, resources and information</i>
<p>Increase biodiversity on school property by continuing tree planting.</p>	<p>Select an area of school ground suitable for tree planting.</p> <p>Check approvals landowners</p> <p>Plant more trees on school grounds.</p> <p>Educate staff and students on their maintenance.</p>	<p>6-10 months (tree planting Nov & March)</p>	<p>Eco Leads, Pupils</p>	<p>Trees for Schools Trees for Cities</p>
<p>Continue to increase biodiversity on school property by rewilding areas of school's grounds where available</p>	<p>Select an area of school ground suitable for rewilding.</p> <p>Decide what type of rewilding (wildflower field, pond, insect hotels etc.).</p> <p>Buy native plants, stop using chemicals/pesticides.</p> <p>Let the area grow.</p>	<p>1 month – 1 year (depending on complexity of project)</p>	<p>Eco Leads, Pupils</p>	<p>Operation Future Hope</p> <p>Seven simple ways to create a wildlife-friendly garden Natural History Museum (nhm.ac.uk)</p> <p>How to make your garden wilder Rewilding Britain</p>

	Educate staff and students on their maintenance.			
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Sunflowers at St Andrew's School

Action plan goal: climate education and green careers

<i>Action</i>	<i>Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>Tools, resources and information</i>
<p>Share with staff and pupils what climate change action we are taking by promoting successes and achievements.</p>	<p>Assemblies, newsletters.</p> <p>Get students involved e.g. with planting or maintaining.</p> <p>Bulletins in staff area on teams</p>	<p>1 month</p>	<p>Eco leads, SLT</p> <p>Sustainability Lead</p>	
<p>Embed sustainability and climate education in the wider curriculum by incorporating it in more lessons.</p>	<p>Get lead staff on board early.</p> <p>Use resources with information on how to embed.</p> <p>Embed climate change in other lessons.</p> <p>Review impact.</p>	<p>4- 12 months</p>	<p>Eco leads, SLT</p>	<p>Teaching for Sustainable Futures</p> <p>Brighton and Hove's Our City Our World tool</p> <p>Teach the Future website</p>

Action plan goal: resilience and adaptation.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>Tools, resources and information</i>
Reduce reliance on mains water for watering saplings and gardens	Install water butts	3-6 months	Eco leads, SLT, Premises Managers	Conserving water / RHS Campaign for School Gardening
More trees/greenery in concreted areas to increase cooling effect and provide shade	See action for tree planting in biodiversity. Research environments and potential for planting.			

Action plan goal: active and sustainable travel

<i>Action</i>	<i>Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>Tools, resources and information</i>
Encourage active travel by providing cycle skills for students	Organise external cycle skills lessons for students to improve their skills and safety on their bikes in schools where this is currently not offered	3-6 months	Eco leads, SLT	Funding and Delivery - About Us Bikeability
Encourage active travel by joining walk to school schemes	Participate in schemes such as “Golden Boot” and “Street Living”	3-6 months	Eco leads, SLT	

Action plan goal: air quality

<i>Action</i>	<i>Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>Tools, resources and information</i>
<p>Create a clean air zone around schools by implementing 'active' solutions (encouraging parents / carers to always switch off engines outside school, consider parents parking elsewhere and walking) to reduce pollution levels in and around school premises.</p>	<p>Share concerns to parents in newsletter</p> <p>Pupil/Student designed posters</p>	<p>6 – 12 months</p>	<p>Eco leads, SLT</p>	<p>https://www.transform-our-world.org/files/clean_air_schools_toolkit_primary.zip</p> <p>https://www.transform-our-world.org/files/clean_air_schools_toolkit_secondary.zip</p>

Action plan goal: waste, consumption and recycling

<i>Action</i>	<i>Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>Tools, resources and information</i>
Carry out audit of single-use plastics in school canteen.		4 months	Eco leads	How To Reduce Plastic at the School Canteen - Plastic Free July
Reduce waste by banning single use plastic water bottles.	Ensure access to fresh drinking water (drinking fountains) for refills.	6-12 months	HT's, Eco Leads, SBM's Ops Lead	
Increase recycling by improving recycling facilities in the school.	Ensure that all classrooms have a recycling bin.	3 months	Eco leads, Ops Lead, site staff	

Action plan goal: food

<i>Action</i>	<i>Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>Tools, resources and information</i>
<p>Promote plants and reduce meat consumption by having a plant-power day.</p>	<p>Have a plant-power or meat free day in the canteen.</p> <p>Review our caterers on proveg.org uk website</p>	<p>3-6 months</p>	<p>Eco leads, SBM's Ops Lead Caterers</p>	<p>Meat free Mondays guide for educators</p> <p>ProVeg UK launches Contract Caterer Ranking - ProVeg UK</p>
<p>Include further schools to reduce the amount of food waste and support struggling families in our communities</p>	<p>Increase use of Olio Food Waste and work with our suppliers to introduce app or alternative to sharing surplus food</p>	<p>6-12 months</p>	<p>HT's, Sustainability Lead, Caterers</p>	<p>Olio food waste app</p>

Wildflower meadow at Esher High School

