

Actions schools can take across the pillars

This resource is to support you with initial ideas generation for actions your school can take across the DfE's four pillars of sustainability. To explore further actions and ideas you can look for local opportunities online or use the [Sustainability Support for Education](#) online platform for more ideas and resources.

Biodiversity Action List

Increase biodiversity in around education setting site

1. [Register with nature parks and map your site](#)
2. Build [bird](#) and [bat boxes](#)
3. Build [bird](#) and [butterfly](#) feeders
4. Make a bug box
5. [Apply to get free urban trees with the woodland trust](#)
6. Participate in [No Mow May](#)
7. Build [a pond](#) towards which surface runoff can [be directed](#), as well as regulate local temperature
8. Use the [Woodland Trust's online tool](#) to plan how you can plant trees on your site
9. [Work with Father Nature to reimagine your school's outdoor space](#)

Improve air quality in and around education setting site

1. Checkout some of the case studies in the [London school air quality toolkit](#)
2. Add [air purifying indoor plants for classrooms](#)
3. Open windows to ventilate your school to improve indoor air quality
4. Create a green barrier between school grounds and adjacent roads
5. [Create a bespoke green wall on site](#)
6. Host a play street [Play Streets | London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham](#)

Create opportunities for children to access nature

1. [Organise a school trip to a nature reserve](#)

2. Encourage parents to join the [London Urban Nature Club](#)
3. Organise a [farm tour or workshop](#) at Surrey Docks Farm
4. Organise a [Wildlife Trust school session](#)

Develop the skills and confidence of learners to take care of their local environment

1. [Explore your site's biodiversity with learners](#)
2. [Check out the WWF biodiversity teaching toolkit](#)
3. Check out opportunities to connect children to nature on site or locally with [ecoactive](#)
4. Check out the [nature parks green skills page](#)
5. Organise a local litter pick

Decarbonisation Action List

Reducing emissions created through energy usage and utilities

1. Read through the [Catapult energy system guide](#)
2. Join [energy sparks](#) for bespoke audits, training and actions to reduce energy usage
3. Speak to staff in your school who might have access to information sources about your school's energy use and collate as much information as you can
4. Understand how [school greenhouse gas emissions](#) work and meet with your school's estate team and/or senior leadership to identify potential reduction areas
5. Participate in national [Switch Off Fortnight](#)
6. [Conduct a full building audit](#)
7. Consider solar energy on your roof with [Solar for School's paneliser tool](#)
8. Fit taps with aerators/low flow devices to reduce flow of water by up to 50%

Purchasing and services

1. Consider purchasing sustainably sourced/recycled resources. e.g paper
2. Implement printing limits for all students and staff
3. Check if you are eligible to apply for the [Conditions Improvement Fund](#)

Transport to and from school

1. Reduce business travel and make all meetings online where possible
2. Conduct a survey with parents and staff to gather data on your school community's commute; use this data to create a [School Travel Plan](#)
3. Join Transport for London's [Travel for Life](#) programme and use their free resources to help implement your School Travel Plan

4. Apply for the [Workplace Charging Scheme](#) (a grant for state-funded education institutes to provide support towards the costs of the purchase, installation and infrastructure of electric vehicle charge points).

Food and drinks

1. Perform an audit of current procurement suppliers and identify those with ISO14001 certification – and consider if a change in current procurement is required (e.g. reducing red meat, or implementing seasonal menus)
2. Implement composting of food waste and using the compost in other ways, e.g. as fertiliser on wild spaces or growing patches

Adaptation and Resilience Action List

Reducing the effects of overheating and/or flooding through physical or operational changes to the site

1. Add Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) such as rain planters to filter and slow flow of rainwater from roofs
2. [Apply to get free urban trees with the Woodland Trust](#), helping with shade and reducing flood risk
3. Use the [Woodland Trust's online tool](#) to plan how you can plant trees on your site
4. [Create a bespoke green wall on site](#)
5. Work with [RAFT](#) to retrofit buildings to increase thermal massing (i.e. ability to absorb, store and release heat)

Developing resilience in education settings to extreme weather events

1. [Replace tarmac](#) with permeable surfaces (e.g. grasscrete or permeable tarmac)
2. [Install rainwater harvesting tank](#) to reduce reliance on external mains water supply
3. Build [a pond](#) towards which surface runoff can [be directed](#), as well as regulate local temperature

Developing staff, learner and community resilience to a changing environment

1. Train staff on [DfE's hot weather guidance](#)
2. Develop a plan for what changes your school will make to keep students safe during extreme heat using the [Hammersmith and Fulham guidance](#)
3. Create a flooding plan using guidance such as [this for estates managers](#)

Climate Education and Green Careers Action List

Embedding climate education across the curriculum

1. Conduct an audit of your school's core subjects' promotion of climate education using these [existing](#) curriculum mapping [resources](#) as a guide
2. At primary level, embed the teaching/ reading of texts that centre climate change/ sustainability (see attached list)
3. Check if you are [eligible for any of these funding opportunities relating to outdoor education](#)
4. Provide whole-school CPD time (including to each department) to rewrite unit plans, based on a curriculum audit
5. Consider Purchasing a new set of texts to teach at KS3 that explicitly engage with climate change or sustainability (e.g. in English, choose [a fiction text](#) engaging with the theme of sustainability)

Building green skills in learners, staff and the education setting community

1. Organise [in-house CPD](#) for your estates team on sustainable construction with The Green Register of Construction Professionals
2. Work with [Green Schools Project](#) to run CPD sessions for climate education integration into your curriculum
3. Promote more accurate understandings/ dispel myths of green careers by disseminating [this poster](#) around school e.g. on computer displays/ during tutor time
4. Use [resources from Youth Employment UK](#) to promote awareness of Green Careers in assemblies, tutor time, or PSHE subject time
5. Use [resources from WWF](#) to promote more accurate understandings/ dispel myths about climate change e.g. on computer displays/ during tutor time, in assemblies, or PSHE subject time

Provide students with skills and opportunities to pursue

1. Sign up for one of [Transport for London's employability support programme events](#)
2. [Create a STEM project and apply for royal society grant](#)
3. Organise school trips to a [nearby woodland](#)