

Climate Action Plan

Thomas Willingale Primary School

1 year plan Autumn 2025 – 2026

Carbon baseline: TBC tCo2e Calculation: Date



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GET STARTED				
ACTION	TIMEFRAME	STAKEHOLDERS	NOTES	TRACKER
Sign up to the Let's Go Zero campaign 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.	Start: Jul 25 Review: Jan 26			Completed
Calculate your school's carbon footprint using Count Your Carbon ★ This free digital tool allows you to calculate the carbon footprint for your educational setting.	Start: Sept/Oct 25 Review: Jan 26			
Sign up to the Sustainability Support for Education A DfE-funded project that enables education settings to start or progress on their sustainability journey. This includes all types of settings from Early Years to Higher Education, offering suggested actions paired with quality-assured resources. You can filter these to show suggestions relevant to your setting based on your teaching age, priorities, how far you've progressed already, estate, and more.	Start: Sept/Oct 25 Review: Jan 26			

1. Decarbonisation and Energy Efficiency

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

ENERGY – BEHAVIOUR CHANGE				
ACTION	TIMEFRAME	STAKEHOLDERS	NOTES	TRACKER
Take part in a switch off campaign ★ 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).	Start: Spring Term Review:			
Ensure your BMS/BEMS has efficient timings and temperatures set for the school day, evenings, weekends and holidays e.g. 6am-1pm at 18 degrees in classrooms Reducing the temperature in a building by 1°C can save 5% to 10% of your annual heating bill. There is more specific advice in the DfE's energy efficiency guidance around ideal temperatures in different areas of the school.	Start: Sept 25 Review:		Some basic info here from Energy Sparks	
Instruct all staff to follow heating efficiency practices eg turn heating down vs opening windows Give staff clear instructions on how to manage heating in their classrooms, e.g. ensure all teachers know where TRVs are or how to control their classroom thermostat, when to open windows and how to be proactive rather than reactive to overheating issues.	Start: Sept 25 Review: Jan 26			
Implement a power down strategy for electric devices and appliances e.g. sleep settings on computers and projectors and turning off scanners/ printers overnight Implement power-down strategies across the school, e.g. sleep settings on laptops, smart-boards and screens.	Start: Jul 25 Review: Jan 26			

Power down strategy for appliances (fridges and freezers over holidays) Fridges and freezers are often overlooked. Check every fridge, including the staffroom, and turn them all off over holiday periods. Condense frozen food down to only 1 freezer, particularly over long breaks, to reduce base load during unoccupied periods, and turn any other freezers off.	Start: Jul 25 Review: Jan 26			
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ENERGY – BUILDINGS & INFRASTRUCTURE

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	STAKEHOLDERS	NOTES	TRACKER
Confirm a time with Essex Council for your energy audit This is a top recommendation for schools to reduce energy costs and will help you to identify and prioritise the next steps with energy retrofit options and measurements for your school. This energy audit will	Start: Sept/Oct 25 Review:			
Investigate the potential for solar panels Investigate solar providers: aim to compare quotes from at least 3 different providers to check you are getting value for money and pricing that works well for you. Providers we recommend checking with: Solar for Schools & Eden Sustainable. (Note: There is a Let's Go Guide for this action)	Start: Sept/Oct 25 Review: Jan 26			
Install LED lighting Replace any remaining older lighting fixtures with LEDs and install motion sensors in any high traffic areas. The DfE suggests LED installation can reduce energy consumption from lighting by over 84%.	Start: Jul 25 Review: Ongoing			

Explore increasing the number of zones and thermostats available to allow for greater flexibility in heating	Start: Sept/Oct 25 Review: Jan 26			
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PROCUREMENT & WASTE				
ACTION	TIMEFRAME	STAKEHOLDERS	NOTES	TRACKER
Continue to consider carbon footprint and environmental practices of the services/companies you use Develop a Sustainable Procurement policy or strategy.	Start: Jul 25 Review: Ongoing			
Explore or expand paperless platforms/ printing software that can reduce paper consumption Explore paperless platforms that can reduce paper consumption e.g. Showbie	Start: Sept/Oct 25 Review: Jan 26			
Education around recycling as part of assemblies or other whole school opportunities Deliver assembly/ information to students regarding what is to be put in each bin. Young Climate Warriors provide slides/ assemblies Do a waste audit and encourage students to take part in the whole process. Wastebusters have a helpful step-by-step guide for this.	Start: Sept/Oct 25 Review: Jan 26	Eco Council		

FOOD				
ACTION	TIMEFRAME	STAKEHOLDERS	NOTES	TRACKER

Introduce a veggie/plant based/Planet friendly day Adding a planet-friendly day increases your vegan and vegetarian meal uptake.	Start: TBC Review:			
Explain reasons for eating less meat during lessons, assemblies etc. Promote plant-based menu options. Aim to increase uptake of plant-based meals through pupil-led assemblies. You can use resources such as Canteen to Classroom from ProVeg.	Start: Jan 26 Review: Sept 26	Eco Council		
Weigh food waste from kitchen and plates and share results 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, and feed this back to your school caterer to make necessary changes to dishes/menu.	Start: Jan 26 Review: Sept 26	Eco Council		

TRANSPORT				
ACTION	TIMEFRAME	STAKEHOLDERS	NOTES	TRACKER
Keep your active travel plan up to date Work with ModeShift STARS to implement your school travel plan which supports cycling, walking and other forms of sustainable travel.	Start: Sept/Oct 25 Review: Jan 26			
Provide cycle proficiency lessons in school e.g. Bikeability Host cycling proficiency lessons in your school grounds, such as Bikeability. For more details visit Bikeability , Safer, Greener, Healthier Essex or email cycletraining@essex.gov.uk .	Start: Previously run in school Review: Sept/Oct 25			

Run active travel campaigns e.g. Modeshift STARS Participate in annual Active Travel Weeks, eg Living Streets, Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel and Cycle to School Week. Aim for these events to trigger a permanent shift to sustainable travel from students who live locally enough to do so.	Start: Previously running Review: Jan 26		Currently run WOW Challenge in school.	
Promote walking/cycling/public transport to school/ Park & Stride Communicate to the wider school community the benefits of active travel. You could use the Active Travel Toolkit from Essex Council which offers guidance on promoting active travel.	Start: Previously running Review: Jan 26		Currently run WOW Challenge in school.	
Monitor air quality around school Explore, learn and understand more about air quality and why it matters. The Essex Air Quality Consortium is working to make the air we breathe in Essex cleaner and healthier. The Essex Air School Zone can help you and your students learn more about air pollution and what can be done to tackle it.	Start: Jan 26 Review: Sept 26			

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
Write a heatwave policy that addresses areas such as school dress code, passive ventilation measures, PE lessons and slip slap slop campaigns Write a heat wave policy to address issues such as uniform, PE, sunscreen and outdoor learning. Consider	Start: Sept/Oct 25 Review: Jan 26			

adopting the joint union heatwave protocol including short term, medium term and long term measures.				
Build sheltered areas on playgrounds for heat resilience Use awnings/shading measures to provide adequate shelter for students on hot days.	Start: Jul 25 Review: Jan 26			
Conduct a grounds audit using LtL tool for climate resilience Conduct a climate resilience audit of the school site, e.g. to check all windows and blinds 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.	Start: Jan 26 Review: Sept 26			
Ensure staff understand how to cool their rooms through cross ventilation and other context specific measures Communicate to staff how best to cool their rooms through cross ventilating and maximising air flow.	Start: Jul 25 Review: Jan 26			

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
Enrol with The Nature Park (NENP) ★ The NENP aims to embed nature-based learning in 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	Start: Sept/Oct 25 Review: Jan 26			

steps in the journey and the actions needed to reach your goals.				
Create outdoor learning spaces with seating, shade and suitable accessibility Identify areas in your school grounds which could accommodate outdoor learning, ideally spaces with natural shade, space for seating and suitable access. Consider sourcing seating or other resources from recycle or swap sites.	Start: Sept/Oct 25 Review: Jan 26			
Have pupils carry out wildlife surveys Conduct wildlife surveys and habitat mapping using the NENP resources or take part in activities such as the Big Birdwatch with the RSPB.	Start: Jan 26 Review: Sept 26			

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

CURRICULUM & CULTURE				
ACTION	TIMEFRAME	STAKEHOLDERS	NOTES	TRACKER
Set up an eco-club for pupils to take leadership on issues Establish a student Eco Club. Consider inclusivity and longevity of projects so that as many students as possible can take part throughout their time at school.	Start: Sept 25 Review: Jan 26			
Develop a communications strategy that shares sustainability goals more widely Develop a communications strategy to share the great work you are doing with the community, e.g. photo diary	Start: Sept/Oct 25 Review: Jan 26			

<p>of plants grown in gardening club or pond, wildflower or no-mow zones.</p> <p>Communicate your sustainability efforts and success via your newsletters, website, local press and social media channels and get your wider community involved.</p>				
<p>Give your sustainability leads sufficient PPA and support</p> <p>Provide the sustainability leads with sufficient PPA/ TLR to fulfil this role.</p>	<p>Start: Sept/Oct 25 Review: Jan 26</p>			
<p>Set up a sustainability working group including</p> <p>Assemble a Sustainability Working Group featuring different stakeholders across the school to collaborate and effect change including SLT, site manager and teachers.</p>	<p>Start: Sept/Oct 25 Review: Jan 26</p>			
<p>Provide CPD opportunities for staff on sustainability</p> <p>Investigate appropriate CPD opportunities for staff, e.g. sharing existing sustainability content and developing skills through Carbon Literacy training or Climate FRESK.</p> <p>MoEE has also compiled a list of staff training opportunities.</p>	<p>Start: Sept/Oct 25 Review: Jan 26</p>			
<p>Complete a curriculum audit & incorporate sustainability</p> <p>Teach the Future have amazing resources on how to link the curriculum to sustainability! MoEE also has very helpful resources on this.</p>	<p>Start: Jan 26 Review: Sept 26</p>			



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