

Your School's Climate Action Plan

St Georges Church School - 29/07/25

Your Action	In a bit more detail	Looking for inspiration
<p>Students to take part in a litter survey</p>  <p>Pathway: Community</p>	<p>Litter not only makes our environment look unpleasant, but it impacts the health of thousands of animals every year, as well as reaching and polluting our oceans and rivers.</p> <p>Co-benefits</p> <p>In the process students will be clearing up litter in their local area.</p>	<p>In Marine Conservation Society's Litter in the Environment lesson plan and worksheets, students will experience litter in the environment first-hand by taking part in a litter survey. Results will then be analysed, looking at the sources and properties of litter, considering how it could impact the environment.</p>
<p>Host an environmental event on a topic of your choice at your school, including parents in the school community</p>  <p>Pathway: Community</p>	<p>Encouraging parents to get involved in environmental action at their child's school is a great way to get them motivated to take action.</p> <p>When this action is happening at school and at home, we can expect longer term, long lasting change in a community.</p>	<p>Green School Bali has more information about changing culture in schools, learn more here.</p>

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<p>Engage and inform the school community about air pollution to help everyone play their part</p>  <p>Pathway: Community</p>	<p>1) Talk to families about the air pollution actions you are taking at school in your school newsletter</p> <p>Adding air pollution content to your school newsletter will help to inform parents/carers about the problem and what they can do to help tackle it.</p> <p>2) Add a link to the Clean Air Hub on your school website</p> <p>Providing information about air pollution and what people can to do improve it will help people to protect their health and reduce air pollution in the community. The Clean Air Hub is a one-stop shop for information on air pollution.</p> <p>3) Send out text alerts to families informing them of high air pollution days</p> <p>Informing families about high air pollution episodes can help protect people's health.</p> <p>4) Make provisions for those with health issues to stay inside during periods of high air pollution</p> <p>For some students with health conditions such as asthma, air pollution may exacerbate their symptoms. It is important to be aware of the possible implications of high pollution days and have a plan in place.</p> <p>5) Display air pollution information on notice boards around the school</p> <p>Clean Air Day posters and the leaflet helps you to share key information about air pollution and what you can do to avoid it.</p> <p>Co-benefits</p> <p>Helping the school community to understand and act on air pollution will help improve people's health and help meet the school's objectives on reducing air pollution.</p>	<p>The Clean Air Day school resources webpage gives you access to lots of school resources including; sample newsletters, leaflets and other top tips for engaging with the school community on air pollution.</p> <p>Air pollution forecasts can be found on the Clean Air Hub.</p> <p>Look at government guidance on creating individual health care plans.</p> <p>The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs releases air pollution alerts and notifications when pollution levels are high. Visit the website and text your families with the corresponding health advice.</p>

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<p>Improve the facilities at school to encourage more people to walk, scoot or cycle</p>  <p>Pathway: Community</p>	<p>1) Provide showers and locker facilities for staff to encourage active travel</p> <p>2) Offer a cycle to work scheme to your staff to encourage active travel</p> <p>The Cycle to Work scheme is designed to help your staff save money on a new bike and spread the cost of the bike over monthly tax-free instalments throughout the year.</p> <p>3) Improve cycle and scooter parking to encourage active travel</p> <p>The recommended minimum levels of scooter and cycle parking are:</p> <p>Primary schools: 1 scooter space per 10 pupils and 1 cycle space per 20 pupils Secondary schools: 1 cycle space per 10 pupils. In Scotland, funding is available to help implement cycle/scooter parking through Sustrans. All schools: 1 cycle space per 20 staff in a non-pupil area</p> <p>Co-benefits</p> <p>Physical activity improves physical and mental health.</p> <p>Suitable bike/scooter parking will promote physical activity, which improves physical and mental health.</p>	<p>Cycle UK provides useful guidance on cycle-friendly employers and cycle-commuting.</p> <p>Check out Sustrans' helpful guidance called 'The Cycle to Work scheme explained'. Plus, they have lots of excellent ideas and actions that you can use to change your workplace.</p>
<p>Buy sustainably sourced, recycled paper</p>  <p>Pathway: Culture</p>	<p>It takes 70% less energy to recycle paper than it does to make it new from raw materials. This lowers the school's carbon footprint.</p> <p>Purchasing sustainably sourced recycled paper is good practice as it stops trees from being felled for paper and creates a market for recycled goods. It closes the loop between schools recycling their paper and buying back what has been recycled.</p> <p>1) Working with the Eco team find out what kind of paper school currently buys. Is it 100% recycled fibre; does it have the FSC paper mark (a mark of stewardship for sustainable forestry), or better still both? Is it chlorine bleached paper or chlorine free?</p> <p>2) Research the costs of different papers and make a proposal to the school administrator about what to purchase.</p> <p>Co-benefits</p> <p>Saving trees from the sawmill.</p>	<p>The cost of paper needs to be considered but bulk buying with other schools would reduce the cost.</p> <p>Green Matters discusses eco-friendly paper.</p> <p>This action supports the key area of "our production and consumption of resources" which is part of the GMCA's 5 year environment plan.</p>

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<p>Promote active travel on the school run</p>  <p>Pathway: Culture</p>	<p>1) Start a walking bus</p> <p>Work with parents/carers to set up walking buses. A walking bus is a group of children and adults who walk to school along a set route, picking up more students along the way. When done on a regular basis, adults can take it in turns to accompany the walking bus.</p> <p>2) Create and share a map of low pollution walking routes to school</p> <p>A walking zone is a defined area around the school within which children and families are encouraged to walk. Work with students to use mapping software to create a map of low pollution walking routes within the walking zone, and distribute this across the school community.</p> <p>3) Launch a week-long active travel challenge to encourage your students to try walking or cycling to school</p> <p>By trying walking and/or cycling to school as part of a fun challenge week, new travel habits can be formed as families and students experience the benefits of active travel.</p> <p>Co-benefits</p> <p>Physical activity improves physical and mental health. There are also beneficial social outcomes.</p>	<p>Living Streets hosts an annual Walk to School Week.</p> <p>Living Streets' 'Walking Zones' lesson plan involves children in the set up of a walking zone. Use the 'Creating a map of low pollution walking routes' guide to lead your students through a map-making activity.</p> <p>Take a look at our case study of a school using Clean Air Day to launch their brand-new walking bus as a way to reduce children's exposure to pollution.</p> <p>Download Clean Air Day's the ' How to: Organise a walking bus to school' guide or 'Walking bus banner' and get walking.</p> <p>Check out our case study of a Clean Air Route map design helping 96% of children to walk to school in Bow.</p> <p>Sustrans have resources available to help encourage children to cycle to school.</p>
<p>Investigate your school food procurement</p>  <p>Pathway: Curriculum</p>	<p>Food and drink production and distribution contributes 20% of UK carbon emissions every year and is the leading cause of deforestation, land use change and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Co-benefits</p> <p>Encouraging sustainable and healthy eating.</p>	<p>The Food for Life programme is about making good food the easy choice for everyone – making healthy, tasty and sustainable meals the norm for all to enjoy, reconnecting people with where their food comes from, teaching them how it's grown and cooked, and championing the importance of well-sourced ingredients.</p>
<p>Explore how your local area connects to the ocean and how litter travels from sources on land to the sea</p>  <p>Pathway: Curriculum</p>	<p>It's estimated that 80% of litter in the ocean comes from inland sources, showing that no matter how far we live from the sea, our actions can affect marine life.</p> <p>Co-benefits</p> <p>Helps to get students to raise awareness in their community.</p>	<p>Marine Conservation Society provides a lesson plan and worksheets for 7-11 year olds, to help students understand the ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected.</p>

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<p>Receive a free talk or workshop from WaterAid</p>  <p>Pathway: Curriculum</p>	<p>It is important for students to understand that even in the rainy UK it is important to look after our water.</p>	<p>WaterAid's trained speakers are experts in water, sanitation and hygiene. Speakers can give an online talk or workshop to your group about WaterAid's work to tackle COVID-19, climate change, periods and more!</p> <p>Book a free talk or workshop.</p>
<p>Create an outdoor classroom</p>  <p>Pathway: Campus</p>	<p>Teaching outside is good for young people's health, fitness and well-being.</p> <p>An outdoor classroom is about defining an area where learning can occur. It can be as simple as using sawn logs to create a seating area, building a wooden roofed structure or landscaping an amphitheatre.</p> <p>1) Consider the sites available and the kind of classroom you want to provide.</p> <p>2) If it is forest school style it can be as simple as sourcing logs and an awning;</p> <p>3) If you need a wooden structure or the area needs landscaping you will need to find a suitable organisation to deliver your goals.</p> <p>Co-benefits</p> <p>It is good for pupils to gain knowledge of local fauna and flora.</p>	<p>To create your own outdoor classroom you are likely to need sustainably sourced logs and woodchip. Treestation have a Community Benefit Scheme for their sustainably sourced wood-based products. There are also plenty of organisations that can help build structures or re-landscape an area. The Lancashire Wildlife Trust, Sow the City can help create a forest school's area whilst Groundwork can also re-landscape.</p> <p>This action supports the key area of "our natural environment" which is part of the GMCA's 5 year environment plan.</p>
<p>Install low energy lighting</p>  <p>Pathway: Campus</p>	<p>Low energy lighting can reduce electricity bills and the school's carbon footprint.</p> <p>In a typical school lighting makes up for nearly 50% of the electricity use. Replacing old lighting systems with more energy efficient ones, such as LEDs, can dramatically reduce electricity costs.</p> <p>1) Talk to the site manager who will know about the current lighting.</p> <p>2) Research which lights would best replace the current lights and consider potential savings over time. LED lights will be the most efficient.</p> <p>3) Discuss your findings to senior leaders.</p>	<p>The Department for Education have some simple top tips and recommend improving glazing.</p> <p>Refer to Salix for possible financial support.</p> <p>This action supports the key area of "our homes workplaces and public buildings" which is part of the GMCA's 5 year environment plan.</p>

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<p>Invest in heating controls from radiator thermostats to building solutions</p>  <p>Pathway: Campus</p>	<p>Being able to control the temperature of school buildings can save money on heating bills and reduce the school's carbon footprint.</p> <p>To reduce the school's heating it is necessary to consider how the heating system is run and how it can be improved. Measures could include small adjustments such as installing manual or thermostatic radiator valves (TRUs), to installing a building management system.</p> <p>1) Find out who controls the heating in school.</p> <p>2) Contact the heating controls service engineer to review, reset and advise on the current system and outline what improvements could be made. Ask the heating engineer to map the heating needs on a room by room basis and/or as a whole school.</p> <p>3) Consult with the building users for their opinions.</p> <p>4) Use the map and consultation to plan solutions.</p> <p>Co-benefits</p> <p>It can improve working conditions.</p>	<p>The Department for Education have produced a guide on energy and water saving for schools.</p> <p>Refer to Salix for possible financial support.</p> <p>This action supports the key area of "our homes workplaces and public buildings" which is part of the GMCA's 5 year environment plan.</p>

Actions you already do

Raise funds for your school or other causes by recycling unwanted clothes

Pathway: Community

Get your students to lead their own environmental project

Pathway: Culture

Install a ground source heat pump in your school

Pathway: Campus