

Climate Action Plan Template

With examples and extra resources

**SUSTAINABLE
ST HELENS**



Introduction

This document is designed to help local schools develop and achieve the goals within their relevant climate action plans. There is no obligation to make your action plan public it should however be noted that in doing so you will be able to engage with parents and the local community to further your climate impact. In 2022, the sustainability and climate change strategy for education and children's services mandated a sustainability lead and climate action plan to be put in place in all educational facilities by 2025. With this in mind, this document does not aim to replace existing documentation but simply to aid any future changes.

Relevant Sections of the National Curriculum:

Steps taken towards climate action should involve students to develop their understanding of environmental issues and inspire a drive for positive change. Education should be tailored towards the relevant age group further information can be found here:

[National curriculum in England: science programmes of study - GOV.UK](#)

[National curriculum in England: geography programmes of study - GOV.UK](#)

Your action plan should include at least one step towards each of the Department of Education's four key pillars:

1. Decarbonisation and Net Zero: actions to measure and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, working towards net zero.
2. Biodiversity and Nature: efforts to protect and enhance nature and wildlife within the setting and its surrounding.
3. Adaptation and Resilience: how the setting is preparing for and responding to the impacts of climate change.
4. Climate education and green skills: how learners are supported to understand climate change, sustainability, and develop relevant skills.

Choosing the right sustainability leadership structure:

It is recommended the Sustainability lead is supported by a wider team of driven, forward thinking and personable members of staff that can aid in furthering and recording climate action. Having an approachable team can drive the momentum of climate action and reach a wider audience.

Please feel free to use some of the examples below in your action plan.

ACTION PLAN TEMPLATE WITH EXAMPLES:

Goal	Action	Steps to Achieving Goal	Timeline	Allocated Responsible Person	When is this Action Appropriate?
Decarbonisation and Net Zero	Installation of energy efficient lighting.	1. Conduct an energy audit within the buildings, assessing the current lighting system. 2. Select suitable LEDs to install within the buildings. 3. Replace old lighting with higher efficiency lighting methods.	Short term		Many schools are fitted with LED's by default check with your administrator to see if this change can be achieved. Alternatively, you could promote the use of natural lighting where appropriate.
	Turning off appliances when not in use. <i>These are small changes you can be creative with even helping students get into similar habits at home would be useful.</i>	1. Signs next to light switches and appliances to remind people to switch off when not in use. 2. Smart boards which can be put into energy saving modes. Reduces the amount of time a device is on therefore using less electricity.	Short term		These examples aren't limitless if they don't work for you be creative find small changes within your school that could save energy. St Helens Council Climate and Environment team provide interactive workshops to help students calculate their carbon footprint and create pledges to reduce them. If this is something you are interested in please email: netzero@sthelens.gov.uk

	Cycle Bus By promoting cycling to and from schools you can reduce the number of cars on the road therefore carbon emissions are lowered. This also gives students confidence in cycling and can promote active travel outside of school.	1. Research BikeAbility bike busses 2. Offer BikeAbility courses to teach children and staff how to confidently and safely ride a bike in public. 3. Create a few routes within a proximity to the school, led by older students, staff or parents to collect students along the way to school.	Medium term		We appreciate this can be difficult to set up and requires good communication and organisation. If you feel this is something you could implement in your school, follow the link attached to find out more: Bike Bus
Biodiversity and Nature	Develop knowledge and understanding of biodiversity through National Curriculum and specifications.	1. Presentations to students and staff. 2. Workshops and interactive activities for students and staff to participate in.	Short term		If you feel you would need help with this St Helens Council Environment and Climate team offers interactive biodiversity workshops that can be tailored to your school's needs. If this is something you are interested in please email: netzero@sthelens.gov.uk
	Biodiversity Garden Student and staff led programme to create a garden within the	1. Plant seeds, create a vegetable patch, design pollen-friendly features,	Long term		Your school may not have the space for an allotment however; planters are a great alternative and offer good services to pollinators. These can also be replanted by future students.

	school grounds promoting biodiversity. This actively improves biodiversity and provides educational facilities.	habitats for small animals, native plant species. 2. Locally grown food, to be sold or used within the kitchen of the school/college. 3. Include an outdoor learning environment or classroom to teach students how to interact and look after the environment, providing them with resources and skill-based knowledge.			
	Compost Site Encourages proper disposal of food and garden waste and improves soil composition for plants and invertebrates.	1. Create an area or space designated to waste products such as food, leaves or garden waste. 2. Compost improves soil health and reduces the need for chemical fertilisers or pesticides. 3. Involve students and staff to maintain the compost site.	Medium term		This doesn't require much space, just the right equipment. For more information on how to make a good compost site, please visit: Composting RHS Advice If you have booked a biodiversity session with St Helens Council this could be added upon request, to highlight the benefits and functions of composting to your class.

Adaptation and Resilience	Risk assessment of property and buildings. Can be carried out via surveys on site by appropriate members of staff (education staff, operational staff, senior leadership team).	1. Look at potential risks that could impact the building resilience and create adaptative measures to reduce impact of potential hazards. 2. Teach staff with the skills to carry out a vulnerability analysis as a result of the impacts of climate change.	Short term		These vulnerabilities could be things like high flood risk, wind exposure or potential risk from trees. Each of these risks would need a mitigation such as easy access to sandbags (or alternatives) or tree surveys.
	Develop an emergency response scheme within the school system. This can be embedded within the school protocols if an extreme weather event was to occur, ensuring proactive mitigation and recovery process.	1. Prepare: Risk assessments and staff training. 2. Respond: Activation of emergency protocols, main priority to protect staff and students. 3. Recover: damage assessment, reconstruction of damage. 4. Long term mitigation plan: Monitoring and evaluation, possible governance coordination and assistance.	Long term		This can coincide with your risk assessment and would mitigate against environmental damage.

Climate Education and Green Skills	Mock COP events or Youth Climate Commission. The school can attend St Helens Council's annual youth Climate Commission event.	1. Develop a set of assemblies, workshops and presentations on climate events. 2. Mock COP event or attendance in the Youth Climate commission.	Short / Medium term		More information can be found at: Netzero Home Page - Netzero If you wish to get involved contact St Helens Council at: netzero@sthelens.gov.uk
	Student led Green Groups or clubs. Provides students with knowledge to encourage future action.	Some activities could include bioblitz, FIT counts, nature crafts or woodland walks.	Short term		More information on these activities could be requested through this email: netzero@sthelens.gov.uk or by following some of the links below.
	Campaign work for the local neighbourhood. Local news articles, social media awareness on climate action	1. Students will be tasked with creating posters, letters or news articles to promote change on environmental issues. 2. These will be shared with parents/governors to promote further change	Short / Medium term		Case studies can be found on the St Helens Net Zero Website: Netzero Home Page - Netzero

Resources

Here are some helpful resources that could help you decide which actions are most appropriate for your school.

General Guidance

[Sustainability Support for Education](#) –

Gives guidance on climate action plans and refers to organisations that can offer further support.

[How it works | Education Nature Park](#) –

Offers support to schools to enact climate action plans

Climate Change

[Why is decarbonisation important? -](#)

[Action Zero](#) – Information Page on the importance of lowering carbon emissions and why decarbonisation is important for society and environment.

[UK Climate Change • Let's Go Zero](#) –

Commit to be net zero by 2030.

Biodiversity

[Why is biodiversity important? | Royal](#)

[Society](#) – Information Page on Biodiversity's important role within ecosystem services and human life on Earth.

[Birmingham to become a capital for 'compost culture' thanks to National Lottery funding | The National Lottery Community Fund](#) – Example of awarded funding to create a community culture of composting in Birmingham, limiting food waste.

Adaptation and Resilience

[Climate change adaptation - Practical](#)

[Action](#) – Information page on the importance of climate adaptation aiming to build resilience against changing climate.

[Carbon management plan 2020-2026](#) –

This is an existing strategy plan from Manchester Metropolitan University, to achieving Net Zero carbon by 2026. Provides long-term examples.

Education and Future Careers

[Skills for Careers](#) - Gov.uk Skills for future careers

Government documentation

[Sustainability leadership and climate action plans in education - GOV.UK](#)

[Sustainability and climate change: a strategy for the education and children's services systems - GOV.UK](#)