



## The Climate Ambassadors scheme

**Request free Climate Ambassadors support and advice for your school**

By Louise Downey, Sustainability Team Leader



The [Climate Ambassadors scheme](#) mobilises and supports education settings (nurseries, schools and colleges) in England to act on climate change with the help of skilled volunteers. Climate Ambassadors from across the private, public and charity sectors can provide settings with free, tailored guidance to progress their climate action plans, wherever a setting is on its sustainability journey. Climate action plans provide a roadmap towards more efficient, resilient and climate friendly operations, alongside strategies to weave sustainability education across student learning, skills development and careers inspiration.

Across West Sussex, there are currently 10 climate ambassadors ready to support education settings with developing and delivering their climate action plans, however only 5 education settings in the County have accessed this free support to date. We are keen to increase this number so that more education settings in West Sussex get the support they need to meet the DfE requirements and create a climate action plan. A climate ambassador can provide support with:

- Getting started, creating and progressing your climate action plan, providing you with the help to inspire action in your setting and the advice to initiate your plan
- Identify ways to decarbonise your operations, saving money and reducing harmful emissions that contribute to climate change
- Plan and adapt to the impacts of climate change, like overheating or flooding, to minimise risk of disruption to learning
- Increase biodiversity across your estate and improve access to green space for your learners and staff
- Provide advice on how you can weave climate education and green careers inspiration across teaching and learning activities and upskill your staff to build their confidence in teaching about climate and sustainability



As an example of how the scheme can support you, Climate Ambassador, Resh Thorpe, has worked with multi academy trust, The Orchard Learning Alliance, in her local authority of Wokingham. Sustainability leads from each of the ten schools within the trust attended a climate action planning workshop with Resh (pictured left). During the day, she provided information on the DfE Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy, directed attendees to programmes and resources to help them with climate action planning, and supported sustainability leads in developing actions for their climate action plan. Following further refinement and discussion, the Orchard Learning Alliance are now



finalising a climate action plan that will be adapted for each school and putting this into operation across the trust.

Get started on your sustainability journey today by requesting support from a climate ambassador. Please email [climateambassadors\\_se@reading.ac.uk](mailto:climateambassadors_se@reading.ac.uk) for more information and to request your climate ambassador.