

# Your School's Climate Action Plan

Yealand Church of England Primary School - 03/08/25

| Your Action                                                                                                                                                       | In a bit more detail                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Looking for inspiration                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
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| <p><b>Run a Switch-off campaign</b></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> <p><b>1) Find out</b> who keeps a check on the school's energy use.</p> <p><b>2) Use their data</b>, or data collected in an energy audit, to find out where most energy is used as this is a good place to save it.</p> <p><b>3) Get staff and pupils</b> on board by promoting the Switch off.</p> <p><b>4) Ask the Eco team</b> to monitor what energy is being used across the school during the Switch off.</p> <p><b>5) Ask the pupils</b> to report back to the whole school on the results.</p> | <p><b>Eco Schools</b> run Switch-off Fortnight every Autumn term and if you <a href="#">join The Pod</a> you can access lots of support materials.</p> <p><b>This action supports the key area of "our homes workplaces and public buildings" which is part of the GMCA's 5 year environment plan.</b></p>                |
| <p><b>Reduce non-food waste in the dining room</b></p>  <p>Pathway: Culture</p> | <p>This can reduce plastic and other waste streams created by the school canteen.</p> <p>School canteens can produce lots of non food waste such as throw away plates, cutlery, cups, drink cartons and various types of food wrapping. The simple question is can more sustainable options be found?</p> <p><b>1) Working with the Eco team</b> to organise a non-food waste audit with the kitchen.</p> <p><b>2) Analyse the findings and create an action plan</b> with the kitchen staff, pupils and the business manager to reduce waste. Consider whether compostable plates can be composted, if a dish washer would be better or if food could be stored better.</p> <p><b>Co-benefits</b></p> <p>This could reduce costs and the school's carbon footprint.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <p>By joining Food for Life you can get support materials. Oxfordshire has provided a useful <a href="#">resource</a> to help you think through non-food waste.</p> <p><b>This action supports the key area of "our production and consumption of resources" which is part of the GMCA's 5 year environment plan.</b></p> |

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| <p><b>Set up a TerraCycle hub to prevent specific waste streams going to landfill or being incinerated</b></p>  <p>Pathway: Culture</p> | <p>Organising a TerraCycle Hub means school can help others recycle more difficult items which would otherwise go to landfill.</p> <p>TerraCycle is a recycling scheme that asks you to collect hard to recycle waste, such as crisp packets, and remoulds the plastic into something new.</p> <p><b>1) School needs to sign up</b> to TerraCycle on-line and find out which waste stream would be most suitable to work with.</p> <p><b>2) Decide</b> if the school will become a hub or send materials to a local hub or both.</p> <p><b>Co-benefits</b></p> <p>This can reduce your school's carbon footprint.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p>Hubs can earn points for <b>recycling</b>. One issue is that a stream may be specific to a particular company so difficult to collect. Working with other hubs could be mutually beneficial.</p> <p><b>This action supports the key area of "our production and consumption of resources" which is part of the GMCA's 5 year environment plan.</b></p> |
| <p><b>Do a school energy audit and prioritise the top three actions</b></p>  <p>Pathway: Culture</p>                                   | <p>Understanding the school's energy usage is an important step in identifying ways to save energy which will in turn reduce the school's carbon footprint.</p> <p>An energy audit is a survey of the school's buildings and is the first step in identifying opportunities to reduce energy use and lower the school's carbon footprint. Do an audit and decide on three actions school needs to take to reduce energy use.</p> <p><b>1) Work with pupils</b> to do an energy audit. School users will understand school energy from experience, such as cold and hot spots and provide behavioural knowledge.</p> <p><b>2) Employ a professional consultant</b> to advise on energy efficiency and renewables. Look for a CIBSE accredited low carbon consultant.</p> <p><b>3) Check</b> if your local authority has an energy manager who could advise.</p> | <p>MEEN has created an <b>energy audit</b> based on 3 different investigations. Check if your local authority has an energy manager as they should be able to advise.</p> <p><b>This action supports the key area of "our energy supply" which is part of the GMCA's 5 year environment plan.</b></p>                                                     |

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| <p><b>Get composting to reduce green waste</b></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><b>1) Find a suitable site.</b> 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><b>2) Buy a plastic bin or build one</b> with the Eco team from pallet wood.</p> <p><b>3) Make sure the Eco team</b> take fruit and vegetable waste out each day and check it is not too wet or too dry.</p> <p><b>4) Turn it</b> occasionally.</p> <p><b>Co-benefits</b></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 <a href="#">excellent film</a> from GrowVeg showing you the whole process. The Wildlife Trust <a href="#">resource</a> 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><b>This action supports the key area of "our natural environment" which is part of the GMCA's 5 year environment plan.</b></p> |
| <p><b>Do a recycling audit and prioritise three actions</b></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><b>1) Work with the Eco team</b> to find out what is already being recycled in school.</p> <p><b>2) Do a waste audit.</b> Are there materials in the bin that could be recycled? Are there materials that could be reused?</p> <p><b>3) Organise a system</b> for cutting waste materials and, where you can recycle more.</p> <p><b>Co-benefits</b></p> <p>The school's carbon emissions will be reduced.</p>                                                                                                                                                                          | <p>Recycle for Greater Manchester's <a href="#">website</a> has information about recycling and sites which schools can visit to learn about where our waste goes. WRAP's <a href="#">website</a> has a lot of background information. MEEN has produced a <a href="#">waste audit resource</a>.</p> <p><b>This action supports the key area of "our production and consumption of resources" which is part of the GMCA's 5 year environment plan.</b></p>                                                                                                                                  |

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| <b>Take part in RSPB's Wild Challenge</b><br><br>Pathway: Campus                                                                                    | <p>By taking part in RSPB's Wild Challenge Award, your school will increase biodiversity in the school grounds to help insects and wildlife thrive.</p> <p><b>Co-benefits</b></p> <p>Increases biodiversity and gets students out in nature which has a positive impact on wellbeing.</p>                                                                                                                  | <p><b>RSPB's Wild Challenge Award</b>, not only provides schools awards for their efforts to increase biodiversity but, provides educators structure to follow which supports enriching curriculum delivery and builds children's lasting emotional connection to nature.</p> <p>Coupled with actions to support nature, Wild Challenge Award has an equal number of experiencing nature activities which provide excellent creative stimulus and build time for children to reflect on the awe and wonder of nature. Wild Challenge helps to build children's sense of agency. They develop the passion to make change happen whilst feeling empowered by the impact their actions have on the nature around them.</p> |
| <b>Sign Up to the Let's Go Zero Campaign</b><br><br>Pathway: Campus                                                                               | <p>Call for action from the government to support schools in being zero carbon.</p> <p><b>Co-benefits</b></p> <p>Join a movement of schools. The campaign calls for policy change and supports schools to reduce their carbon footprint.</p>                                                                                                                                                               | <p><b>Let's Go Zero</b> 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>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Completed</b><br><b>Sign up to the TOW newsletter, to keep up to date with the latest news, events and resources</b><br><br>Pathway: Community | <p>The Transform Our World (TOW) website, is a dynamic hub with a huge pool of environmental resources for teachers to freely use.</p> <p>Through signing up to the monthly TOW newsletter, you will receive helpful links to the most up to date and relevant resources as well as hearing about important news and events, to keep you fully informed and engaged along your climate action journey.</p> | <p>Go to <a href="#">edit your TOW profile</a>, and tick yes under 'receive news and updates from Transform our World and the latest about the Youth Climate Summit.'</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

## Actions you already do

Prevent water wastage by installing timed taps

Pathway: Campus

Install low energy lighting

Pathway: Campus

Set heating to the 'right' temperature

Pathway: Campus

Plant trees

Pathway: Campus

Create an outdoor classroom



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Pathway: Campus