

Smallberry Green Climate Action Plan

Climate Action Plan (CAP) Executive summary:

School name: Smallberry Green Primary School

Local Authority: London Borough of Hounslow

Date: 26th November 2025

Sustainability lead: Helen Holton

Governor Champion: TBC

Our school commits to becoming a low-carbon, climate resilient and nature positive primary school by embedding sustainable operations curriculum and community action. Our Climate Action Plan aligns with the Department for Education (DfE) expectations and Hounslow's Climate Emergency strategy.

At Smallberry Green Primary School, we are committed to tackling the urgent challenges posed by climate change. This Climate Action Plan outlines our roadmap for sustainability, aligning with the Department for Education's (DfE) Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy. Our plan is rooted in the DfE's vision to ensure that every young person is equipped to lead sustainable lives and prepared for a future shaped by climate change. As a school in an urban setting with limited green space, we are embracing innovative approaches to managing our own food waste, growing some food for school meals, enhancing biodiversity, reducing our carbon footprint, and fostering a culture of climate resilience.

Through this plan, we aim to:

- Reduce our carbon emissions through the development of our circular food economy
- Engage our community: Empowering pupils, staff, and families to take meaningful climate action.
- Transition to sustainability: Embedding environmentally friendly practices into every aspect of school life.

Together, we will provide our pupils with the knowledge, skills, and experiences to shape a sustainable future for themselves and their community.

When will learners and staff be engaged in ideas generation for actions in our climate action plan?

Community engaged	When?	How?
Learners	Termly Fortnightly	Class meetings, pupil voice survey through homework and assemblies School Council meetings
Staff	Half termly	INSET Staff sustainability working group - updates on different actions, new ideas and things not working Training with all staff on sustainability across school
Leadership and CAP members	Termly	Updates by Sustainability lead
Parents and caregivers	Termly	Information in newsletters and homework Information and celebration events shared on social media

What have we already achieved?

DfE Link	Actions	Benefits to school
Biodiversity	Curriculum Trips	Pupils connect to nature through local area trips Y3 to Syon Park Y4/Y2? to London Wetlands KS1 to Kew
	Composting	We have started to use the compost produced on-site in our own raised beds to improve soil ecology with the help of Cultivate London. These need maintained
	School garden	Installed an edible garden with Cultivate London with diverse planting as well as several bug hotels providing hands-on learning opportunities. Mental well-being support through engagement with nature. Connection to nature and how food is grown First hand experience of biodiversity and nature - including the bug hotels across the site We have planted a range of trees, flowers and shrubs to improve air quality and biodiversity This needs maintained
Decarbonisation	Motion sensor lights in corridors	Improved energy efficiency. Decreased emissions. Reduced electricity bills.
	Uniform Sales	Second hand uniform stall available to parents at events.
	Communication and homework	Lower paper use across the curriculum
	Solar panels	Solar panels installed in 2021 have been regularly providing 40-50% of the MWh consumption for the school. We even send back excess green energy to the grid.
	Food waste bins	Smaller compost bins around the school grounds to process the food waste we generate in the kitchens (prep waste), dining room (plate scrapings) and from class/staff rooms. This helps diverting food waste from landfill and comply with the upcoming food waste ban to landfill
Adaptation and resilience	SUDS drainage systems	Mitigating flood risk

Decarbonisation			
Our vision: Reducing our school emissions and being part of the wider transition to net zero. 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.			
Areas of action Reducing emissions created through: • Energy usage and utilities • Waste Management • Purchasing and services • Transport to and from school • Food and drinks		Co-benefits of Decarbonisation pillar • Cost reductions through increased efficiency (school materials, food and energy)	
Action	Information: resources and timescale	Responsibility and key stakeholders	Progress Updates from meetings
Create a decarbonisation plan for the schools	Audit created feeding into a waste reduction plan Ongoing to show impact and inform next steps - show reduction in energy use by 5+% Climate Friendly Schools Energy Audit Tool Energy Sparks Catapult energy systems guidance https://letsgozero.org/ Understanding of carbon emissions to inform climate change – Count your carbon		
Assess buildings for draughts and leaks	Problem areas identified - action plan in place		
Change behaviours in our school and wider community by installing a “switch off squad” or “Switch off” mentality within staff and pupils to check lights, screens and cupboard lights are off when not in use	Pupil monitors check lights, screens, and projectors during transitions.	Eco-team	
Introduce Switch off day/Power down days Switch off fortnight	Devices turned off when not in use.	Eco-team	

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	Decreased bills and emissions.		
Food waste audit - all school kitchens and dining room and set food waste reduction targets Identify what is being thrown away in school. Waste audit of classrooms, staff room, dining hall and the school office	Baseline food waste volumes captured from kitchen prep, plate scrapings and classrooms/offices/staffrooms Additional recycling stations at school Items in school recycled/reused/re-purposed		
Standardise heating setpoints and ensure external doors aren't propped open	Standardise to 19–20°C with doors closed and regular checks. 18 degrees recommended for classrooms*		
Look into installing plug timers on printers and photocopiers	Automatic shut-off for ICT suites, photocopiers and kitchen appliances – already on ICT equipment		
Check all bulbs are LED bulbs where appropriate/motion sensors	Replace all failed bulbs with LEDs; plan full-school LED rollout.		
School Energy Audit	Conduct whole-site audit to identify efficiency opportunities.		
Look into TRVs (Thermostatic radiator valves) and ensure zoning of heating where possible	Improve temperature control in classrooms and halls.		
Check old appliances			
Real time energy displays for pupils to see and track school usage – plug ins that show energy efficiency Pupil led energy audit	Install screen for pupils to track real energy data.		
Insulation (roof, draughts, double glazing)	Roof, draught-proofing, and window upgrades.		
Low carbon heating (heat pumps)			
Empowered pupils take knowledge home to families			
Reflector panels behind radiators			

Adaptation and Resilience			
Our Vision: Adapting our own buildings, grounds and systems to prepare and mitigate for the effects of climate change Resilience to climate change: adapting our education and care buildings and system to prepare for the effects of climate change.			
Areas of action • Reducing the effects of overheating through physical or operational changes to the site • Developing resilience in education settings to extreme weather events • Developing staff, pupil and community resilience to a changing environment		Co-benefits of Adaptation and Resilience pillar for students • Attainment – pupils’ education is not affected by extreme weather	
Action	Information: resources and timescale	Responsibility and key stakeholders Target/measure	Progress Updates from meetings
Complete a climate risk checklist	Review overheating, flood risk, drainage, tree shade Flood risk recently completed -Smallberry is in a high flood risk zone due to location		
Establish heatwave protocols (shaded play areas, ventilation)	Shade-first policy, ventilation routines, hydration checks. High quality learning continues during extreme weather events		
Gutters, drains and downpipes are cleared quarterly to reduce flood risk – gutters too small from survey	Courtyard to get water collector New rain garden		
Shade tree planting	Planting shade trees near south-facing play areas/classrooms		
Window films	reduce solar gain in classrooms		
Improve the rain gardens and mini-SUDS systems already installed	Add planting areas that absorb heavy rainwater – new one about to be installed in car park		
Permeable ground surfaces	Replace tarmac with permeable materials in refurbishments.		
Integrate climate resilience into all future building and refurbishment plans			
Increase pupils knowledge of energy resilience and adaptation by raising awareness and education			
Promote water conservation practices			

Biodiversity			
Our Vision: Enhance biodiversity, improve air quality and increase access to, and connection with, nature for all pupils and the wider community. We aim to improve the ecosystem in the school grounds through including more diverse planting in our raised beds to improve biodiversity, and by using the compost we generate from our own food waste to enhance soil flora and fauna and fertility.			
Areas of action • Increase biodiversity in and around the site • Enrich the soil • Biodiverse food growing • Develop biodiversity lessons • Air pollution		Co-benefits of biodiversity pillar - • Mental health and wellbeing • Physical health • Careers and skills of learners • Enhanced the experience of nature	
Action	Information: resources and timescale	Responsibility and key stakeholders Target/measure	Progress Updates from meetings
Increase our schools awareness and knowledge of the biodiversity on site	Develop a dedicated environmental study space.		
Increase biodiversity through planting			
Rewilding			
Growing food			
No-mow zone	Identify areas of the field to leave as a no-mow area to increase pollinators		
Bird feeders and insect hotels	Install simple habitats built by pupils.		
Gardening club	Regular sessions for planting, care and nature observation.		
Create a wildflower meadow strip along a fence or boundary	Seed boundary areas for seasonal pollinator support.		
Plant trees/mini orchard – work with the council Tree for every pupil campaign/Trees for cities			
Pupils take part in biodiversity surveys	Annual pupil-led monitoring of species and habitats.		
Improving unused areas			

Climate Education and Green Skills			
Our Vision: Preparing all students for a world impacted by climate change through education & practice. 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.			
Areas of action • Embedding climate education across the curriculum • Building green skills in learners, staff and the education setting community • Provide students with skills and opportunities to pursue		Co-benefits of Climate Education and green careers pillar for students • Students prepared with skills they need for a future net zero world (employability, resilience and can play an active role in building a just transition)	
Action	Information: resources and timescale	Responsibility and key stakeholders Target/measure	Progress Updates from meetings
Map existing lessons to identify where climate and nature links are made – Kapow and WR MTP	Identify sustainability links across EYFS–Y6.		
Launch an eco-committee	Establish pupil leadership group with regular meetings.		
Run themed weeks	Energy week, Biodiversity week, Clean air day alongside science week		
Annual Sustainability Projects	Every year group completes a sustainability project with real world application		
Sustainability CPD	Provide staff training on climate and sustainability education.		
Expert visitors	Invite visitors: local climate officers, engineers, gardeners, green job ambassadors		
Climate literacy/visibility	classroom/whole school displays/energy graphs/biodiversity posters		
Integrate sustainability across the curriculum	Embed climate themes consistently across subjects.		
Develop progression model	Embed climate themes consistently across subjects.		
Green career pathways	STEM fairs, eco-skill workshops and field trips.		
Partner with local organisations for long term projects – Hounslow parks? Heathrow green programs?	Apply for Royal Society grant for sustainability focused STEM project		

