



Let's Go Zero

Creating Your Climate Action Plan



HOUSEKEEPING

Let's Go Zero

The national campaign for all schools, colleges and nurseries to be zero carbon by 2030.

Over **8,000** schools, colleges and nurseries signed up to the campaign.

Representing over 2 million students.

Join the campaign now...
www.letsgozero.org/join



www.letsgozero.org

charity no: 1104153



Working collaboratively

Let's Go Zero coalition



Our partners



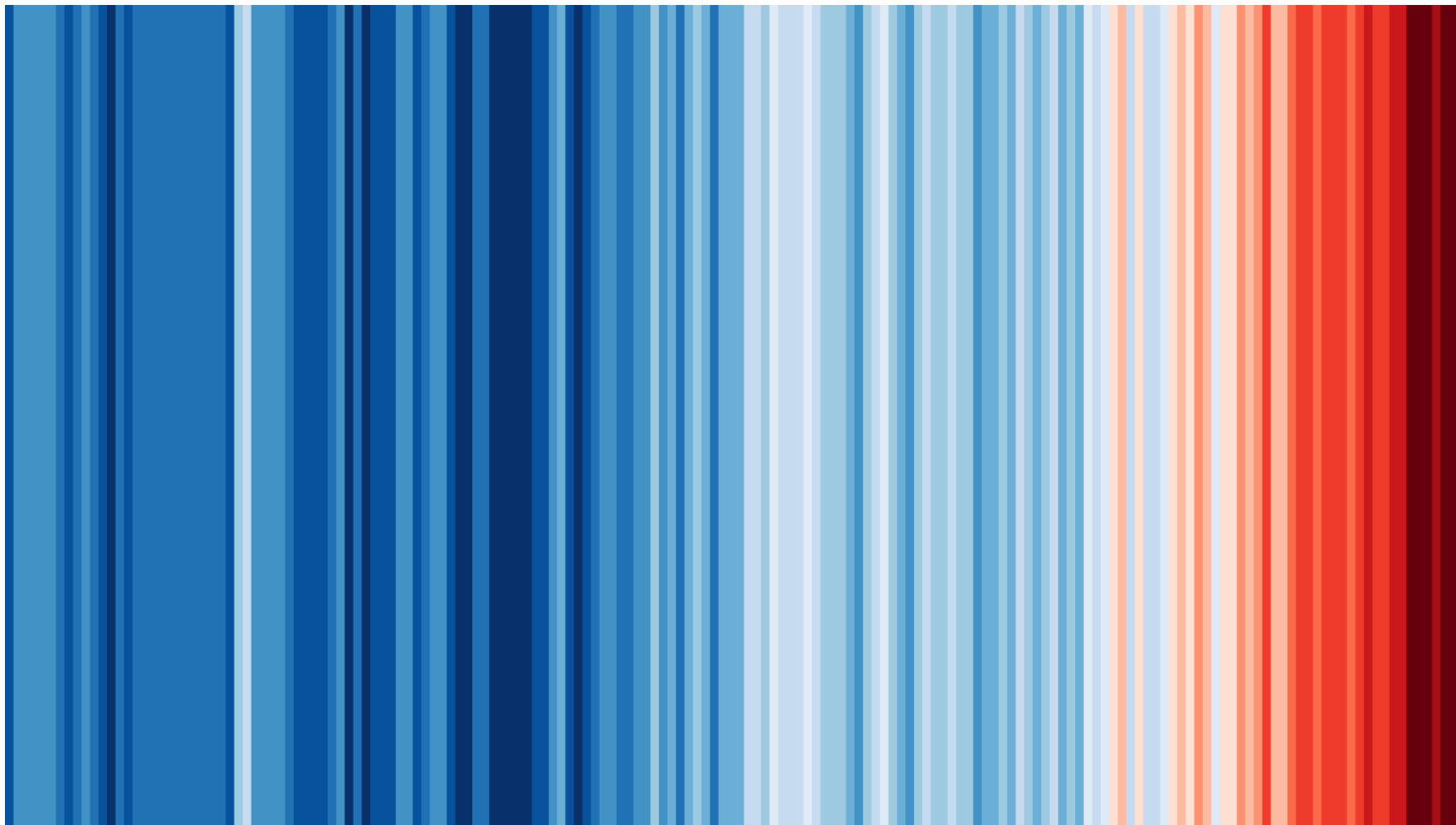
Today's objectives

In this session, we will:

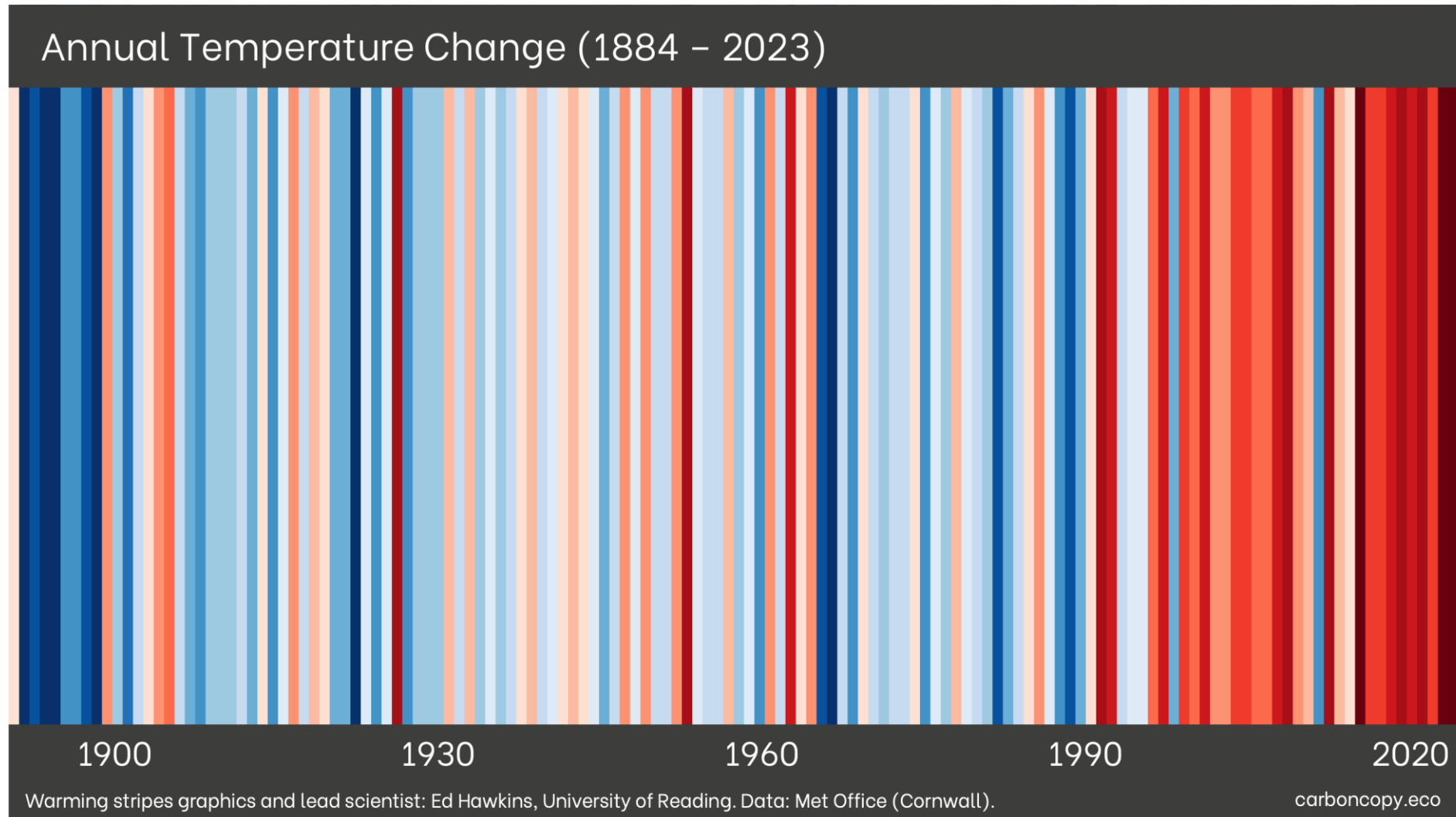
- Look briefly at the climate context – why do we need Climate Action Plans?
- Introduce carbon footprinting, enabling you to measure and reduce your setting's emissions
- Provide proven, ready-to-implement climate actions to kickstart your journey
- Guide you in selecting the most impactful actions for your Climate Action Plan
- Signpost to further resources and support



THE CLIMATE CONTEXT



www.showyourstripes.info



[Cornwall CO2 Emissions, Warming Stripes & Action Plans | Carbon Copy](#)

How much has the world already warmed compared to pre-industrial levels?

0.5°C

1.3°C

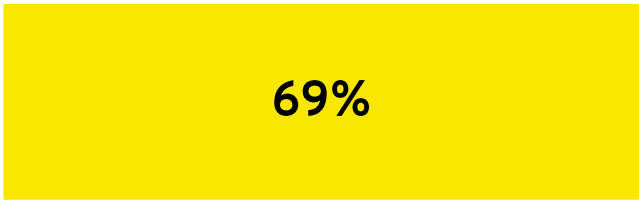
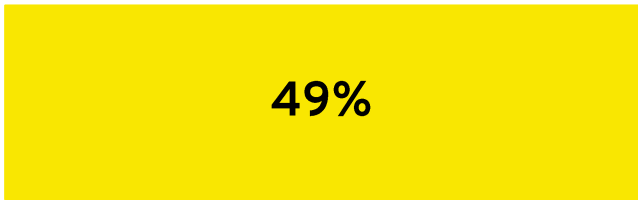
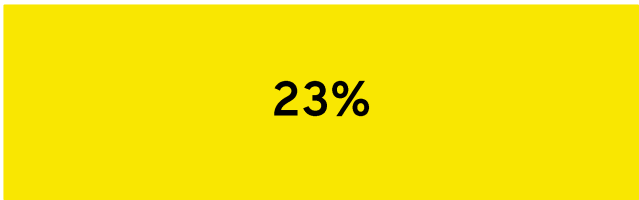


1.5°C

2°C



What is the percentage decline in global biodiversity since 1970?



Current and future changes Climate impacts and risks



[Independent Assessment of UK Climate Risk - Climate Change Committee](#)

[GLA_Schools_CAPs - Tiverton Primary School \(1\).pdf](#)

1) Flooding

**SCHOOLS
WEEK**

Climate change

15k schools will be at 'significant flood risk' by 2050, with half already in danger

Schools will be 'encouraged' to have emergency flood plans in place by 2025

[DfE:15,000 schools could be at 'significant flood risk' by 2050 \(schoolsweek.co.uk\)](https://schoolsweek.co.uk)

2) Over-heating



[English schools face 'overheating' for one-third of year under 2C warming - Carbon Brief](#)

3) Water scarcity

Water scarcity

Impacts and risks in the food growing areas and planted areas. Produce grown on site is an important school community resource, supplementing the diets of families who live around the school.

The combination of hot weather and drought in summer 2022 led to reduced crop and impacted those families who are dependent on it.

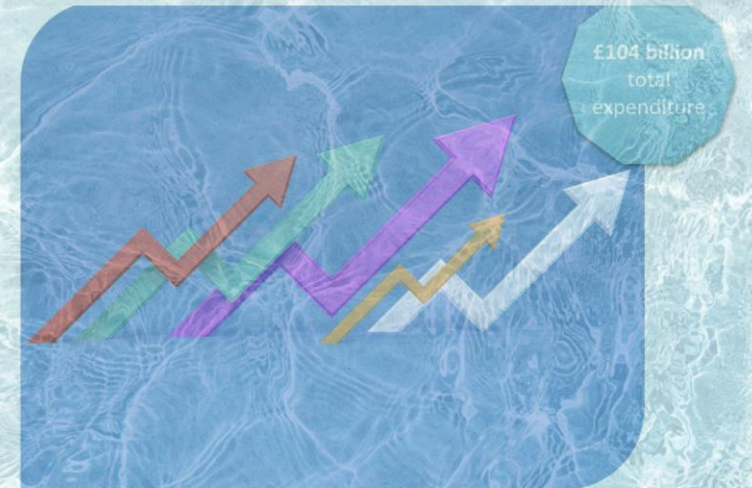
Water shortages will become more frequent with climate change and therefore Tiverton could take further action to improve its water self-sufficiency.



Water Prices are set to rise

Average bill increase by April 2029

Yorkshire	41%
Thames	35%
South Staffs	21%
Northumbrian	21%
Wessex	21%
United Utilities	32%
Severn Trent	47%
Southern Water	53%

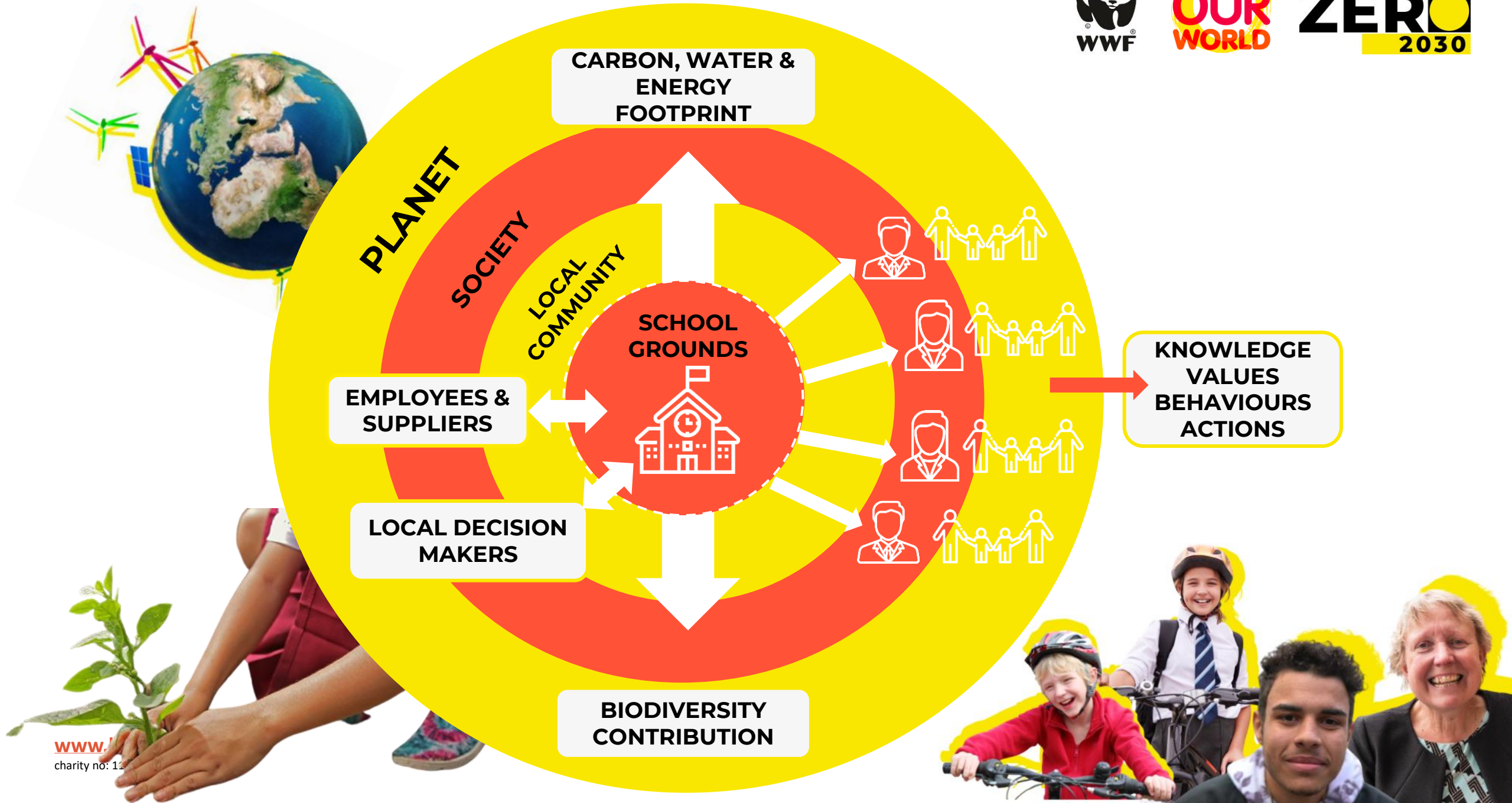


[GLA Schools CAPs - Tiverton Primary School \(1\).pdf](#)

www.letsgozer.org

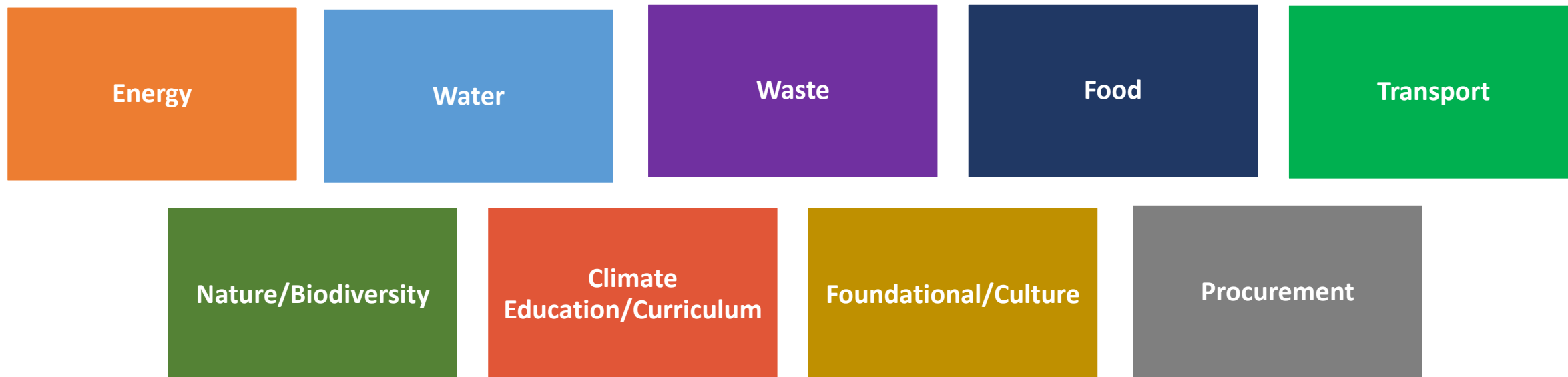
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CLIMATE ACTION PLANS

What climate actions has your school already achieved or is in the process of implementing?



What does a good Climate Action Plan look like?

- Not a wish list – we recommend aiming for no more than ~20 actions
- Clear, time limited actions over 1 year duration
- Realistic but ambitious!
- Who is responsible? How will you monitor progress?
- Include actions already in progress or planned
- Edit wording as necessary to suit your context

Climate Action Plan

Name of School

1 year plan Autumn 2025 – 2026

LET'S GO
ZERO
2030

caaname@letsgozero.org

Progress Key	Climate Action Plan history
Not Started	Last reviewed:
In Progress	★ = high carbon reduction actions
Stalled	
Complete	

Overall projected carbon savings: 5-9%

GET STARTED				
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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: Review:	Use font size 11 here	Use font size 10 for this box.	
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 and gives you a baseline against which to measure progress, year on year.	Start: Review:			
Add sustainability plans, projects and successes to your school website and share through wider communications Celebrate your school's climate action on your website, in newsletters, social media, local press, and events to showcase your successes and involve the wider community. Use the Let's Go Zero comms pack to do this.	Start: Review:			
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1. Decarbonisation and Energy Efficiency

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

ENERGY – BUILDINGS AND RETROFIT				
ACTION	TIMEFRAME	STAKEHOLDERS	NOTES	TRACKER
Install a smart meter Contact your energy and/or water supplier to get a smart meter installed. This is an important first step to get data to track consumption and is needed before you can sign up to energy usage analytics platforms, e.g. Energy Sparks .	Start: Review:			
Install LED lighting Replace any remaining older lighting fixtures with LEDs and install motion sensors in areas that see only intermittent use. The DfE suggests LED installation	Start: Review:			

What does a good Climate Action Plan look like?

- Decarbonisation and energy efficiency
- Adaptation and resilience
- Biodiversity and nature
- Climate education, green skills and careers

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Energy: #1

Let's...cut school energy use!

Lowering energy use will shrink your school's bills and its carbon footprint. Encouraging students to think about this challenge will also spark conversations at home, and potentially change in the wider community.

There's support out there to understand you school's energy use, and to help the whole school community tackle this problem in a fun and engaging way. Why not create an energy taskforce – maybe within your Eco Club (if you have one) – to champion energy reduction?

Understand your energy use – and get tailored ideas to lower it

Let's Go Zero recommends cutting energy use (and carbon emissions) with **Energy Sparks**, an online analysis tool and education programme. Energy Sparks examines your gas and electricity consumption, then comes up with ideas for action, tailored to your school. It also helps you share data and plans with your students in a clear, engaging way so they can be involved in reducing energy waste.

The Energy Sparks programme currently costs £525 per year*. However, most schools taking part can expect to cut energy use by over 10% within a year, lowering bills by between £2,500 and £6,000.

*Contact your Climate Action Advisor, who can let you know the availability of fully funded Energy Sparks places.

Power down with Switch Off Fortnight

Inspire students and staff to take action by joining **Switch Off Fortnight**. A nationwide switch off event happens in November – but you can use the campaign resources to run your own Switch Off Fortnight at any time. Simply upload your meter readings, then energise the whole school into taking simple actions, such as turning off unused lights or smart boards. At the end of the fortnight, a clever calculator will show you how much energy you've saved.

The Switch Off Fortnight resource pack also includes curriculum-linked resources. Whether you want an engaging assembly, a funny and thought-provoking curriculum-linked lesson plans, there's everything you need to create big and cost savings.

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Transport: #1

Let's...encourage active travel!

Supporting greener journeys to and from school will cut air pollution and help staff, students and their families stay healthy. Did you know that 25% of the UK's morning traffic is linked to the school run? There are lots of schemes and events to help your school community get moving and reduce the amount of cars on the road. You can find government guidance on school travel [here](#). And you might want to ask your council to make changes that make active travel easier and safer – like speed restrictions or introducing more cycle lanes.

Step into Walk to School Week

Every May, over 1,000 schools and nearly 300,000 pupils take part in Walk to School Week, working together to make as many active journeys as possible. Classes work together to make as many active journeys as possible: tracking progress on a classroom wallchart and individual activity diaries, and keeping things fun with daily stickers and end of week student rewards. Classroom packs are available too, with a range of age-appropriate curriculum-aligned activities.

On your bike!

Sustrans' **Big Walk and Wheel** happens every March and is the largest inter-school walking, wheeling, scooting and cycling event in the country. It inspires pupils to make active journeys to school to improve their neighbourhood, plus there's prizes for the winners.

Bikeability's **Cycle to School Week** takes place in September. This long event encourages families to try cycling and scooting to school. It's a great way to celebrate the huge benefits an active school can bring.

Time to shine, with Modeshift STARS!

Modeshift STARS is the national schools awards scheme recognising schools that demonstrate excellence in supporting cycling, walking and other forms of sustainable and active travel. Every school in England (outside of London) can participate in Modeshift STARS for free.

Work your way through the accreditation scheme and get nominated for a **Modeshift STARS award!**

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2030

Energy: #3

Let's...install LED lighting!

Switching to LED lighting is one of the simplest, most effective steps your school can take to become more sustainable. Traditional bulbs consume significantly more electricity, leading to higher energy bills and a larger carbon footprint. By upgrading to LEDs, you can cut lighting energy use by over 84%! Plus, LED bulbs have a much longer lifespan, meaning fewer replacements and less waste. There are a range of funded models if you don't have the capital to pay – we've listed some trusted suppliers below so you can start saving money and carbon in no time.

Free LED survey with e Energy

e Energy has a strong track record of helping schools switch to efficient LED lighting. They have lots of different funding models available, including the option to avoid upfront costs and pay monthly fee that your energy savings cover. And for schools signed up to Let's Go Zero campaign, they're offering a free in-person survey to see what works best for your school. Take a look at [this case study](#) from a Let's Go Zero Multi-Academy Trust to see the difference LED installation can make.

It's a bright ideal!

Lighting accounts for 20% of a typical school's energy costs. While the initial investment in LED upgrades may seem significant, it's one of the fastest and most effective ways to achieve cost savings in a retrofit. This graph highlights the rapid payback period for this energy-efficient upgrade.

TOP TIP: There are lots of suppliers and funders working in this area – it is important to obtain multiple quotes and work with one you trust.

Click on the bulb to read an article about LED options for schools from a trusted supplier

Cost Savings of 6.5W LED vs 60W Incandescent Bulb

Time (days)	6.5W LED Total Cost (£)	60W Incandescent Total Cost (£)
0	0	0
200	2	13
400	4	26
600	6	39
800	8	52
1000	10	65

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ARE WE READY TO START?

Open your Climate Action Plan Template

Foundational Actions

GET STARTED			
Calculate your school's carbon footprint using Count Your Carbon	Sign up to the Let's Go Zero campaign	Set up a sustainability working group, and nominate a Sustainability Lead	Add sustainability plans, projects and successes to your school website and share through wider communications

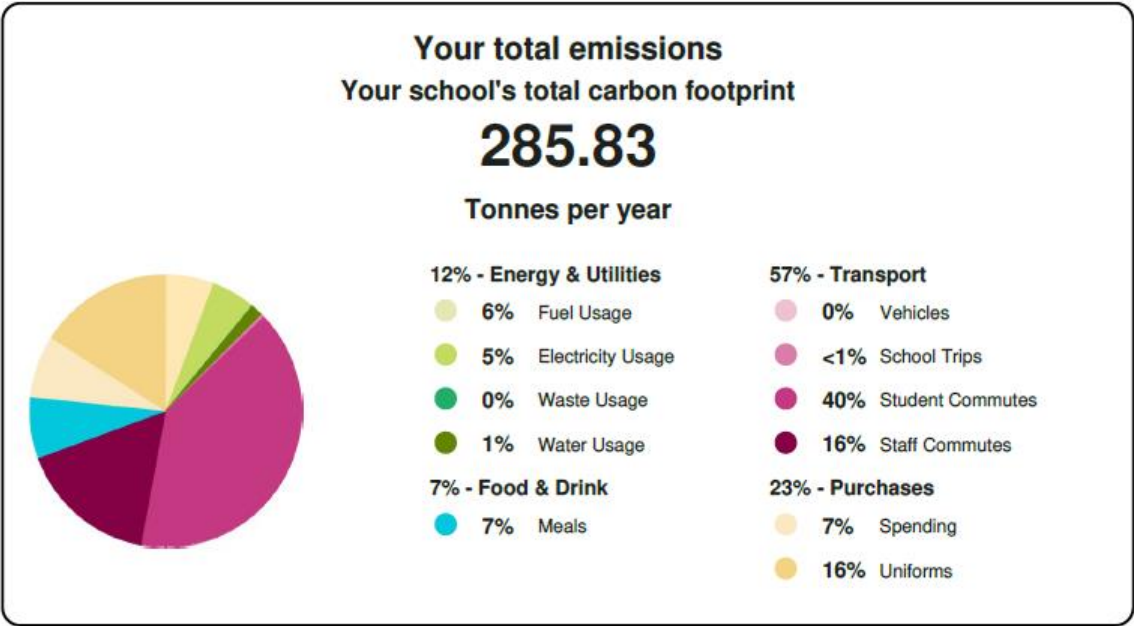
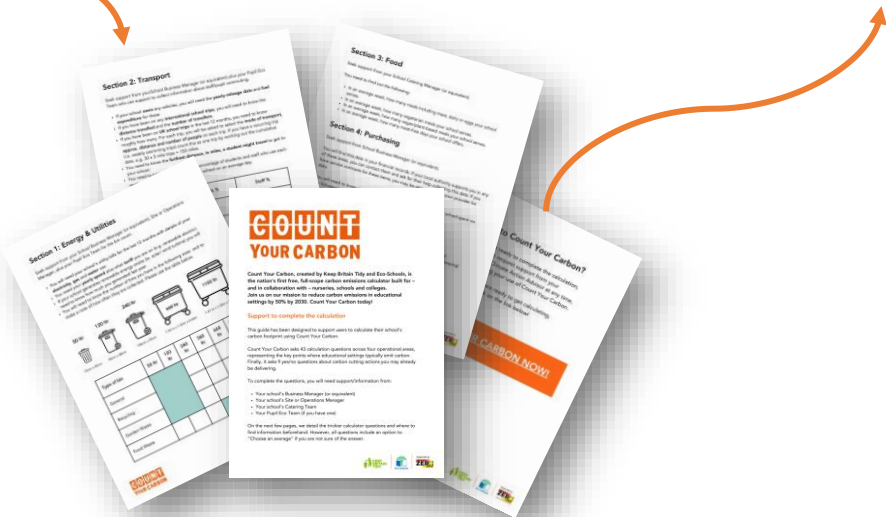
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Climate Action Plan history
Last reviewed: <input type="text"/>
★ = high carbon reduction actions



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Set up a sustainability working group Assemble a Sustainability Working Group featuring different stakeholders across the school to collaborate and effect change. Ensure one person has oversight, taking the title of 'Sustainability Lead' and where possible provide PPA time for this role.	Start: Review:	[Insert Sustainability Lead name]		In progress
Add sustainability plans, projects and successes to your school website and share through wider communications Celebrate your school's climate action on your website, in newsletters, social media, local press, and events to showcase your successes and involve the wider community. Use the Let's Go Zero comms pack to do this.	Start: Review:			

We suggest this as a priority action on your CAP - Understand your school's carbon footprint



Getting started

- We recommend all plans include the 4 actions in the “Get Started” section
- Who will lead on this?
- When will you schedule action?

Keep/delete actions on your plan





Decarbonisation - Energy

What causes carbon emissions in schools?

Which do you think are, on average, the biggest causes of carbon emissions in schools?



Fuel and Electricity



Water



Waste



Uniform



Food



School vehicles



Staff / student commute



Procurement



Trips

What causes carbon emissions in schools?

The carbon emissions from waste are quite low- it is our over consumption that needs addressing.

School Uniform is included in the “purchases” a school community can take responsibility for. It can be a large part of this total.

The emissions from food are calculated by how many meat meals are served. Meat tends to have a higher carbon footprint than plant-based food.

Your Carbon Footprint Report

Your schools total carbon footprint is estimated to be: 263.37 tonnes co₂e* per year

Operational area	Emissions area	t co ₂ e*	% of footprint
Energy & Utilities	Fuel Usage	31.2	12%
	Electricity Usage	15.7	6%
	Waste Usage	0.2	0%
	Water Usage	2.5	<1%
19%			
Transport	Vehicles	0	0%
	School Trips	1.3	<1%
	Student Commutes	59	22%
	Staff Commutes	26.3	10%
33%			
Food & Drink	Meals	45.2	17%
17%			
Purchases	Spending	28.6	11%
	Uniforms	53.4	20%
31%			

*‘t co₂e’ or ‘co₂e’ tonnes means ‘tonnes of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent’. Under the GHG protocol, 7 greenhouse gases are tracked and summarised as the equivalent amount of Carbon Dioxide that would produce the same warming effect.



The energy a school uses is from heaters and hot water (often gas powered) plus electricity use for lights and tech. Most schools are not yet using renewable energy.

The transport total includes how pupils travel to and from school. It also includes how staff travel to and from school. Petrol/diesel cars create high carbon emissions whilst active travel creates nothing.

Decarbonisation - Example Actions

DECARBONISATION				
Energy - Buildings and Retrofit	Install a smart meter	Optimise your BMS/BEMS settings and ensure your heating and hot water systems have efficient timings and temperatures set	Install TRVs on radiators	Investigate the potential for solar panels e.g. Solar for Schools , Eden Sustainable Let's Go Guide
Energy - Behaviour change	Incentivise students to address energy usage	Take part in a switch off campaign e.g. Switch Off Fortnight Let's Go Guide	Monitor energy use on a regular basis through dedicated platforms e.g. Energy Sparks Let's Go Guide	Implement a power down strategy for electrical devices and appliances



Examples of pupil engagement

Gamification

Pupils from eco-club decide on a 'secret mission' at the start of the week.
E.g. Lights off, smart boards off, recycling in the right bins etc

They run checks throughout the week (and include the Head's, and admins office, and award points for each classroom.

The winning class (or the HT!) get congratulated in assembly at the end of the week and get to look after 'Stanley Bob' for the following week.
This is also shared on newsletters etc.



Traffic light labelling

Traffic light label plug and light switches:

- Green – should be switched off after use
- Orange (optional) – check before switching off
- Red- don't switch off



Energy

- What actions will you put in your Climate Action Plan?
- Who will lead on this?
- When will you schedule action?

Keep/delete actions on your plan





Decarbonisation

– Food and procurement



Photo by [Nastassia Ustyan](#) on [Unsplash](#)

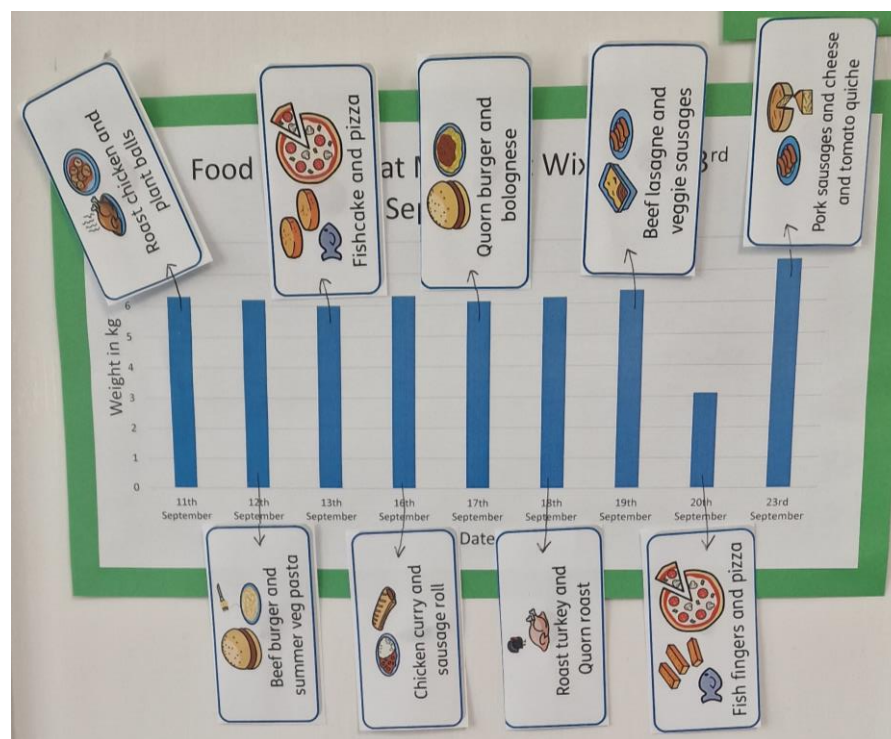
Food Waste - Example

Margaret Wix Primary School and Nursery

Eco Team weighed their food waste every day for a week. Used the information on display boards and in assemblies to engage with other pupils.

Weighed again the next term and the average had reduced from 7.6kg to 4.5kg per day – a 40% decrease in just a few months!

As of January 2025,
food wastage has
greatly improved!
We are now averaging
4.5kg a day rather
than 7.6kg a day!
Well done everybody!



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How many kg of resources are needed to create a 2kg laptop?

A) 10kg

B) 170kg

C) 480kg

D) 800kg



Permanent Uniform Shop



Westfield Primary School

Preloved Uniform permanently in the school Reception area.

PTA accept donations, wash and put in correct basket - no staff involvement.

Parents pay either via QR code, or donation money envelopes.



Decarbonisation - Example Actions

DECARBONISATION - CONTINUED				
Food	Arrange a menu consultation through an external organisation, e.g. ProVeg	Increase the number of planet-friendly, meat-free options on offer every day	Weigh food waste from kitchen and plates, share results, and set a target to reduce this	Start or improve composting and food waste facilities on-site
Procurement	Develop your uniform exchange and extend existing reuse practices Let's Go Guide	Reduce branding on uniform and other school items	Follow sustainable practices when choosing products	Factor in energy efficiency when buying new equipment such as ovens, fridges, kettles etc.



Food / procurement

- What actions will you put in your Climate Action Plan?
- Who will lead on this?
- When will you schedule action?

Keep/delete actions on your plan





Decarbonisation

– Waste and transport

Reuse Shed



Active Travel Map

Active Travel Map example made by Milton Keynes Council & school.

Highlights:

- 5 & 10-minute walking bubbles
- Bus routes & stops
- Parking restrictions
- Foot paths
- School entrances
- Park and Stride areas.

Can be displayed as a banner outside the school, on website, social media, etc.



Decarbonisation - Example Actions

DECARBONISATION – CONTINUED				
Waste	Carry out a bin audit to ensure mandatory recycling requirements are being met	Provide students with education on the importance of reducing, reusing and recycling correctly e.g. Wastebuster , Recycle Now	Run waste/plastic reduction initiatives or campaigns with pupils and staff e.g. Plastic Free Schools (SAS) Let's Go Guide	Establish procedures for the reuse of school supplies and equipment
Transport	Run active travel campaigns e.g. Big Walk & Wheel , WOW Let's Go Guide	Develop an Active Travel Plan e.g. Modeshift STARS	Provide cycle proficiency lessons in school e.g. Bikeability	Install EV charging points Workplace Charging Scheme for state-funded education institutions

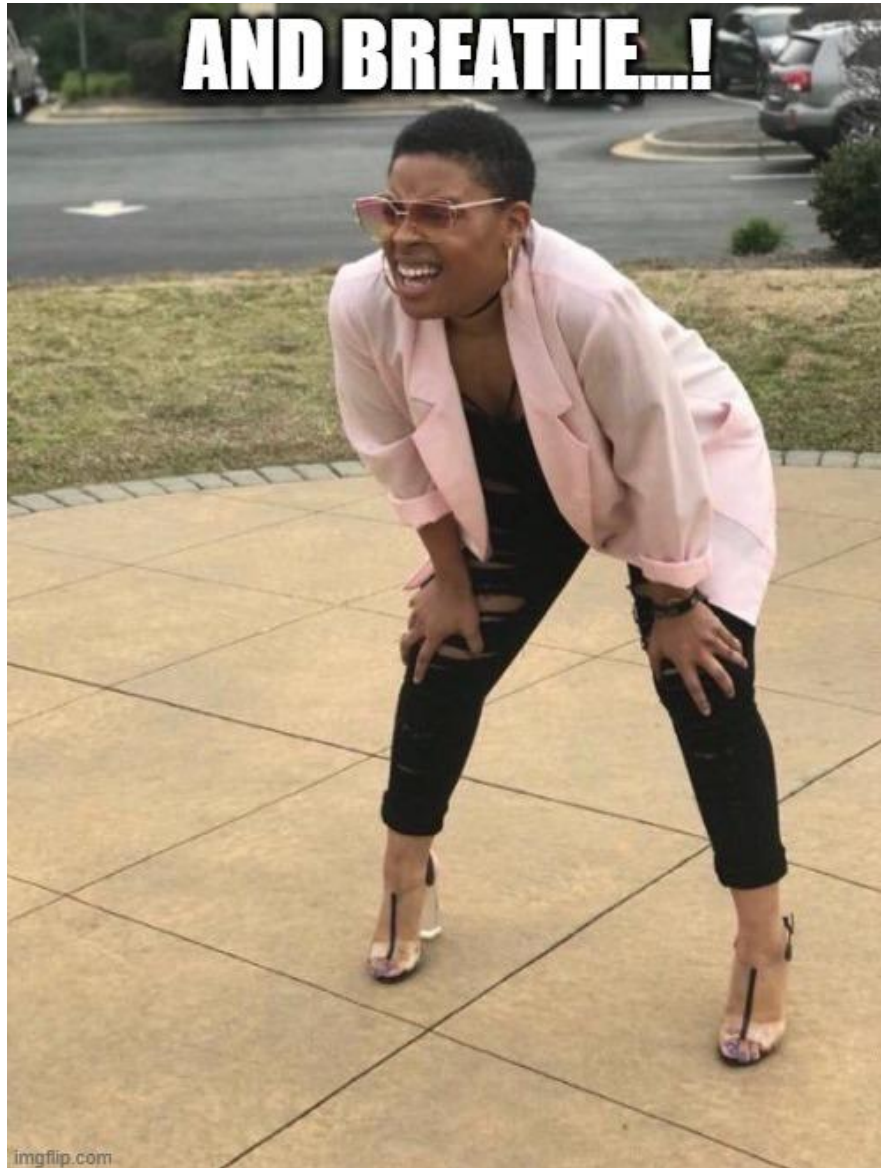


Waste / transport

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Breakout rooms



Adaptation & resilience

Biodiversity

Nature-based cooling & flood prevention

Cleveland Primary

Have limited growing space for trees. Instead planted tree planters with seating & a green wall that cools the server room! With SUDs planters beneath to absorb rainwater.



Example Actions

ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE				
Adaptation & resilience	Conduct a climate resilience audit – e.g. Climate Ready School Grounds Audit (LtL)	Subscribe to receive Heat Health Alerts and write a heatwave policy	Ensure staff understand how to cool their rooms through cross ventilation and other context specific measures	Consider measures to increase adaptation to flooding risks (e.g. SUDS)
Water	Check site for leaks using your water meter (You might be able to get a free water audit from your water company)	Raise awareness around consumption and efficiency (Contact your water company)	Install water butts to harvest rainwater	Install mechanisms to reduce water wastage, e.g. controlled flow measures in bathrooms Let's Go Guide
BIODIVERSITY				
Nature	Take part in The Nature Park	Establish a gardening/nature club	Increase biodiversity to support local wildlife, eg. planting pollinator-friendly plants, putting up birdfeeders, bat boxes and bug hotels	Create accessible outdoor spaces that enable students to connect with nature



Adaptation & resilience / biodiversity

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Climate education, green skills & careers

Case study: eco team leadership on sustainability

This school used their Count Your Carbon footprint data to create cardboard signs.

The Eco Team held an assembly to explain the footprint to the rest of the school and ask what actions the students would like to take to reduce their emissions.

The pupils also used the signs to engage with parents at the school gates to encourage them to reduce their emissions too.



Example Actions

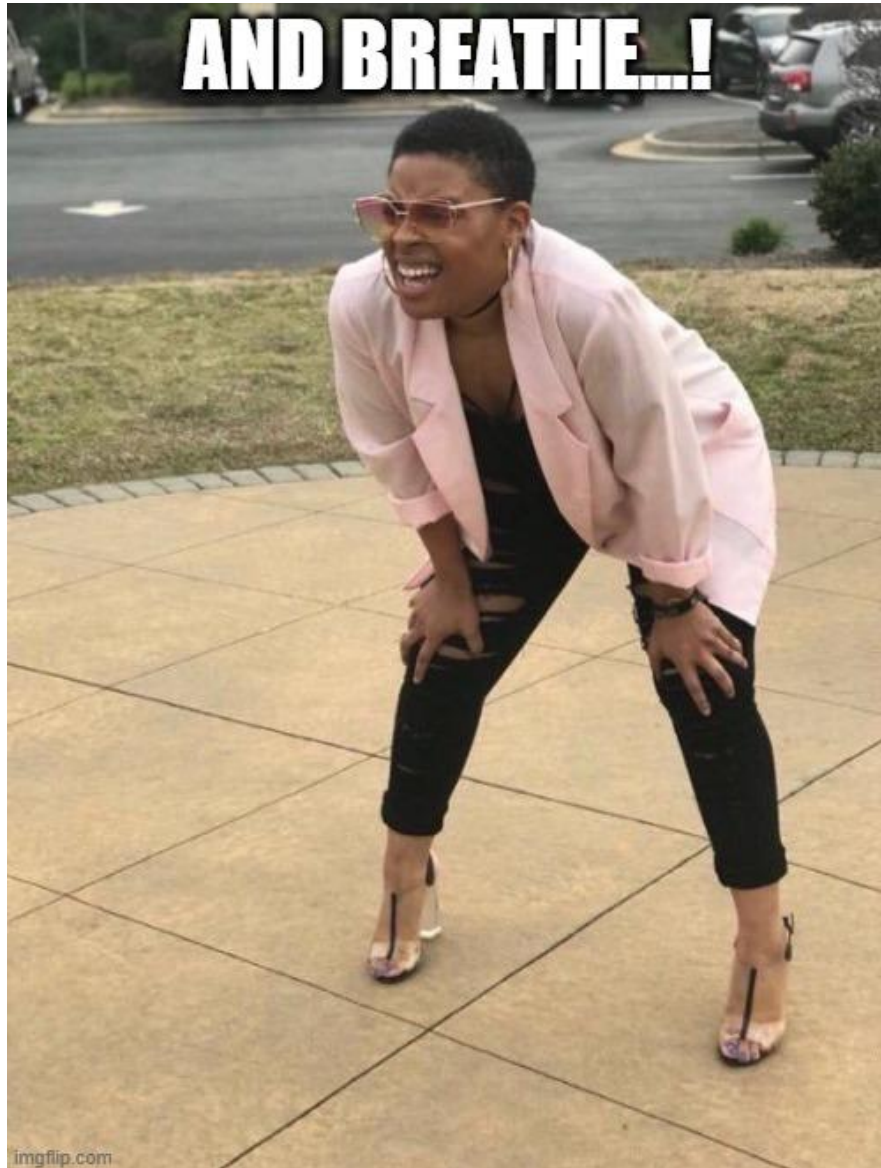
CLIMATE EDUCATION, GREEN SKILLS & CAREERS				
Culture	Set up an Eco Club or Eco Council for pupils to lead on sustainability initiatives Let's Go Guide	Set up a sustainability award for students or classes	Provide CPD opportunities for staff on sustainability	Support your staff to attend sustainability networks & events
Curriculum	Complete a curriculum audit e.g. Map The Curriculum	Amend your curriculum to incorporate sustainability e.g. Teach the Future , MoEE Let's Go Guide	Survey staff on how they feel about teaching sustainability issues (link in CAP)	Create an environment where lessons can be taught outside in all subjects
Green skills & careers	Access the Climate Ambassadors scheme	Include green skills as part of careers guidance, and integrate green skills and career pathways in school career fairs	Invite inspirational green careers speakers in to speak to pupils	Provide opportunity for all pupils to take leadership on sustainability

Climate education, green skills & careers

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Breakout rooms

Well done!

Time to recap

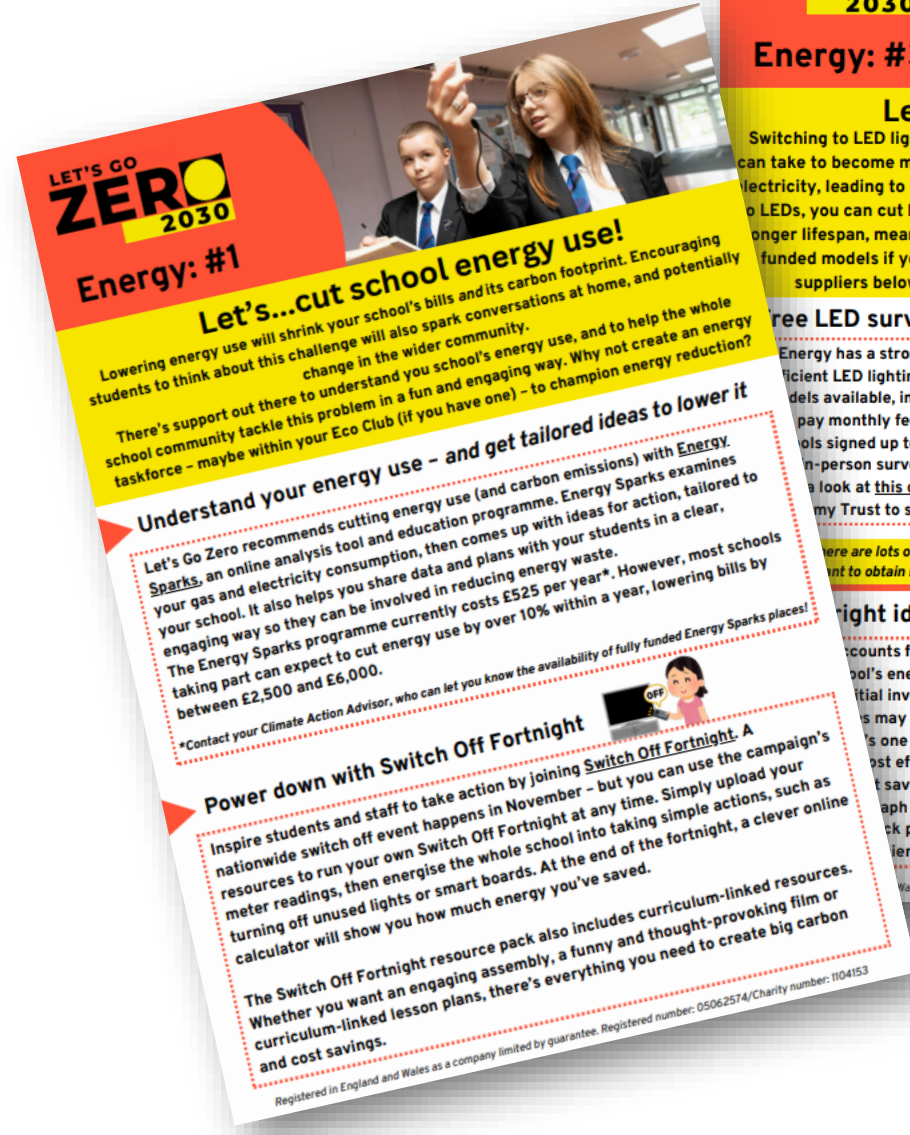
1. Review your plan:
 - Is there at least one action in each of the 4 sections?
 - How many actions do you have in total?
 - Is this realistically achievable within the next 12 months?
2. Please take a moment to submit your Microsoft form before the end of the session



Resources

In addition to the Climate Action Plan you have completed today, you will receive:

- Today's slides
- [Let's Go Guides](#)
- Upcoming [free training sessions and workshops](#) delivered by our advisors – recordings of previous webinars are also saved on this page



LET'S GO ZERO 2030
Energy: #1

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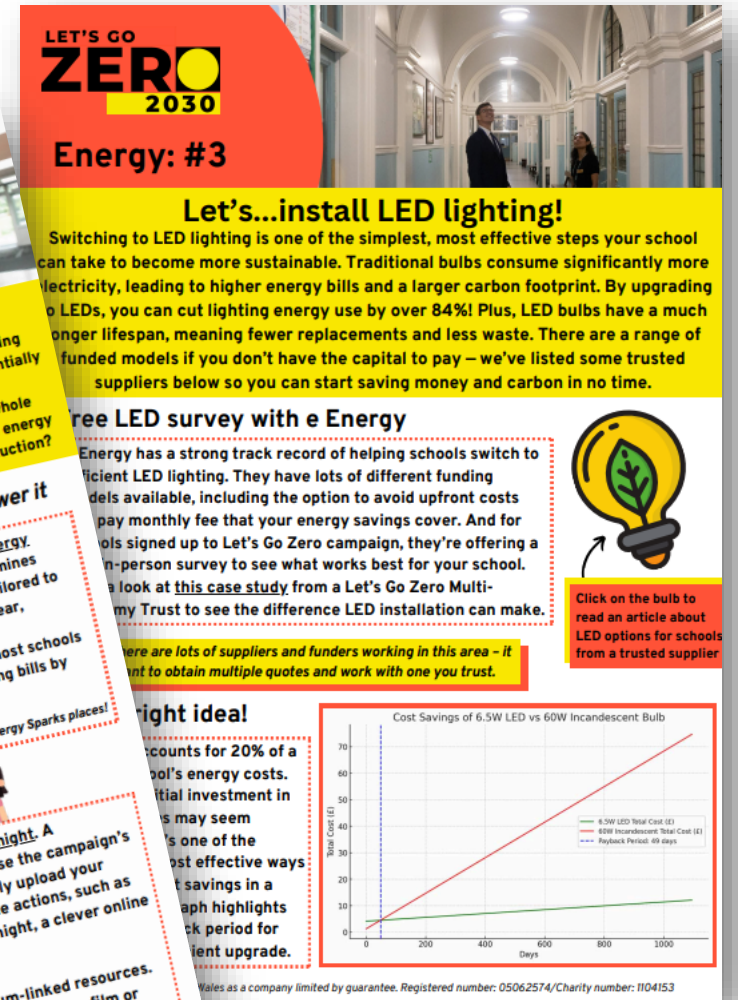
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LET'S GO ZERO 2030
Energy: #3

Let's...install LED lighting!

Switching to LED lighting is one of the simplest, most effective steps your school can take to become more sustainable. Traditional bulbs consume significantly more electricity, leading to higher energy bills and a larger carbon footprint. By upgrading to LEDs, you can cut lighting energy use by over 84%! Plus, LED bulbs have a much longer lifespan, meaning fewer replacements and less waste. There are a range of funded models if you don't have the capital to pay – we've listed some trusted suppliers below so you can start saving money and carbon in no time.

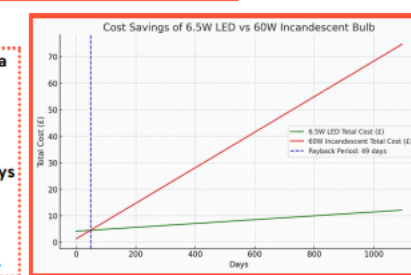
Free LED survey with e Energy

e Energy has a strong track record of helping schools switch to efficient LED lighting. They have lots of different funding models available, including the option to avoid upfront costs and pay monthly fee that your energy savings cover. And for schools signed up to Let's Go Zero campaign, they're offering a free on-person survey to see what works best for your school. Take a look at [this case study](#) from a Let's Go Zero Multi-Multi-Academy Trust to see the difference LED installation can make.

There are lots of suppliers and funders working in this area – it's important to obtain multiple quotes and work with one you trust.

Right idea!

Lighting accounts for 20% of a school's energy costs. The initial investment in LEDs may seem high, but it's one of the most effective ways to cut savings in a short period for a light upgrade.



The graph illustrates the total cost over time for two types of light bulbs. The x-axis represents 'Days' from 0 to 1000, and the y-axis represents 'Total Cost (£)' from 0 to 70. A green line represents the '6.5W LED Total Cost (£)', which starts at approximately £10 and rises very slowly to about £15 by day 1000. A red line represents the '60W Incandescent Total Cost (£)', which starts at approximately £10 and rises steeply to about £65 by day 1000. A vertical dashed blue line at day 0 indicates the 'Payback Period: 46 days', where the two lines intersect.

Click on the bulb to read an article about LED options for schools from a trusted supplier

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Next steps

1. Plan a meeting with your school's key stakeholders to finalise your plan and assign responsibilities
2. If you choose to complete Count Your Carbon, review your carbon footprint report along with your draft plan – does anything need adjusting?
3. Your plan is a **live document** – it should be reviewed regularly and used to track your progress. We recommend making links to your SIP where applicable.
4. [Register for support](#) if you would like us to review your plan, or request further advice





Thank you! Any questions?