



Climate Action Plan

St. Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Primary School

1 year plan Autumn 2025 – 2026



letsgozero@ashden.org

Introduction:

At St. Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Primary School, we believe that small actions can lead to big changes, and we are excited to take further steps toward a greener, more sustainable future. Our Climate Action Plan is all about creating a positive impact on the environment while continuing to inspire our children, staff, and families to work together for a cleaner, healthier world.

From reducing waste to saving energy, we are committed to making more eco-friendly choices that will benefit not only our school but the community around us. By embracing our future efforts, we hope to encourage everyone at St. Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Primary School to become climate champions and help us to continue on our brighter, more sustainable journey.

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: September 25 Review: Ongoing	JB / HF	JB / HF both attended the Let's Go Zero conference in conjunction with Essex County Council in March 25 and are signed up ready to start the process from September 2025. We already have an elected Eco-Warrior committee who promote sustainability within our school by litter picking in the grounds and ensuring that our recycling is taken to the central collection point in the school each day, they have also created a School Eco-Code. We have used our annual July Challenge Week to promote sustainability within our school.	
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: July 25 Review: Ongoing	HF	Data is being gathered during Challenge Week in order to calculate the school's carbon footprint.	

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). The Pod Switch Off Fortnight 2025	Start: September 25 Review: December 25	Everyone	Appointing new Eco Warriors (September 2025, including Y2) in each class who as part of their responsibility, ensure electrical items are switched off when not in use.	

ENERGY – BUILDINGS & INFRASTRUCTURE

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	STAKEHOLDERS	NOTES	TRACKER
LED Lighting To complete the changeover to all LED lighting	Start: Ongoing Review: As necessary	HF	All classrooms, corridors and halls currently have LED lighting. Remaining storage rooms, toilet areas to be completed as they need replacing.	

PROCUREMENT

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	STAKEHOLDERS	NOTES	TRACKER
Reuse school uniform through a Uniform Exchange ★ Set a target of reusing a specific number of uniform items each year through your Uniform Exchange.	Start: Ongoing Review: Ongoing	JB / HF	PTA regularly hold pre-loved/second hand uniform sales.	

FOOD

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	STAKEHOLDERS	NOTES	TRACKER
Arrange a FREE menu consultation through external organisation, e.g. ProVeg Consider where and how plant-based meals are displayed on menus to reduce bias against these options, e.g. by making the vegetarian offer the default or first in the list, and the meat-option as the alternative. Send off your menu to ProVeg for a menu consultation and advice on improving the planet friendly options.	Start: Autumn 25 Review: When Menu change occurs	HF	Liaise with catering manager to consider menu choices.	

TRANSPORT				
ACTION	TIMEFRAME	STAKEHOLDERS	NOTES	TRACKER
Conduct a travel survey To gather data on pupil and staff commuting habits	Start: Summer term 25 Review: Summer term 26	JB/HF Everyone	Travel Tracker data can be gathered monthly and walking is promoted in conjunction with Living Streets annual 'Walk to School' week (May 26). JB / HF - Conduct a staff survey to collect data about how they travel to work.	

WASTE				
ACTION	TIMEFRAME	STAKEHOLDERS	NOTES	TRACKER
Ensure recycling bins are in all key areas e.g. classrooms, corridors, playgrounds, cafeteria and staffroom. Consider colour differences to highlight general vs recycling clearly. See the this government portal for more information.	Start: July 25 Review: Autumn 25	JB	We currently recycle our paper, cardboard, food, plastic and metal in accordance with updated waste regulations. KS1 – compost any left over fruit and vegetables from the DfE free fruit and vegetable scheme, which then are used by gardening club in the school garden. Challenge Week audit of current bins, children to suggest where they are placed and if any more are needed.	

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, suncream and outdoor learning. Consider adopting the joint union heatwave protocol including short term, medium term and long-term measures.	Start: Ongoing Review: Continuous	HF / JB	We already have summer uniform, refillable water bottles and children are encouraged to bring a hat and sun cream. Encourage use of reusable bottles, not single use water bottles. Currently we have some shaded areas around the school and our three upstairs classrooms, the KS2 hall and the computing suite all have air conditioning. We are planting more trees for shade (long term) which have been donated by the Woodland Trust and will be received in November 25.	

WATER

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	STAKEHOLDERS	NOTES	TRACKER
Check water meter for leaks Access a water audit from your water supplier, or use this resource to involve students in carrying out a water audit. Schools of 600 pupils can save up to £5,000 per year through water reduction.	Start: Continuous Review: Monthly	HF	Monthly meter read already completed which would highlight any leaks.	
Install water butts Capture rainwater to use on plants around school - and help reduce water flow in heavy downpours. Essex County Council currently covers half the cost of purchasing a new water butt. See this link for more information.	Start: July 25 Review: Summer 26	HF	We have one water butt in the school sacred garden. The new sensory cabin will have 2 water butts fitted. Review in autumn term to see if we have capacity and need for more.	

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. Engage your students in creating your site boundary and mapping habitats .	Start: Sept 25 Review: Summer 26	JB / HF	We currently have bird and bat boxes in the sacred garden area. We have man made bug hotels in the quad and school garden. Ensure that science and geography lessons include outside learning opportunities to look at and map any wildlife habitats (natural and man-made) around the school grounds. This will provide data for further investigation and development.	

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

CULTURE				
ACTION	TIMEFRAME	STAKEHOLDERS	NOTES	TRACKER
Set up an eco-club for pupils to take leadership on issues (Student council) ★ 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: Jan 25 Review: Ongoing	JB / LW	Eco-Warriors (KS2) were elected Jan 25. New Eco-Warriors to be elected, consider including Y2 in Sept 25.	
Appoint a sustainability lead with sufficient PPA and support Appoint a sustainability lead in line with the expectations in the DfE's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy . Provide the sustainability lead with sufficient PPA/ TLR to fulfil this role.	Start: March 25 Review: Ongoing	JB – Curriculum HF - Premises	JB - Ensure that there are cross curricular links with other subject leads where necessary. HF - Premises to liaise with catering and site team where necessary.	

CURRICULUM				
ACTION	TIMEFRAME	STAKEHOLDERS	NOTES	TRACKER
Complete a curriculum audit & incorporate sustainability Teach the Future have amazing resources on how to link the curriculum to sustainability	Start: Autumn 25 Review: Spring 25	JB	Conduct an audit and develop opportunities for sustainability within the curriculum.	

GREEN SKILLS AND CAREERS				
ACTION	TIMEFRAME	STAKEHOLDERS	NOTES	TRACKER
Access the Climate Ambassadors scheme Connect with Climate Ambassadors in your region and invite them to do a school assembly on a topic of interest to your school.	Start: Spring 26 Review: Summer 26	JB / HF	Liaise with local secondary and primary schools to share ideas.	

