

Note: This document is designed for use in a Let's Go Zero workshop with guidance from a Climate Action Advisor. You will need to add/remove actions during the workshop to make this plan bespoke to your setting.



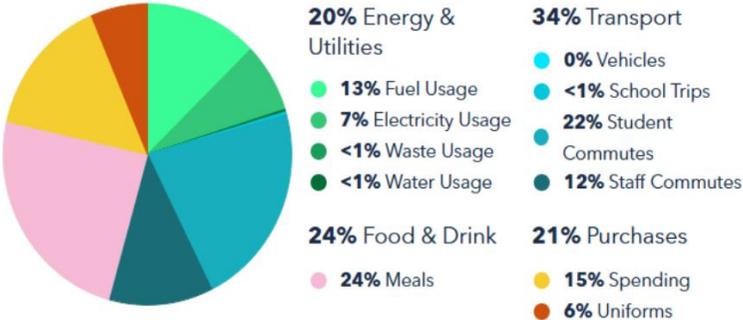
Climate Action Plan

Name of School

1 year plan Spring 2026 – Spring 2027

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Your school's carbon baseline: TBC t CO₂e Calculation: Month Year

RECOMMENDED FIRST STEP		
ACTION	NOTES	TRACKER
<p>Calculate your school's carbon footprint using Count Your Carbon</p> <p>This free digital tool allows you to calculate the carbon footprint for your educational setting and gives you a baseline against which to measure progress, year on year.</p> 	<p>Count Your Carbon is a free, full-scope carbon footprint calculator, built for - and in collaboration with - nurseries, schools and colleges. It supports educational settings to calculate, understand, reduce and track carbon emissions.</p> <p>Aligned with the Department for Education's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy, Count Your Carbon offers tools and guidance to help educational settings calculate their carbon footprint, reviewing your data and producing a report which will equip you with the information you need to help inform your Climate Action Plan.</p> <p>Calculating your carbon footprint is a great first step on your decarbonisation journey. It will help you baseline your current emissions and set targets to reduce this over time. Let's Go Zero can help support you with understanding how to collect the data you need for the tool, so please reach out if you require further support.</p> <p>If you choose to complete this action, you can add your carbon baseline and the calculation date to the yellow box above. You can then repeat the calculation in 12 months' time to see the difference.</p>	

Progress Key
Not Started
In Progress
Stalled
Complete

Climate Action Plan history	
Last reviewed:	

★ = high carbon reduction actions

GET STARTED				
ACTION	TIMEFRAME	STAKEHOLDERS	NOTES	TRACKER
<p>Sign up to the Let's Go Zero campaign</p> <p>By joining this campaign, your school confirms that it is taking action now to reduce its own carbon impact, and that it demands the UK Government help all schools reach this goal by the end of the decade.</p>	<p>Start: Spr26 Review: Aut26</p>	<p>Head of School</p>		
<p>Set up a sustainability working group</p> <p>Assemble a Sustainability Working Group featuring different stakeholders across the school to collaborate and effect change. Ensure one person has oversight, taking the title of 'Sustainability Lead' and where possible provide PPA time for this role.</p>	<p>Start: Spr 26 Review: Aut26</p>	<p>Head of School</p> <p>Estates Team</p>		
<p>Add sustainability plans, projects and successes to your school website and share through wider communications</p> <p>Celebrate your school's climate action on your website, in newsletters, social media, local press, and events to showcase your successes and involve the wider community. Use the Let's Go Zero comms pack to do this.</p>	<p>Start: Aut26 Review: Aut26</p>	<p>Head of School</p> <p>Admin Team</p>		

NB. Carbon Neutral Cornwall have a brilliant [Schools Net Zero Tool Box](#) with lots of local resources signposted

1. Decarbonisation and Energy Efficiency

Calculating and taking actions to reduce carbon emissions and becoming more energy efficient

ENERGY – BUILDINGS AND RETROFIT				
ACTION	TIMEFRAME	STAKEHOLDERS	NOTES	TRACKER
<i>Recommended actions listed below – during the workshop, keep or delete rows to suit your setting; or add in your own actions in blank rows</i>				
<p>Monitor energy use on a regular basis through dedicated platforms</p> <p>Use an energy monitoring platform (e.g. Energy Sparks) to visualise and understand your energy usage. Use the data to look for patterns in day-to-day energy consumption and assess your energy baseload (how much energy you use continually). Armed with this information, you can decide where and when is best to target energy savings. If you are already sending your energy data to your provider, get in touch with them and ask them for access.</p>	<p>Start: Sum26 Review: Aut 26</p>	<p>Head of School</p> <p>Eco-council</p>		
<p>Investigate the potential for solar panels</p> <p>Find out who you need permission from and contact solar providers to check the suitability of your roof spaces and the financial models available (direct purchase, lease, community energy). Aim to compare approaches from at least three different providers to check you are getting options that work well for your setting. Providers we suggest checking with: Solar for Schools & Eden Sustainable.</p>	<p>Start: Sum26 Review:Aut 26</p>	<p>Head of School</p> <p>Estates Team</p>		

ENERGY – BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE				
ACTION	TIMEFRAME	STAKEHOLDERS	NOTES	TRACKER
<i>Recommended actions listed below – during the workshop, keep or delete rows to suit your setting; or add in your own actions in blank rows</i>				
<p>Incentivise students to address energy usage</p> <p>Proactively engage and empower the student body to take a lead in promoting and implementing energy efficient behaviour changes to help save costs, reduce emissions, and make their setting more sustainable. Incentivise engagement through inter-class competitions and/or eco awards, or by electing school energy champions. LASER Energy have a School Energy Action Hub filled with free energy-saving resources for primary and secondary school pupils.</p>	<p>Start: Sum26 Review: Aut26</p>	<p>Head of School</p> <p>Eco Council</p>	<p>Energy Sparks have some good ideas and examples here.</p> <p>Energy audit worksheets here and here.</p>	
<p>Take part in a switch off campaign</p> <p>Take part in a switch off campaign, e.g. Switch Off Fortnight. Aim for 10% reduction of energy use (the typical amount saved by participating schools). Running campaigns before the holiday period (such as a summer switch-down) can lead to reduced energy use over the holiday period.</p>	<p>Start: Review:</p>	<p>Head of School</p> <p>Eco Council</p> <p>Admin Team</p>		
<p>Monitor energy use on a regular basis through dedicated platforms</p> <p>Use an energy monitoring platform (e.g. Energy Sparks) to visualise and understand your energy usage. Use the data to look for patterns in day-to-day energy consumption and assess your energy baseload (how much energy you use continually). Armed with this information, you can decide where and when is best to target energy savings. If you are already sending your energy data to your provider, get in touch with them and ask them for access.</p>	<p>Start: Review:</p>	<p>Head of School</p> <p>Estates Team</p>	<p>Energy Sparks report average savings for secondary schools in 23/24 of £21,0000 per year.</p> <p>Energy Sparks report average savings for primary schools in 23/24 of £5,000 per year.</p> <p>There is a pupil dashboard so students can get involved with monitoring and understanding energy usage, bills, and savings.</p> <p>Energy Sparks host regular online induction sessions for different roles within schools to ensure that schools can maximise their use of the platform.</p>	
<p>Implement a power down strategy for electrical devices and appliances</p>	<p>Start: Review:</p>		<p>Energy Sparks have some editable checklists you can use to create end of day/week/term checklists for classrooms and other areas</p>	

Implement power-down strategies across the school, such as sleep and automatic shutdown settings on computers, projectors, and smart boards, and switching off scanners and printers overnight. You can use a mix of automatic (e.g. timer-controlled switches) and manual shutdown approaches depending on need.				

FOOD				
ACTION	TIMEFRAME	STAKEHOLDERS	NOTES	TRACKER
<i>Recommended actions listed below – during the workshop, keep or delete rows to suit your setting; or add in your own actions in blank rows</i>				
<p>Start or improve composting and food waste facilities on-site</p> <p>Set up or improve composting for small items like snack-time fruit, as a supplement to your main regular food waste collection. Composting is a great educational tool for engaging students! To get started, ask your school community for unwanted compost bins.</p>	<p>Start: Spr 26 Review: Aut26</p>	<p>Estates Team</p> <p>Eco Council</p> <p>Aspens Caterers</p>		
<p>Weigh food waste from kitchen and plates, share results, and set a target to reduce this</p> <p>Get your students involved in daily weigh-ins of food waste as part of their curriculum or eco-club activities to enhance their understanding of the scale of food wastage. Feed findings back to your school caterer and catering staff to make necessary changes to dishes/menu. Sharing the results with teaching staff, pupils and the wider school community can motivate everyone to reduce their food waste even further.</p>	<p>Start: Spr 26 Review: Aut26</p>	<p>Estates Team</p> <p>Eco Council</p> <p>Aspens Caterers</p>		
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PROCUREMENT				
ACTION	TIMEFRAME	STAKEHOLDERS	NOTES	TRACKER
<i>Recommended actions listed below – during the workshop, keep or delete rows to suit your setting; or add in your own actions in blank rows</i>				
<p>★ Develop your uniform exchange and extend existing reuse practices</p> <p>Evaluate your uniform exchange to track how many items are being re-used, and set a target/take steps to increase its uptake e.g. improved communications to the wider school community and putting systems in place to receive uniform donations from school leavers. Make sure to include PE kit too!</p>	<p>Start: Spr 26 Review: Aut26</p>	<p>HoS</p> <p>Eco Council</p> <p>Admin Team</p>		
<p>Follow sustainable practices when choosing products</p> <p>This approach involves purchasing products that were designed and produced ethically and sustainably, are non-toxic or made from materials that can be recycled or managed sustainably as waste. This action can follow or support the development of a sustainable procurement policy.</p>	<p>Start: Spr 26 Review: Aut26</p>	<p>HoS</p> <p>Admin Team</p>	<p>There is an example Sustainable Procurement Policy from Our Schools Our World Suffolk here: Microsoft Word - Sustain. procurement 2021.doc</p> <p>And some other information here: Procurement – Our Schools, Our World</p>	
<p>Factor in energy efficiency when buying new equipment such as ovens, fridges, kettles etc.</p> <p>Ensure that cost is balanced against the efficiency rating of electrical appliances to compensate upfront cost with running cost and longevity, e.g. Choosing only appliances that are the highest efficiency rating for that product.</p>	<p>Start: Sum 26 Review: Aut26</p>	<p>HoS</p> <p>Admin Team</p>		

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WASTE				
ACTION	TIMEFRAME	STAKEHOLDERS	NOTES	TRACKER
<i>Recommended actions listed below – during the workshop, keep or delete rows to suit your setting; or add in your own actions in blank rows</i>				
<p>Carry out a bin audit to ensure mandatory recycling requirements are being met</p> <p>New mandatory waste regulations require all dry recycling and food waste to be separated from general waste. To do this effectively, carry out a bin audit to review location, internal and external capacity, and labelling. Your CAA can provide a bin audit toolkit with label templates.</p>	<p>Start: Sum 26 Review: Aut26</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">HoS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Admin Team</p>		
<p>Provide students with education on the importance of reducing, reusing and recycling correctly</p> <p>Teach students about the waste hierarchy: '<i>Reduce -> Reuse -> Recycle</i>' through a variety of assemblies, workshops and initiatives. These could be run by your eco-team, local authority, or waste contractor. Teach how recyclables are processed and the importance of reducing single-use and supporting a circular economy. Organisations such as Wastebuster and Recycle Now have a variety of curriculum-linked resources. Your CAA can provide additional resources on request.</p>	<p>Start: Sum 26 Review: Aut26</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">HoS</p>	<p>Cornwall energy recovery centre (St Austell) offer free visits for schools</p> <p>Incorporate recycling bin checks into your 'energy/eco champions' initiative.</p> <p>Devon CC have a very helpful 'recycle zone' website with free to access resources for schools around the country. This is their 'Recycling at School' resource with some useful ideas.</p> <p>Waste audit resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WRAP have resources for school waste audits here. - Green Schools Ireland have a resource here and here - Wigan Council have a school waste audit worksheet here <p>Work with students to explore how this can be encouraged/incentivized? Can the students make some videos/reels? Can this be made into a house/year group</p>	

			<p>competition?</p> <p>Biffa Education resources and workshops – info here</p> <p>Secondary resources: . Power of 10 have some secondary appropriate resources (need to create free account).</p>	
<p>Run waste/plastic reduction initiatives or campaigns with pupils and staff</p> <p>Take school-wide action to reduce waste. Run an initiative yourself, or engage with a local or national campaign. For example, you could work to become a Plastic Free School with Surfers Against Sewage using their free resources.</p>	<p>Start: Sum 26 Review: Aut26</p>	<p>HoS</p> <p>Teachers</p> <p>Eco Council</p>	<p>The Beach Guardian offer free assemblies and workshops for Cornwall schools</p> <p>Final Straw Cornwall run regular beach cleans</p> <p>Plastic Clever Schools also have some great resources to support schools to reduce single use plastic, and an award for participating schools.</p>	
<p>Establish procedures for the reuse of school supplies and equipment</p> <p>When having a clear out of supplies and equipment, prioritise reuse over disposal to allow for potential income and/or cost-saving opportunities (e.g. reduced skip hire costs). Use existing networks and online platforms to donate / sell unwanted supplies and equipment - e.g. wider school community, local schools and nurseries; School Resources Exchange; Facebook Marketplace, etc.</p>	<p>Start: Sum 26 Review: Aut26</p>	<p>HoS</p> <p>Teachers</p> <p>Eco Council</p>		

TRANSPORT				
ACTION	TIMEFRAME	STAKEHOLDERS	NOTES	TRACKER
<i>Recommended actions listed below – during the workshop, keep or delete rows to suit your setting; or add in your own actions in blank rows</i>				
<p>Develop an active travel plan</p> <p>Create and implement your school travel plan which supports cycling, walking and other forms of sustainable travel. Explore if your local authority offers support for this (ex: contact your travel or road safety officer). Modeshift Stars Education is an accreditation programme you can sign up to whilst creating and implementing your travel plan to track your progress and receive awards.</p>	<p>Start: Sum 26 Review: Aut26</p>	<p>HoS</p> <p>Admin Team</p>	<p>Cornwall Council and Sustrans have created a great guide here</p> <p>Hawkesbury School have a lovely 'active travel' page on their website with an active travel map and additional information. This has been developed with Modeshift STARS.</p> <p>Bike buses are parent-led initiatives that run weekly (or less regular) bike rides along a designated route, picking up children along the way. They can increase cycling confidence and are an effective way of highlighting the need for better cycling infrastructure. Info and resources here, and here</p>	
<p>Provide cycle proficiency lessons in school</p> <p>Host cycling proficiency lessons in your school grounds, such as Bikeability. Your local authority should be able to support you to get signed up (check with your local travel or road safety officer).</p>	<p>Start: Sum 26 Review: Aut26</p>	<p>HoS</p> <p>Teachers</p> <p>Admin Team</p>		

2. Climate adaptation and resilience

Taking actions to reduce the risk of flooding and overheating and to future-proof scarce resources for potential shortages

ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE				
ACTION	TIMEFRAME	STAKEHOLDERS	NOTES	TRACKER
<i>Recommended actions listed below – during the workshop, keep or delete rows to suit your setting; or add in your own actions in blank rows</i>				
<p>Conduct a climate resilience audit</p> <p>Conduct a climate resilience audit of the school site, e.g. To check all windows and blind open and close, guttering, planting etc. The Climate Ready School Grounds survey from Learning Through Landscapes covers all weather conditions and involves students' opinions of their grounds.</p>	<p>Start: Sum 26 Review: Aut26</p>	<p>HoS</p> <p>Admin Team</p>		
<p>Ensure staff understand how to cool their rooms through cross ventilation and other context specific measures</p> <p>Communicate to staff how best to cool their rooms through cross ventilating and maximising air flow. Ensure windows and vents can remain open to ventilate rooms and monitor CO₂ levels using devices.</p>	<p>Start: Sum 26 Review: Aut26</p>	<p>HoS</p> <p>Admin Team</p>		
<p>Consider sheltered areas on playgrounds for heat resilience</p> <p>Use awnings/shading measures/existing structures to provide adequate shelter for students on hot days.</p>	<p>Start: Sum 26 Review: Aut26</p>	<p>Estates Team</p> <p>Head of School</p>		

WATER

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	STAKEHOLDERS	NOTES	TRACKER
<i>Recommended actions listed below – during the workshop, keep or delete rows to suit your setting; or add in your own actions in blank rows</i>				
<p>Raise awareness around water consumption and efficiency</p> <p>Consider engaging with your local water company who may have an education team or free resources on their websites, from assembly sessions and visits to primary schools for your pupils to webinars, downloadable tools and guides, and more.</p>	<p>Start: Sum 26 Review: Aut26</p>		<p>South West Water offer free lessons and workshops.</p>	

3. Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure

Creating habitats and adopting practices that will enhance species diversity on the school estate and beyond

NATURE				
ACTION	TIMEFRAME	STAKEHOLDERS	NOTES	TRACKER
<i>Recommended actions listed below – during the workshop, keep or delete rows to suit your setting; or add in your own actions in blank rows</i>				
<p>Take part in The Nature Park</p> <p>The Nature Park aims to embed nature-based learning into the curriculum and encourage children and young people all over the country to take action to improve their site for people and wildlife. The programme provides the support and guidance needed to make this happen, with five key steps in the journey and the actions needed to reach your goals.</p>	<p>Start: Sum 26 Review: Aut26</p>	<p>Geography Lead</p>	<p>The South West now has two National Education Nature Park reps who can help you navigate the website and resources and provide additional support and ideas.</p> <p>The contact email is southwestnaturepark@rhs.org.uk</p>	
<p>Establish a gardening/nature club</p> <p>Set up a gardening and/or nature club for pupils or students to join. The club can help develop the school site for nature, outdoor learning and staff and pupil wellbeing. Engage with the wider school community for volunteer support and resources.</p>	<p>Start: Sum 26 Review: Aut26</p>	<p>Geography Lead</p>		
<p>Increase biodiversity to support local wildlife e.g. add a pond, plant pollinator-friendly plants, put up birdfeeders, bat boxes and 'bug hotels'</p> <p>Develop your outdoor spaces to create a mosaic of habitats and features to provide food, shelter and water for wildlife. Grant funding is often available for this, and make use of the wider community for support and resources.</p>	<p>Start: Sum 26 Review: Aut26</p>	<p>Geography Lead</p>	<p>Cornwall Climate and Nature Fund has grants to match fund up to £5000</p> <p>The Forest for Cornwall Programme can support and advise with tree planting</p> <p>The Eden Project have a whole host of lesson plans and you can book trips to visit</p>	
<p>Participate in local efforts to promote and protect nature (e.g. Cornwall Wildlife Trust)</p> <p>Help promote and protect nature beyond your school grounds. E.g. engage with local nature groups and nature recovery schemes, ensure your grounds are part of local "wildlife corridors", write to your MP to demand action for nature, start a tree nursery to supply saplings for the local area.</p>	<p>Start: Sum 26 Review: Aut26</p>	<p>Head of School</p> <p>Eco council</p>		

4. Climate Education, Green Skills and Green Careers

Ensuring the education you provide gives knowledge-rich and comprehensive teaching about climate change, and that your teaching staff feel supported to offer this

NB. [Green Charter for schools in Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly](#)

CULTURE				
ACTION	TIMEFRAME	STAKEHOLDERS	NOTES	TRACKER
<i>Recommended actions listed below – during the workshop, keep or delete rows to suit your setting; or add in your own actions in blank rows</i>				
<p>Appoint a sustainability lead with sufficient PPA and support.</p> <p>Appoint a sustainability lead in line with the expectations in the DfE's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy. Provide the sustainability lead with sufficient PPA/TLR to fulfill this role.</p>	<p>Start: Sum 26 Review: Aut26</p>	<p>Head of School</p> <p>Geography Lead</p>		
<p>Set up an Eco Club or Eco Council for pupils to lead on sustainability initiatives</p> <p>Establish a student Eco-Club or Eco Council. Consider inclusivity and longevity of projects so that as many students as possible can take part throughout their time at school.</p>	<p>Start: Sum 26 Review: Aut26</p>	<p>Head of School</p>		
<p>Provide CPD opportunities for staff on sustainability</p> <p>Investigate appropriate CPD opportunities for staff, e.g. sharing existing sustainability related content and developing skills through Carbon Literacy Training, Climate Fresk or our own Let's Go Zero session that can be delivered in person at staff INSET or remotely.</p>	<p>Start: Sum 26 Review: Aut26</p>	<p>Head of School</p>		

CURRICULUM

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	STAKEHOLDERS	NOTES	TRACKER
<i>Recommended actions listed below – during the workshop, keep or delete rows to suit your setting; or add in your own actions in blank rows</i>				
<p>Complete a curriculum audit</p> <p>Complete a curriculum audit to understand how and where sustainability currently features in your curriculum as well as where there are gaps. This may focus on topics as a whole or individual lessons across all subject areas. Online resources such as Map The Curriculum may be helpful for this.</p>	<p>Start: Sum 26 Review: Aut26</p>			
<p>Amend your curriculum to incorporate sustainability</p> <p>Amend your curriculum to include stronger links to climate change and sustainability. This could be a total refresh, a bit of tweaking, drop down days or simply adding extra assemblies. Teach the Future, Royal Meteorological Society (Curriculum for Climate Literacy) and the MoEE have amazing resources on how to weave sustainability throughout your curriculum.</p>	<p>Start: Sum 26 Review: Aut26</p>			



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