

Your Action	In a bit more detail	Looking for inspiration
<p>Organise school staff CPD sessions relating to Climate and Sustainability</p>  <p>Pathway: Curriculum</p>	<p>Climate change and sustainability is a big topic, and we are not expected to know all the answers. However, whatever your role in a school and stage of your journey you are at, there is more training that you can do.</p>	<p>UK Schools Sustainability network have created an Inset training video for all Secondary school staff and includes thoughts, ideas and tips from over 30 individuals from across the UK - including teachers, students and representatives from various organisations - culminating in a call to action from Lord Jim Knight, former Minister of State for Schools. It is aimed at secondary schools and sixth-form colleges but some sections will be relevant to primary schools and other educational settings. All involved has rallied together to produce this short introduction to the issues of climate and sustainability, resources, what you can do and who is out there to support you.</p> <p>There are also various other free and paid (marked by a £) CPD options on the Transform Our World website.</p>
<p>Hear from an expert on climate change</p>  <p>Pathway: Curriculum</p>	<p>Providing climate change education to students inspires young people to become passionate about learning about our global environment and how we can all come together to help protect it.</p>	<p>Wicked Weather Watch enables children to hear directly from those who have witnessed climate change first hand. Their fantastic volunteers who have either travelled to the Arctic or are experts in climate change, visit schools to tell children about their adventures and experiences.</p>

Your Action	In a bit more detail	Looking for inspiration
<p>Students to learn how to save energy in their day to day life</p>  <p>Pathway: Curriculum</p>	<p>When we consume less power, we reduce the amount of greenhouse gases released by factories, conserve the earth's natural resources and protect ecosystems from destruction. By taking steps to reduce our energy intake, we are contributing to a healthier and happier world.</p> <p>Co-benefits</p> <p>Pre-prepared high quality lesson plan and supporting resources.</p>	<p>Young Citizens provide lesson plans through their subscription. In their Saving Energy lesson, students will learn what is meant by the term energy source. They will consider how they use energy in their lives and be introduced to the basic environmental concerns raised when creating electricity from burning fossil fuels or through nuclear reactions.</p> <p>Students will then be shown how they can help the environment through saving energy in their day to day lives.</p>
<p>Run a Switch-off campaign</p>  <p>Pathway: Community</p>	<p>Saving energy saves money and reduces the school's carbon footprint. Co-benefits: pupils find they can make a real difference through the campaign and it reduces the need for energy production.</p> <p>Running a Switch-off campaign needs a whole school push to turn off electrical items when they are not in use or not needed. Challenging assumptions about what is deemed necessary can be important. Do all the lights need to be switched on in a room? Does the projector need to be on all lesson?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Find out who keeps a check on the school's energy use. 2) Use their data, or data collected in an energy audit, to find out where most energy is used as this is a good place to save it. 3) Get staff and pupils on board by promoting the Switch off. 4) Ask the Eco team to monitor what energy is being used across the school during the Switch off. 5) Ask the pupils to report back to the whole school on the results. 	<p>Eco Schools run Switch-off Fortnight every Autumn term and if you join The Pod you can access lots of support materials.</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>

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>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>

Your Action	In a bit more detail	Looking for inspiration
<p>Create a pond or a wetland in the school grounds</p>  <p>Pathway: Campus</p>	<p>Creating a rain garden helps alleviate localised flooding.</p> <p>A rain garden is designed to temporarily channel and contain rain water. Often on a slope it collects water run-off from roofs and hard surfaces into a depression in the ground. Like any garden the depression will be landscaped and planted according to the conditions.</p> <p>1) Talk to senior leaders about your idea.</p> <p>2) Consider the site and, if there is flooding, where the water comes from and runs to. Consider where a hole could be dug deep in order to be filled with materials that allow water to sit around them.</p> <p>3) Bring in expertise to help you consider the need, its position and the costs.</p> <p>Co-benefits</p> <p>It keeps the air cooler, provides habitat and can look good.</p>	<p>If you want to see school rain garden there is a local garden at Moorlands Primary in Trafford, whilst the University of Salford have a demonstration rain garden on their campus called the Living Lab. Groundwork, City of Trees and the RHS have experience building rain gardens. Rain gardens can be expensive so it is worth exploring grants and getting quotations.</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>Designate a No Mow Zone in the school grounds</p>  <p>Pathway: Campus</p>	<p>Leaving an area of grass to grow is beneficial for biodiversity.</p> <p>Leaving an area of grass to grow wild can simply mean not cutting the grass in the Spring. The grass will grow and wild flowers are likely to appear, but it will need cutting back in late Summer.</p> <p>1) Talk to senior leaders to contact and discuss the No Mow Plan with the grounds maintenance team.</p> <p>2) Agree a new mowing regime depending on how you want to manage the area. Wild flowers will grow through the grass but it will not be a wild flower meadow as this needs the grass to be removed and the area seeded.</p> <p>3) Work with the Eco team or classes to compare the biodiversity before the grass grows and when it is long.</p> <p>Co-benefits:</p> <p>Having wildlife in the grounds can be woven into a richer curriculum.</p>	<p>The No Mow May project advises that grass is not mown during the month of May. If you want to create a wild area go to The Wildlife Trust. If you want information on creating a wild flower meadow go to the RHS.</p> <p>This action supports the key area of "our natural environment" which is part of the GMCA's 5 year environment plan.</p>

Your Action	In a bit more detail	Looking for inspiration
<p>Get composting to reduce green waste</p>  <p>Pathway: Campus</p>	<p>Making compost reduces the amount of green and vegetable waste that needs to be recycled off site.</p> <p>Schools produce plenty of fruit and vegetable waste, which if composted, can provide the means to refresh the school's growing area. It also offers opportunities to learn about decomposition.</p> <p>1) Find a suitable site. Too much sun will dry it out but it needs some warmth to keep the microbes alive. Make sure it is on soil rather than a hard surface.</p> <p>2) Buy a plastic bin or build one with the Eco team from pallet wood.</p> <p>3) Make sure the Eco team take fruit and vegetable waste out each day and check it is not too wet or too dry.</p> <p>4) Turn it occasionally.</p> <p>Co-benefits</p> <p>School makes its own compost to refresh beds and it is good for biodiversity.</p>	<p>If you want to build a pallet compost system using recycled wood there is an excellent film from GrowVeg showing you the whole process. The Wildlife Trust resource tells what to include and what not and gives advice about composting for wildlife. A plastic bin is easy to use but not if your grounds are plastic-free. Sow the City can provide support. MEEN's Save Our Soils project supports composting.</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>Do a recycling audit and prioritise three actions</p>  <p>Pathway: Campus</p>	<p>Doing an audit can help a school cut its waste which helps save money.</p> <p>Doing a recycling audit helps school find out what is already being recycled: this means you can explore whether more of these materials can be either refused, reused or recycled.</p> <p>1) Work with the Eco team to find out what is already being recycled in school.</p> <p>2) Do a waste audit. Are there materials in the bin that could be recycled? Are there materials that could be reused?</p> <p>3) Organise a system for cutting waste materials and, where you can recycle more.</p> <p>Co-benefits</p> <p>The school's carbon emissions will be reduced.</p>	<p>Recycle for Greater Manchester's website has information about recycling and sites which schools can visit to learn about where our waste goes. WRAP's website has a lot of background information. MEEN has produced a waste audit resource.</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>

Your Action	In a bit more detail	Looking for inspiration
<p>Sign Up to the Let's Go Zero Campaign</p>  <p>Pathway: Campus</p>	<p>Call for action from the government to support schools in being zero carbon.</p> <p>Co-benefits</p> <p>Join a movement of schools. The campaign calls for policy change and supports schools to reduce their carbon footprint.</p>	<p>Let's Go Zero is a campaign demanding government backing for zero carbon schools. Every school that signs up is pledging to work towards a more sustainable future, while also urging the government to support this vital mission.</p>

Actions you already do

Sign up to the TOW newsletter, to keep up to date with the latest news, events and resources

Pathway: Community

Help your students to understand the link between industrial meat and deforestation

Pathway: Curriculum

Investigate your school food procurement

Pathway: Curriculum

Receive a free talk or workshop from WaterAid

Pathway: Curriculum

Hold a Fairtrade assembly

Pathway: Curriculum

Engage pupils as Police Community Support Officers outside school

Pathway: Community

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

Pathway: Community

Improve the facilities at school to encourage more people to walk, scoot or cycle

Pathway: Community

Include the school's carbon reduction plan in the school plan

Pathway: Culture

Reduce non-food waste in the dining room

Pathway: Culture

Create an outdoor classroom

Pathway: Campus

Plant trees

Pathway: Campus

Prevent water wastage by installing timed taps

Pathway: Campus

Install solar panels on your school building

Pathway: Campus

Complete a water audit action plan

Pathway: Campus

Teach students about air pollution through the curriculum

Pathway: Campus