

Climate Action Plan



**The Diocese of Sheffield
Academies Trust**





CLIMATE ACTION PLAN



At The Diocese of Sheffield Academies Trust, we believe that small actions can lead to big changes, and we're excited to take steps toward a greener, more sustainable future. Our Climate Action Plan is all about creating a positive impact on the environment while inspiring our students, staff, and families to work together for a cleaner, healthier world.

From reducing waste to saving energy, we are committed to making eco-friendly choices that will benefit not only our school but the community around us. By embracing these efforts, we hope to encourage everyone at The Diocese of Sheffield Academies Trust to become climate champions and help build a brighter, more sustainable tomorrow.

SUMMARY

In progress: 12 items

Not started: 7 items



Section

DECARBONISATION

CARRY OUT A BUILDING ENERGY AUDIT

Conducting a building energy audit helps schools pinpoint areas of energy waste, from heating inefficiencies to unnecessary lighting. Schools can use professional energy assessors or pupil-led monitoring programs to analyse energy usage and recommend improvements. Findings can inform decisions on insulation, lighting upgrades, and behaviour-based energy-saving strategies.

NOT STARTED

INSTALL EVC

Increase availability and accessibility of EV chargers to accelerate EV adoption and support sustainable travel across DSAT. Implement up to 40 EVC charges across DSAT Sites, 100% funding to be in place, so zero cost to school.

Started: 1st Sep 2025

Completed: 31st Aug 2026

IN PROGRESS



Section

DECARBONISATION

INSTALL LED LIGHTING

LED lighting is a cost-effective and energy-efficient alternative to traditional incandescent and fluorescent bulbs. By switching to LED lighting, schools can significantly reduce electricity consumption and maintenance costs while lowering their carbon footprint. LED bulbs also generate less heat, improving classroom comfort and reducing the need for air conditioning.

Started: 18th Nov 2025

IN PROGRESS

INSTALL MOTION SENSORS TO LIGHTS

Motion sensors automatically turn lights on and off depending on occupancy. By installing these in classrooms, hallways, and restrooms, schools can significantly cut down on wasted electricity. This ensures that lights are only used when needed, reducing overall energy consumption.

Started: 18th Nov 2025

IN PROGRESS



Section

DECARBONISATION

INSTALL SOLAR PANELS

Installing solar panels requires an MCS certified installer to install them. They will normally be able to give you an idea of the amount of solar panels that can fit on the premises. You'll need to also decide if you would like a battery system as well, to help store energy during winter months when there is less sunshine available.

Started: 18th Nov 2025

IN PROGRESS



Section

DECARBONISATION

PYE BANK - BUILD FOR CHANGE

As part of Sheffield City Council's Built for Change initiative, Pye Bank CE Primary School has secured funding to implement measures that reduce the school's contribution to, and vulnerability to, climate change. The school is introducing a suite of heat-mitigation actions designed to improve comfort, safety, and learning conditions during periods of elevated temperatures. Planned interventions include installing solar reflective window film to limit heat gain in classrooms, constructing a green pergola with Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) planters to increase shade and manage rainwater sustainably, and resurfacing areas of playground tarmac with lighter-coloured materials to reduce heat absorption.

Started: 1st Sep 2025

IN PROGRESS





Section

DECARBONISATION

REPLACE WINDOWS WITH ENERGY-EFFICIENT GLAZING

Replacing old, single-glazed windows with energy-efficient double or triple glazing improves insulation, reducing the need for heating in winter and cooling in summer. This upgrade enhances classroom comfort, lowers energy bills, and supports sustainability goals. Schools with outdated windows can apply for grants or funding to offset costs.

Started: 18th Nov 2025

IN PROGRESS

RUN A SWITCH OFF CAMPAIGN

A switch-off campaign raises awareness about energy consumption and encourages simple behavioural changes to reduce waste. Schools can run competitions, put up reminder posters, and conduct audits to track energy savings. Engaging pupils through classroom discussions and real-time energy monitoring can make energy efficiency a long-term habit. Completed in one school, will be implementing across other during the academic year.

Started: 18th Nov 2025

IN PROGRESS



Section

ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE

INSTALL WATER BUTTS

Water butts allow schools to collect and store rainwater, reducing dependence on mains water for irrigation, cleaning, and other non-drinking purposes. This initiative helps conserve water, cut utility costs, and educate pupils on sustainable water management practices. Schools implementing water butts can use them to water gardens, supply outdoor play areas, and even contribute to science lessons on water conservation.

NOT STARTED

PLAN A SCHOOL-WIDE ENERGY REDUCTION CHALLENGE

Engaging pupils and staff in an energy-saving challenge builds awareness and encourages sustainable habits. Schools can track electricity consumption and reward classrooms that achieve the highest reductions.

NOT STARTED



Section

ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE

SWITCH TO RECYCLED PAPER FOR PRINTING

Schools can significantly reduce their environmental impact by switching to recycled or FSC-certified paper for printing. Recycled paper manufacturing requires less water and energy compared to virgin paper, reducing carbon emissions. Schools should also consider digital alternatives to minimise paper use.

NOT STARTED

PLANT TREES TO CREATE SHADED AREAS

Planting trees strategically around the school campus provides natural cooling, reducing the need for artificial cooling systems during hot months. Trees also improve air quality by filtering pollutants, enhance biodiversity by providing habitats for birds and insects, and create inviting outdoor learning spaces. As they grow, trees contribute to carbon sequestration, offsetting a portion of the school's emissions while simultaneously improving pupil wellbeing.

Started: 21st Nov 2025

IN PROGRESS





Section

BIODIVERSITY

PARTICIPATE IN THE RSPB BIRDWATCH

Schools can engage pupils in the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Birdwatch, an annual citizen science event where participants record and report bird sightings. This initiative helps develop observation skills, raises awareness of biodiversity, and contributes valuable data for conservation efforts. Schools can integrate this activity into science and geography lessons to reinforce learning.

NOT STARTED

PLANT A HEDGE TO CREATE A NATURAL WINDBREAK

Hedgerows provide shelter for wildlife, improve air quality, and act as a natural windbreak to protect school buildings and playgrounds. They enhance green spaces while reducing noise pollution and improving local air quality.

NOT STARTED



Section

BIODIVERSITY

BUILD AN INSECT HOTEL

Log piles and disused wood pallets can be used to create a natural habitat for insects, amphibians, and fungi, enhancing biodiversity and promoting decomposition processes. They can be strategically placed in school gardens to serve as learning tools for ecology studies.

Started: 18th Nov 2025

IN PROGRESS

CREATE A HERB GARDEN FOR THE KITCHEN TO USE

Schools can create herb gardens to supply fresh ingredients for the kitchen, reducing the need for store-bought herbs and promoting sustainable food practices. Pupils can be involved in growing and maintaining the garden, learning valuable gardening and nutrition skills. Herb gardens also attract pollinators, supporting local biodiversity.

Started: 18th Nov 2025

IN PROGRESS



Section

BIODIVERSITY

WORK WITH THE PUPILS TO GET THEIR VIEWS ON HOW THE SCHOOL SITE SHOULD LOOK

Schools can involve pupils in decision-making about their learning environment, ensuring that sustainability considerations are incorporated. Whether through workshops, surveys, or school councils, pupil input can lead to more effective green space planning, improved outdoor learning areas, and projects that align with their needs and interests. Involving pupils also increases their sense of ownership and responsibility for the school environment.

Started: 18th Nov 2025

IN PROGRESS



Section

CLIMATE EDUCATION & GREEN SKILLS

LAUNCH A CARBON FOOTPRINT AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Schools can run campaigns to educate pupils and staff about their carbon footprints and practical ways to reduce them. Through posters, workshops, and hands-on activities, pupils can learn how their transportation choices, food consumption, and energy use contribute to emissions. This knowledge can lead to long-term changes in behaviour that support sustainability goals.

NOT STARTED

ORGANISE A PUPIL-LED ENERGY AND WASTE AUDIT

A school-wide audit allows pupils to evaluate energy use and waste production, identifying areas for improvement. This hands-on approach helps pupils understand real-world sustainability challenges and implement practical solutions such as reducing electricity use, recycling more effectively, and cutting down on single-use plastics.

Started: 18th Nov 2025

IN PROGRESS

