

Climate Action Plans - Actions List

This document contains a list of possible actions to add to your climate action plan, categorised into each key pillar of action from the DfE's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy.

Use this list to identify actions you may wish to include in your setting's plan, or simply to help inspire your setting and imagine what is possible!

Sustainability Support for Education can help you to explore the actions listed here. It is a place for all educational settings to build their climate action plans and do it:

- Quickly: easy to navigate for time poor staff
- Easily: one stop shop, covering all the pillars of action
- Well: the highest quality resources, checked by experts



[Visit the site](#), create a profile, save actions to lists and support your climate action planning journey!

Key pillar: Decarbonisation

Actions for decarbonisation include:

- **Calculate your carbon footprint with the [Count Your Carbon tool](#) to set some baselines and understand your current situation**
- If possible, switch to a renewable energy tariff (or [explore the idea](#))
- Conduct a [travel survey](#) for staff and students (this could be student-led!)
- Incentivise use of public transport, lift-sharing and active travel by running a travel campaign
- Create a 'walking bus' scheme
- Consider a cycle hire scheme for staff and students
- Create a 'no idling' policy within a certain radius of your setting to ensure better air quality and reduced emissions
- Take part in the [National Switch Off Fortnight 2025](#)
- Consider installing solar panels on your roof with Solar for School's [paneliser tool](#)
- Install LED lighting in all buildings/rooms by 2030
- Conduct a [waste audit](#)
- Encourage second-hand use of uniforms/clothes - could you set up a 'uniform swap shop'?
- [Swap unwanted school resources](#) for free rather than send them to landfill
- Complete a [food and catering audit](#)
- Review your menu with [ProVeg UK](#)
- Train staff (including Leadership and Governance) to be carbon literate via [Carbon Literacy Training](#) - Climate Ambassadors can support this
- Understand [how to choose contractors and suppliers](#)
- Purchase sustainably sourced/recycled resources, e.g. paper
- Manage your waste well - look at recycling and compost in particular

More actions on [ENERGY](#)

More actions on [TRAVEL](#)

More actions on [WASTE](#)

More actions on [FOOD](#)

More actions on
[PROCUREMENT](#)

Key pillar: Adaptation and Resilience

Actions for adaptation and resilience include:

- Complete a [climate risk assessment](#) to understand how susceptible your estate is to climate change
- Identify your flood risk using [Climate Just](#) (online tool)
- Train staff on [hot weather guidance](#) from the DfE
- Complete a [water audit](#) to understand your water use and establish a baseline
- Install rainwater harvesting (e.g. water butts or planters) to conserve water elsewhere in site and reduce flood risk
- Maintain your gutters by clearing them regularly
- Designate areas of your site to develop areas of shade or [green infrastructure](#) for both buildings and staff/learners.
- Ensure that any new estate developments/grounds work includes permeable surfaces
- [Request a Climate Ambassador](#) for specific support on adapting buildings for climate resilience

More actions on [CLIMATE
ADAPTATION](#)

More actions on [ESTATES
AND BUILDINGS](#)

Key pillar: Biodiversity

Actions for biodiversity include:

- Sign up with [National Education Nature Park](#) and engage with resources throughout the year, including the [Hidden Nature Challenge](#)
- Complete a [biodiversity assessment](#)
- Take part in the [No Mow May](#) initiative
- Allocate spaces of your estate to 'go wild' for nature and wildlife
- Plant native species
- Grow your own - start a gardening club and grow food for your kitchen
- Take part in a community clean-up or litter pick in the local area, or organise your own to be run by learners
- Host a community growing event to engage with the community
- Plant more trees and shrubs - [apply for free trees!](#)
- Explore the [Hedgehog Friendly School](#) initiative
- Install a pond and use it as a key learning resource

Actions for biodiversity continued...

- Build and/or install bird boxes, bat boxes and [bug hotels](#) around your site
- Set up a bird feeding station
- Plant wildflowers to create a natural food sources for wildlife
- Compost food waste and use the compost in other ways, e.g. as a fertiliser on wild spaces or growing patches

More actions on [BIODIVERSITY](#)

Key pillar: Climate education and green careers

Actions for climate education and green careers include:

- Complete a [curriculum audit](#)
- Establish an eco-club/eco warriors group for your learners - this will give them a space to share their ideas and take ownership of climate action
- Explore the [Sustainable Development Goal Learning Objectives](#)
- Ask subject leads to review their curriculum using the [Teach the Future Curriculum for a Changing Climate](#) guidance
- Find out more about [Tomorrow's Climate Scientists](#) grants and [request a Climate Ambassador](#) as your project partner
- Complete a [CPD audit](#)
- Ensure there is [staff CPD](#) on climate education and green skills
- Hold a green careers event or invite a Climate Ambassador to deliver an assembly or workshop on their green career
- Introduce [outdoor learning activities](#) into the curriculum
- Host sessions for your learners where they can explore sustainable action in their daily lives, with relevance to your local area/community
- Consider the messages the displays around your school are promoting - encourage your learners to create pieces of art, write poetry etc. that focus on climate action
- Consider holding a [climate anxiety session](#) to better understand climate anxiety among your learners

More actions on [CLIMATE
EDUCATION AND GREEN
CAREERS](#)

More actions on [WELLBEING](#)

Other useful links and resources

More actions on [FUNDING](#)

More actions on [PLANNING
AND MONITORING](#)

More actions on the [SUSTAINABILITY JOURNEY](#)