



Creating your climate action plan

Shared benefits for schools and the environment

By Louise Downey, Sustainability Team Leader

What support is available to schools for climate action planning?

To support implementation of the Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy in education settings, the DfE has set out [guidance](#) on its expectations and commissioned a range of free, quality-assured programmes and resources:

- [Sustainability Support for Education](#)
- [National Education Nature Park](#)
- [Climate Ambassador Programme](#)
- [Let's Go Zero Climate Action Advisers](#)

All the free support, resources and guidance from these programmes has been designed to be adaptable and flexible so schools can use them in the way that works best for them. Schools across West Sussex can also access free, tailored support for climate action planning through the [Schools Waste & Climate Education Programme](#), provided by Wastebuster.

Many other organisations are supporting schools to take climate action:

- Eco-Schools recently launched [Count Your Carbon](#), a free, full scope carbon emissions calculator for nurseries, schools, and colleges, which supports education settings to calculate, understand, reduce and track their carbon emissions, and provides carbon-reduction recommendations which can be included in a climate action plan
- Transform Our World provides a free [Climate Action Planner](#) tool to enable school staff and students to identify actions they can take to reduce their school's environmental impact, as well as an extensive library of [teacher-reviewed learning resources](#)
- The [Let's Go Zero](#) campaign, led by Ashden, provides schools with [ideas for action](#) they can take, inspiring [case studies](#), and free, tailored advice and support from expert [climate action advisers](#)
- Energy Systems Catapult has developed the '[Climate Action Plan: Decarbonisation guide](#)', which is designed for teachers, estate teams, governors, and other sustainability leads, breaking down the actions needed to develop the decarbonisation pillar of your climate action plan

What are the benefits of climate action for your setting?

Establishing sustainability leadership and creating and implementing a holistic climate action plan will bring [immediate and long-term benefits](#), helping your setting to:

- Increase the confidence and expertise of your leadership team, staff and children in understanding climate change and how positive change can be achieved
- Create a culture that prioritises sustainability
- Share effective practice with other education settings and develop a peer-to-peer learning network



- Address climate change-related mental health issues and eco-anxiety
- Use data to identify and prioritise action
- Improve energy and water efficiency
- Calculate your carbon emissions and identify ways to reduce them
- Reduce operating costs
- Start adapting to the impacts of climate change and increase resilience
- Enhance biodiversity
- Help learners develop skills and knowledge which help them to contribute to sustainability and climate change in their lives and future jobs

Schools that act now will be better prepared for the challenges of climate change and will contribute to a more sustainable future for West Sussex communities.

For more information on designing and implementing your climate action plan, please see [the guide](#) included in this edition of Education Matters, or access local support from the [Wastebuster Schools Waste and Climate Education Programme](#), provided by the West Sussex Waste Partnership.