

Climate Action Plan – action examples

DfE links: 1. Decarbonisation, 2. Biodiversity, 3. Climate education and green careers, 4. Resilience and adaptation

Action	DfE Link	Steps	Timescale/ Deadline	Responsibility	Resources needed/ funding	Evaluation
Environment education						
curriculum review	3	Ask staff to complete a review of their curriculum. List where the environment is included and where it could be added.		Eco lead/team	All teachers to complete a questionnaire. Staff training to understand issues and to understand their responsibility	
Acquire climate literacy training for staff and students	1,3,4	Research training options. Discuss the course options with your school training lead		Eco lead/team	Time for training. Search for suitable online providers. School trust CPD. Contact local climate literacy providers for in-person courses. Contact matthew.bird@communityenergysouth.org for in-person training	
Share progress	3,4	Share activities on school social media and newsletters, contribute to local publications		Staff involved in project. Eco lead/team to promote involvement		
Biodiversity (including marine)						
Sign up to Education Nature Parks for school biodiversity support	2	Newsletter, webinars, support for school biodiversity projects			https://www.educationnaturepark.org.uk/ , visit www.school-ecolink.co.uk	

Increase biodiversity on site	2	Carry out a survey of your school grounds and note where biodiversity can be improved. Agree with business manager and other staff what projects can be completed this year. Include student involvement.		Eco lead/team	Can local organisations support with the survey and practical actions? Plants, trees, equipment, community volunteers. Can you borrow equipment from a local group for one off projects?	
Increase biodiversity on site	2	Review mowing regime and discuss if areas can be left unmown for biodiversity with the business manager and grounds contractor. Add wildflower seeding to areas.		Eco team, business manager, PE dept, grounds contractor	Volunteers to strip turf if necessary. Tools. Wildflower seeds.	
Eliminate use of weedkillers in the school grounds		Create a rota for students to weed the playground at a suitable time, ie. during tutor time. Discuss the options for eliminating weeds on the sports fields with the grounds contractor. Can areas of the school field be left unweeded?		Tutor curriculum lead, staff	Gloves, gardening tools, weeding buckets. Create a compost heap for weeds only (don't add weeds to usual compost heap) to ensure the end compost isn't put on vegetable beds.	

Gardening support	2,3	Join a whatsapp group of a local network of school gardeners.		gardening lead	contact hello@sharingskills.co.uk	
Promote local community growing projects to students and families, or get involved.	2,4	Research local initiatives and explore if the school can be involved or encourage students to get involved in their own time.		Eco lead/team, climate ambassadors, gardening club		
Energy						
Reminder stickers on light switches to turn off when not in use	1	Hold a competition for students to design a sticker to be sited by the light switches.		Eco lead/team	Prize, funding for stickers	
Can the building insulation be improved?	1	Look through building specifications and assess level of insulation and if it can be improved. Agree a timeframe for steps.		business/site manager	Funding	
Keep external doors closed while heating is on	1	Audit doors left open and put measures in place for staff and students to close them during times of cold weather while the heating is on. If not possible, can radiators near open doors be switched off?		Eco lead/team, climate ambassadors		

Energy workshops	4	Invite Ovesco to run an energy workshop for students.		Eco/STEM lead	hello@ovesco.co.uk	
Explore adding solar panels to the school	1 and 4	Meet with Ovesco to explore their Solar for Schools initiative.		Business manager, SLT, governors	Sunny Solar Schools - Ovesco	
Energy sparks	1,3,4	Sign up to Energy sparks to receive regular updates on energy use and advice on how to reduce it. Includes STEM/eco ambassador activities.		Eco lead, STEM club coordinator, business manager	https://energysparks.uk/activity_categories	
Reduce carbon footprint of emails	1,4	Speak to IT lead about where savings can be made. Send advice to all staff about strategies to reduce email carbon footprint. Organise a email deleting session.		IT lead		
Food/Healthy living						
Introduce a healthy eating and sustainable food policy	2,4	Review policy and look where improvements can be made to improve access to healthy food.		Head of Food, school governor, SLT, students	Research other school policies and government guidance, school food standards, see www.healthyschools.org.uk also www.foodforlife.org.uk	

Work with your catering company to promote healthier options	4	Review the school's responsibility for food. Conduct a student survey, Identify improvements required, how to promote to students, meet with the catering manager and catering company, and food contract procurement officer.		Head of Food, headteacher, business manager, SLT, governors, students	See useful links page for Checklist for headteachers and governors. Food for Life award and Healthy Schools award	
Menu realigning	2,4	Work with caterer to put plant based options at the top of the menu.		Head of Food	Research other school policies for evidence of better practice	
Give all students experience of growing food	4	Promote the gardening club, run sessions throughout the year for students to learn more about veg growing.		Eco lead/team or Head of Food	Funding for resources, members of staff or volunteers to look after the garden.	
Run after school cookery sessions	4	Support students to learn how to cook a variety of dishes.		Head of Food	A member of staff or volunteer to run the session, ingredients	
Fruit giveaways	4	Ask your catering supplier, local supermarkets, local community fridge, or The Havens Hub for surplus fruit to give away at the end of school one day a week or term.		Eco lead/team, Head of Food	Access to surplus fruit, a member of staff or students to collect fruit and distribute	

Waste, Reuse & Recycling						
Promote recycling	1, 4	Hold assemblies to promote recycling and highlight the new bin stickers. Have student monitors to check the recycling bins and keep a report to monitor improvement. Report this to students during tutor time and promote in the school newsletter. Can this be gamified?		Eco lead/team	Neil Peters from LDC can offer assemblies about recycling, waste and food waste - neil.peters@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk . Gamifying - https://www.hubbub.org.uk/pick-your-side	
Reduce plastic waste from the canteen	1 and 4	Change plastic bottles sold in the canteen for cans of drink. Encourage washable tubs in lunchboxes. Are there enough water refill points in the school?		Eco lead/team, food lead, business manager, catering company	Survey students to get them onboard with changes and to encourage them to use a refillable water bottle and washable tubs for their lunch.	
Reduce food waste	1,2,4	Place a compost bucket in the Food & Nutrition classrooms for veg food waste. Add to the school compost bin at the end of the day. Install a bokashi bin for cooked food waste. Investigate obtaining a sealed		Food technician	Funding for food waste caddy and bokashi bins. Compost bins (Ridan or Joraform) and training for managing compost	

		hot composting system for food waste.				
Compost canteen vegetable waste	4	Create a compost area for green waste and veg waste. Incorporate some paper packaging waste (ie, napkins, paper plates) to make up the 'brown' element.		Eco lead/team, catering team	Funding to build a compost area or incorporate with Food lesson waste composting	
Review the school uniform policy and assess whether sustainability can be improved	4	Can any aspects of uniform be changed to improve longevity? Contact uniform supplier and ask about sustainability.		SLT, eco lead,		
Set up a secondhand uniform or PE kit store	1 and 4	Ask for donations of uniform to hold occasional sales or support the local school uniform bank if there is one.		eco lead/team, climate ambassadors, PTA	Connect with your local school uniform bank to see how you can support them or set up a store in the school. Promote wearing second hand clothing to students and why this is important.	
Set up a sports boot library	4	Ask for donations of sports boots for a library		Eco lead/team, PE dept	A member of staff or students to manage. Cleaning materials. Suitable accessible storage where wet boots can dry if necessary.	
Hold a clothes swap	4	Ask students to organise a clothes swap		Eco lead/team, climate ambassadors, staff helpers	Clothes rails, clothes hangers, changing area and mirror, gender neutral signage. Information about the problems with clothes waste.	

Set up a secondhand stationery stall/cupboard	4	Collect unwanted or lost stationery and set up a supply cupboard or fundraising stalls		Eco lead/team, climate ambassadors	Cupboard space, students to organise or suggest as a PTFA fundraising opportunity.	
Recycling printer cartridges	4	Install a collection point for used ink cartridges		Eco lead/team	collection point	
Reduce paper and printing	1 an 4	Ask staff and students to feedback on where they think paper is wasted and ideas for solutions		Eco lead/team	https://www.papercut.com/solutions/reduce-costs/	
Save paper	4	Continuing with exercise books into the new year until full				
Water						
Encourage use of reusable bottles	1,4	Survey students about water bottle use and how they can be encouraged to use a refill station. Audit water refill stations - do you have enough, accessibility? Do they look clean and attractive to use? Include water bottles as part of the uniform policy		climate ambassadors	Funding for water bottles and refill stations	

Check for leaks	1,4	Check pipes and taps are working efficiently and are not leaking		Cleaners, site team	Contact your water company to ask if they provide a free leak check and fix problems.	
Taps left running	1,4	Student monitor task to check taps are not left running		Tutor time	see monitor section below	
Install sensor taps	1,4	Look into the viability of installing sensor taps		Business manager	Funding for taps and maintenance	It is said that 70% more water can be saved by using sensor taps which saves money too.
Travel and transport						
Travelling to school review	1,4	Survey students about their travelling habits and what would help them to walk, cycle, use public transport more		Eco lead/team, climate ambassadors		
Increase the number of students and staff actively travelling to school	4	Annual Walk and Wheel event. Cycling training. 'No idling' campaign. Information on safer walking & cycling		eco lead/team,		

		routes. Improved (dry & secure) bike parks at school.				
Bikeability training	4					
Promote bus use	1,4	Post the bus timetable and routes on the school website. Design a poster to promote this.		Climate leaders		
Air quality						
No idling campaign	1,4	Monitor the air quality around the school. Ask students to design a poster to promote asking people to turn off their car engine when stationary. Increase messaging to parents to do this in emails or newsletter.		Eco lead/team, climate ambassadors	Prize if having a competition. Printing costs	
Hold an event for Clean air day	1,4	Work with climate ambassadors to plan an event		Eco lead/team, climate ambassadors	Clean Air Day Action for Clean Air	
Procurement						
Ensure sustainability is considered in all contracts	1,4	Review policies and contracts to improve sustainability.		Business manager		

Building and construction						
Ensure sustainability is considered in any building or maintenance work	1,2,4	Review policies and contracts for any building and maintenance work to consider sustainability including materials used, energy and resource saving, recycling waste where possible, biodiversity gains/replacements, no idling engines on school grounds.		Business manager, eco lead/team		
Community/global citizenship						
Litter picks in the community	2,4	Arrange litter picks around the school. Contact local litter picking groups to join the group for the Great British Spring Clean or other events		Eco lead/team	Litter picking equipment, risk assessment, safeguarding	
Support fairtrade and ethical suppliers when buying resources	4	Audit school resources to see what can be improved including in the canteen		Eco lead/team, climate ambassadors, business manager		

Support local and international groups and charities supporting communities	4	Hold fundraising events to raise money and awareness		Students		
Green careers						
Increase knowledge of green careers	3	Eco lead to meet with the careers lead. Invite local green career and training providers to career days. Invite them in for an assembly.		Eco lead. Careers lead	See useful links spreadsheet for some local links	
Create a list of contacts for work experience	3	Contact local green career providers		Careers lead		
Student monitor tasks						
Introduce a tutor time session where one class per week (or as appropriate) completes practical tasks around the school. This provides benefits from improving practical skills, increased awareness of their environment, improve global citizenship, takes	1,2,3,4			Tutor curriculum lead, support staff	Time for designing a plan and rota, support staff needed, risk assessments for tasks	

burden away from the site team.						
Reduce litter and increase awareness of littering	2,3,4	1.Litter picking.			Litter pickers, work gloves, buckets	
Improve recycling and increase awareness	3,4	2. Checking recycling bins are being used properly.			Litter pickers, work gloves	
Improve awareness of plants and growing	2,4	4. Open the polytunnel/greenhouse during hot weather and water the plants inside and plants in the garden when necessary.			Training to know when to water and how to use the water butts. Watering cans, hosepipes	
Eliminate use of weedkillers in the school grounds	2,4	5. Weed the playground.			Gloves, gardening tools, weeding buckets, create a compost heap for weeds only.	
Reduce food waste, improve awareness of composting	4	6. Collect veg waste from fruit snacks or the food tech room to the compost.			Compost, compost buckets, training about composting.	
Add to this list of monitor tasks to suit your setting						
Creat a classroom checklist and ask students to check at tutor time	1 and 4			Eco lead working with staff		

Save energy	1,4	1. Check lights and monitors are not left on unnecessarily. Encourage students to notice this around the school too.				
Improve efficiency of radiators	1,4	2. Check windows are not left open in rooms when the heating is on. Can anything be done to prevent the need for this? 3. Check the radiators for leaks and that there is nothing covering them when on.				
Save water and improve awareness of water saving.	1	4. Check taps are not left on.				