



Championing sustainability in West Sussex schools

How can we work together towards a more sustainable future?

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The Department for Education's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy



Education plays a critical role in the fight against climate change and biodiversity loss, an issue that young people consistently say is a top priority for them. In 2022, the Department for Education (DfE) published their [Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy](#), with the expectation for all education settings in England to have a sustainability lead and climate action plan in place by **2025**. The Strategy sets out how the sector will reduce its environmental footprint and contribute to delivery of the UK Government's legally binding

commitment to achieve 'net-zero' carbon emissions by 2050. The DfE is currently refreshing and updating the strategy to build on progress made in the last three years and enable more schools to engage with the support available to them.

The DfE's vision is that the UK is the world-leading education sector in sustainability and climate change by 2030, aiming for:

- **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.
- **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.
- **Resilience to climate change:** adapting our education and care buildings and system to prepare for the effects of climate change.
- **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.

To achieve this vision, the Strategy describes a range of short, medium and longer-term actions that the sector needs to take. Key within this is the expectation that all education settings will have a designated sustainability lead and a climate action plan in place by 2025.

