# Getting started on your Climate Action Plan




Healthy Schools
North Yorkshire

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# North Yorkshire Climate Change Strategy

We will work with **partners** to achieve the ambition to be a carbon negative region by 2040

Support **young people** to get involved in climate change action




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# Why Climate  Change?

| |
|---|
| Climate Change education is vital for all children and young people to navigate the complexities of our rapidly changing world – DFE strategy |
| Students gain knowledge, skills and values to protect and preserve our planet, and  know what actions they need to take |
| Empower future generations in addressing the challenges posed by a changing planet. |
| Reduce eco-anxiety. |
| Addressing the interests of children and young people in nature and environment |
| Contribute to a more positive future for the planet |

# Climate Action Plan

**Who needs a Climate Action Plan?** The DfE sustainability and climate change strategy for education states: “By 2025, **all** education settings will have nominated a sustainability lead and put in place a climate action plan”.

**What is a Climate Action Plan?**
A plan to take action in school to do less harm to the planet and bring about positive change, reduce resource use and minimise waste.

**Why do a Climate Action Plan?**
Showing children the value of resources from an early age helps to establish positive habits as future stewards of the planet.
Helps you to run a more efficient setting where resources aren’t wasted.

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# Climate Action Plan

**What needs to be in your Climate Action Plan?**

The plans have 4 themes, you should aim to do **at least one action in each**:

1. Saving energy and reducing waste (**Decarbonisation**)



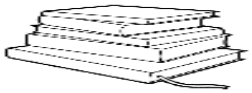
2. Be ready for a changing climate (**Adaptation**)



3. Looking after nature (**Biodiversity**)



4. Learning about the environment and how to look after it (**Climate Education**)



# Free Support to develop Climate Action Plan

**Climate Ambassadors Programme** – Free support tailored to your needs where your school will be matched with a Climate Ambassador to support you to develop your climate action plan. Contact: Ruth Green - climateambassadors_yh@leeds.ac.uk

Climate Action Advisors - Lets Go Zero - Free support, particularly around tackling energy and writing your climate action plan. Contact: letsgozero@ashden.org

The National Education Nature Park follows a 5 step programme of nature-based learning and action to improve your site for people and wildlife. Contact: YorkshireNaturePark@rhs.org.uk

Resources & Support for Schools - Climate Change > Healthy Schools North Yorkshire

Resources & Support for Schools - york-resources-climate-CAP-Guidance-for-Schools.pptx

# Creating Your Climate Action Plan

**1. Get your team together.**

Who is your sustainability lead? Who will support them? Can you have a group – include a governor, student team, parent lead?

**2. Establish a baseline - review what resources you use at the moment**. You could start by focusing on:

- Energy and Water – your water, gas and electricity use and who provides this.
- Food – what do you buy, where from and is there any wastage or excess packaging?
- Products – what things you buy, what is it made of, how does it get to you, and how do you dispose of it?
- Transport - How do your staff and children get to the setting and out and about on any trips/activities ?
- Grounds – what grows in and lives on your school grounds

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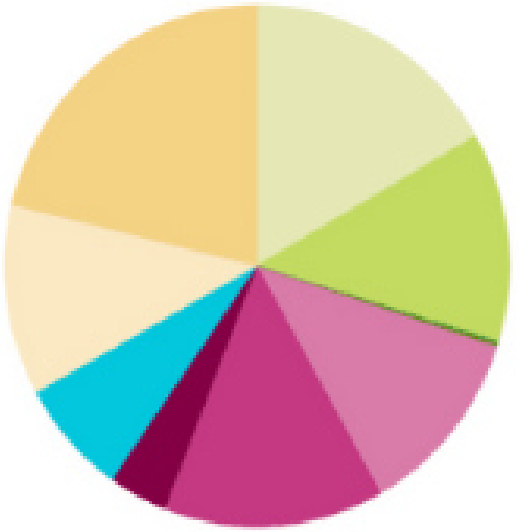
# Creating Your Climate Action Plan

**1. Establish a baseline – Decarbonisation** Home - Count Your Carbon

## Your Carbon Footprint Report

**Your schools total carbon footprint is estimated to be: 1,098.16 tonnes $CO_2e$* per year**

| Operational area | Emissions area | t $CO_2e$* | % of footprint |
|---|---|---|---|
| Energy & Utilities | Fuel Usage | 182.8 | 17% |
| | Electricity Usage | 142.8 | 13% |
| | Waste Usage | 0.9 | 0% |
| | Water Usage | 2 | <1% |
| Transport | Vehicles | 0 | 0% |
| | School Trips | 129.8 | 12% |
| | Student Commutes | 154.9 | 14% |
| | Staff Commutes | 41.3 | 4% |
| Food & Drink | Meals | 78.8 | 7% |
| Purchases | Spending | 129.8 | 12% |
| | Uniforms | 235.3 | 21% |



*'t $CO_2e$' or '$CO_2e$' tonnes means 'tonnes of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent'. Under the GHG protocol, 7 greenhouse gases are tracked and summarised as the equivalent amount of Carbon Dioxide that would produce the same warming effect.

# Creating Your Climate Action Plan

**1. Establish a baseline – Biodiversity** Home | Education Nature Park

Using GIS technology and fieldwork with students to identify the exact habitats in their school grounds Habitat mapping, collecting data stored in the online tool, enabling you to measure and track the gains you achieve for nature throughout the Nature Park programme.



# Creating Your Climate Action Plan

**2: Focus on the areas you want to change**, note that you can't do everything at once, what are things that you can do easily now, or which will take more time (and money). Choose small actions, short term actions and include things you're already doing. Recognise big actions might take longer and require a lot of funding – can include these but note timeframe.

**SMART** objectives: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound.

**3: Keep updating your plan, note when you complete actions and then add new ones**. Include governance details in your action plan – who report to and who often?

**4: Share information on activities and progress with parents and the community** . Newsletters, website, events, artwork, campaigns?

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# Example actions: 1 Decarbonisation – Saving energy

- Save energy – turn down **heating**

- Save energy - Can children help with switching off **lights**. Have posters/ signs up to remind people. Review energy bills and supply. Is there any wastage at weekends, in evenings or holidays? Can LED lights be fitted or more efficient lightbulbs?

- Reduce waste –compost the fruit and veg snack **waste** – invite the North Yorkshire Rotters into school (compost and wormery workshops, smoothie bike) contact Jeff.Coates@northyorks.gov.uk

- Reduce waste –help parents reduce buying new for their children though organising **uniform**, clothes and toys swaps and events.

- Sign up to Energy Heroes ( Primary)

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# FREE WASTE & RECYCLING SESSIONS

## SUITABLE FOR KS2 & OVER SCHOOLS & GROUPS

### What our waste prevention and recycling officers can offer

- Free outreach workshops for individual classes and assemblies KS2 and above. Also suitable for community groups.
- Supporting schools with their climate action plans (recycling goals).
- Litter picking organisational support from completing risk assessments to the loaning of equipment and rubbish collection.
- Key elements: recycling & waste prevention workshops focusing on reduce reuse and recycling.
- School uniform & clothing swap support, focusing on fast fashion and reuse schemes.

### To fit with your recycling goals

- Interactive recycling games and activities : reduce, reuse and recycling workshops and eco crafts.
- Bin lorry & crew visits (subject to availability not guaranteed).
- Career events and workshops, including reuse schemes available (high schools).
- Litter picks follow up workshops learn how to prevent waste and its long term impact.
- Fun food waste audits and waste prevention workshops inspired by Plastic Free July.
- Become a Recycling Hero by learning how to recycle batteries safely, prevent fires and create your own recycling posters

To find out more please contact: Waste.campaigns@northyorks.gov.uk

REDUCE
REUSE
RECYCLE!








North Yorkshire recycles

- Similar age appropriate offer for KS1 and Early Years
- Teddy Bears sustainable picnic and story time
- Support to costume swaps

# Our Vision

**To enable school communities across the UK to become models of energy efficiency**




## Our Aim

To improve data handling and problem-solving skills for pupils in Year 5

## Our Objectives

- Provide teachers with the support and high-quality resources to achieve our aim
- To deliver a highly engaging programme that enables schools to act as knowledge hubs for energy and climate change
- To empower children to become messengers who model behaviours that reduce CO2 emissions and reduce fuel poverty
- Sign up here: Energy Heroes

# More example actions: 1 Decarbonisation – Saving energy

- Save energy - **transport** by setting up a walking bus or organise a walk to school day - contact Sustainable Travel team for support and visit from Spike the Hedgehog Chrystal.Staveley@northyorks.gov.uk (Primary)
- Save energy - transport– Join Modeshift's Active Travel Ambassadors scheme (secondary) contact: Jason@modeshift.org.uk
- Save energy - transport – go on a trip by bus or train or walk

- Save **water** - by appointing children as water savers, take turns to check taps are turned off.
- Save Water (Primary)–25 November 2026, 20 January 2027,10 March 2027,5 May 2027, 30 June 2027 Live educational events

- Save Waste (Secondary) – Book a Yorkshire Water Period Poverty workshop (includes free sustainable period projects)

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# WOW - the walk to school challenge

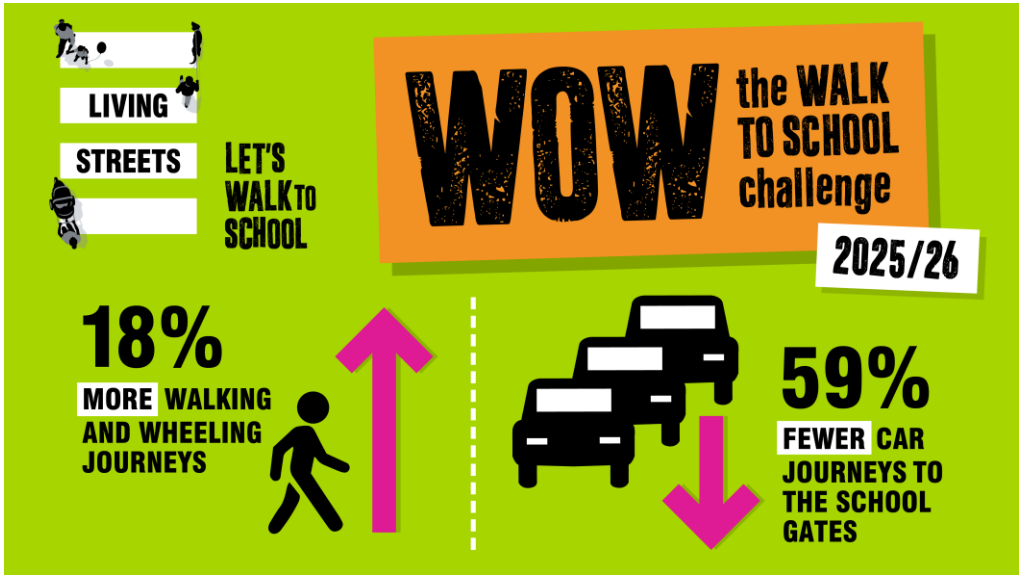
WOW is a pupil-led initiative run by UK charity, Living Streets.

Children self-report how they get to school every day, with those who walk, wheel, cycle, scoot or Park and Stride at least once a week awarded collectible WOW badges. WOW has been helping to reduce congestion and pollution at thousands of schools for 20 years.

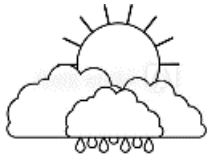
**Thanks to funding from Active Travel England, schools in North Yorkshire may be eligible for free WOW resources, including access to the WOW Travel Tracker.**

**To sign up contact - Abi Gibbons** (she/her), Project Coordinator - Walk to School Outreach Yorkshire and North East Team,

abigail.gibbons@livingstreets.org.uk | 07702669273



# Example actions: 2. Be ready for a changing climate



This section is about being prepared and ready for the changes that happen as a result of climate change.

- Monitor indoor and outdoor temperature
- Write a plan for keeping cool in hot weather – this could include - water based play, outdoor learning, changes to uniform, changes to building ( blinds) etc, drinking water Cooler Schools Campaign — Retrofit Action for Tomorrow
- Planting can help keep things cool and provide shade – plants trees in grounds if enough space or add greenery in pots.
- Do staff know what do in case of flooding? – write a plan
- 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

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# Example actions: 3. Looking after Nature

This section is about finding ways to increase children's connections to nature – helping them be at ease being outside, and coming into contact with soil, plants, animals and wildlife.  Increasing biodiversity and homes for nature in your own setting.

- Learn about how to identify plants and wildlife  – take part in events – Big Garden Birdwatch (January 2027), Big Butterfly Count ( Summer 2027)
- Encourage more nature around your site – grow indoors and out - plants, wild flowers, trees Free Trees for Schools and Communities - Woodland Trust
- Make insect homes – bug and bee hotels
- Make bird feeders – take note what birds come and feed
- Spend even more time outdoors – listen, play and take notice
- Explore the Hedgehog Friendly Schools Install a pond and use it as a key learning resource
- Start a gardening club and grow food Grow To School
- Keep Bees




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# Example actions: 4a. Learning about Climate Change

Involve children in all the actions in the climate action plan, and find learning opportunities to talk about how to look after the planet and nature

- Do a curriculum review and add in Climate Change teaching opportunities
- Set up an Eco- Council, and use Eco-School framework for students to plan and lead activities and projects
- Support staff and provide CPD on climate education and green skills - Free Carbon Literacy training from Let's Go Zero
- Involve students in promoting actions and messages - encourage your learners to create pieces or art, write poetry etc. that focus on climate action
- Take part in Awareness Days - dates and lesson plans

Global Days › Reboot Education

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# Example actions: 4b. Learning about Green Skills and Careers

Green Careers is employment in an activity that directly contributes to - or indirectly supports - the achievement of the UK's net zero emissions target and other environmental goals

Green skills “the knowledge, abilities, values and attitudes needed to live in, develop and support a society which reduces the impact of human activity on the environment”

- Include Green careers options
  - Net Zero toolkit for schools and Employers
  - Green Jobs; Presentation for Schools
  - Virtual Work experience - Environment Agency
  - Exploring Careers In Natural Flood Management - Slow The Flow
  - Careers for our future environment – YouTube
  - Sustainable Futures - free secondary schools programme | WWF

# Example template - Climate Action Plan > Healthy Schools North Yorkshire

CLIMATE AMBASSADORS

In association with EAUC, STEM Learning and the University of Reading

## Saving energy and reducing waste  - Decarbonisation

**Our Vision** *(how can you reduce emissions, reduce energy use and tackle waste?):*

| Action | Link to Improvement Plan | Responsibility and Key Stakeholders | Timescale | Information and/or resources required | Target/ Measure | Progress (Update at regular review points) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Start date:<br>Review Date: | Useful links: | | |
| | | | Start date:<br>Review Date: | Useful links: | | |
| | | | Start date: | | | |

100% Give Feedback

# An example Climate Action plan

- Climate Action Planning – Longman's Hill Community Primary School
- Sherburn Hungate Primary School - Climate Action Plan
- Filey Jnr
- Thirsk School and Sixth Form College Climate Action Plan

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# Timetable

- Healthy Schools award submission dates for you to upload your plan by.

| Online award submission date | Schools notified of achievement or further evidence requested no later than |
|---|---|
| 12th June 2026 | By 10th July 2026 |
| 13th November 2026 | By 11th December 2026 |
| 12th March 2027 | By 23rd April 2027 |
| 11th June 2027 | By 9th July 2027 |
| 12th November 2027 | By 10th December 2027 |

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# Get a Climate Action Plan logo and certificate

**Download** your climate action plan template here (or create your own)

Climate Action Plan > Healthy Schools North Yorkshire

**UPLOAD** your completed climate action plan here:

Start Award > Healthy Schools North Yorkshire

You will need an existing Healthy Schools login or register to set up an account.

A Climate Action Plan logo and certificate will be sent out to you after your plan has been looked at by our partnership group.




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# Keeping up to date & next steps

- Upload plan to Healthy Schools website
- Add your email to the chat to sign up to Schools' Climate Change termly newsletter



Don't forget to register on the Healthy schools website healthyschoolsnorthyorks.org



Check we have your preferred email address for future emails about training, events etc



Any problems, email healthyschools@northyorks.gov.uk

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