Basingstoke and Deane

Climate change toolkit for schools

Contents

— Introduction
— Resources and ideas for teachers
— Resources and ideas for estates and buildings teams
— Resources and ideas for senior management
— We'd love to hear from you

This guide aims to help schools play their part in tackling climate change and protecting and enhancing nature.

There are different sections for teachers, estates and buildings teams and senior management. The toolkit includes ideas for actions and projects schools can undertake as they inspire pupils to learn about and act on climate change and biodiversity.

Schools that want to become more sustainable could consider signing up to Let's Go Zero (http://www.letsgozero.org/). The national initiative provides tips, resources and best practice examples to support climate action (https://letsgozero.org/act/) as it brings together schools to share progress and call for support to achieve their carbon neutral ambitions.

Resources for teachers

The following resources and ideas could help you inspire your pupils to take planet-positive steps at school and at home to save energy, reduce food waste, save water, care for plants and wildlife and make our air cleaner.

- The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) has curriculum-linked resources (https://www.wwf.org.uk/get-involved/schools/resources/climate-change-resources) and a sustainability guide for schools (https://www.wwf.org.uk/get-involved/schools/sustainability-guide) on its website.
- Hampshire County Council has sustainability resources for schools on its Moodle platform (https://hias-moodle.mylearningapp.com/).
- If you are a key stage two teacher, our Green Team can come into your school to lead free interactive and engaging classroom activities and assemblies. The sessions about our planet and

nature, have been created with the national curriculum in mind. Take a look at our Green Team's schools activities webpage (https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/green-team-schools-activities) to see what's on offer.

- If you're interested in getting your pupils out of the classroom and into nature, you can contact our Rangers (mailto:rangers@basingstoke.gov.uk) to find out more about the series of outdoor activities for school-age children that they're working on and plan to launch next year.

Ideas for teachers

Saving energy - All Years

- **Switch on to 'switching off'** encourage pupils to turn off lights and computers when they're not in use to avoid waste, save money and help stop our planet heating up further.

Reduce food waste - For years one to six

- **Creative ways to use leftover food** with Beano's Yummy Leftovers lessons (https://schools.beano.com/lesson-plans/yummy-leftovers/), pupils will imagine ways to use leftover food as they learn about how food is wasted and its impact.
- **Taste It, Don't Waste It,** targeted at key stage two and designed to fit into a half term, these lesson plans on reducing food waste come from the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) (https://documents.hants.gov.uk/waste-prevention/EducationPack-Taste-It-Dont-Waste-It.pdf).

Saving water - For years one to six

- **Aquanauts, are you ready?** pupils can join the Aquanauts for fun-filled adventures where they'll learn how to save water and help wildlife. The activities are all online on South East Water's Aquanaut webpages (https://www.aquasmart.southeastwater.co.uk/).
- If you are west of the borough you can access free activities from Southern Water's education pages. (https://www.southernwater.co.uk/about-us/education/)

Care for plants and wildlife - For years one to three

- **Go on a school insect safari** take pupils outside to find wildlife in school grounds and learn about the plants that help them with the support of the free resources on the National Geographic Kids website (https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/primary-resource/insect-safari-science-primary-resource/)**.**

Resources and ideas for estates and buildings teams

Here are just a few ideas for how you could improve your school's buildings and grounds to reduce their impact on the planet and make it easier for pupils and parents to play their part to tackle climate change and protect nature.

Reduce your energy use by making your buildings more efficient (#)

By swapping old halogen lights for LED lights or by having insulation installed in the roof and walls. The Government periodically opens applications to its Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/public-sector-decarbonisation-scheme), which can fund energy-saving improvements for public sector organisations including schools.

Get free furniture and tech (#)

You can get furniture and technology, like desks, lockers and computers, for free from charity Business2Schools (https://www.business2schools.com/). It sources unwanted furniture from businesses and provides it to schools in the state sector at no cost.

Install rooftop solar panels (#)

If you've got buildings with large roofs, contact our Climate Change team (https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/contact-the-climate-change-team) for a free solar panel report (https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/solar-panel-study) setting out how many panels they may be suitable for and how much energy they could generate. A grant from the Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/public-sector-decarbonisation-scheme), when it is open for applications, could help to pay for the new solar panels.

Monitor and reduce your energy consumption (#)

Hampshire County Council's schools can access the BSMI Medic energy management system (https://bmsi-medicenergy.app.dexma.com/login.htm) to monitor smart meter gas and electricity data to improve energy efficiency. Please get in touch with energy@hants.gov.uk (mailto:energy@hants.gov.uk) to find out more.

Plant free trees (#)

Create new habitats for wildlife and shade for students and staff by planting free trees from the Woodland Trust (https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/). You could even get older students involved in helping to plant the saplings.

Save water with water butts (#)

Save money in the long term by installing water butts.

Put in hedgehog highways (#)

Dig a small channel beneath or put a small 13cm hole in at the bottom of your school's fences to help hedgehogs roam in search of food and shelter.

Install bike racks (#)

Put bike racks in so staff and students can choose to cycle to school instead.

You could also sign your school up to the energy management platform run by charity Energy Sparks (https://energysparks.uk/). There is a fee, though it also gives your school access to other resources including lesson resources for teaching staff.

Resources and ideas for senior management

As influential senior managers, you could consider these ideas that would help your school, including its staff as well as students and their relatives, to tackle the climate and ecological emergency.

Empower pupils to get involved
Students aged 11 to 18 can make their views heard by being elected to the Hampshire Youth Parliament (https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/hampshire-youth-parliament). The parliament's ongoing 'Protect Hampshire's Environment' campaign involves holding eco-conferences, working with Regional Youth Climate Assembly South East and producing a podcast on the environment. There is also climate conference each year in July.

Join our Clean Air campaign
Encourage people dropping off and picking up pupils to switch off their engines at the school gates to cut carbon and make our air cleaner by getting your school involved with our clean air campaign (https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/clean-air?chapter=89441#chapter89441).

Encourage walking to school
This could include taking part in charity Living Streets' Walk to School Week (https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/walk-to-school/primary-schools/walk-to-school-week/) in May and encouraging parents and guardians to set up a 'walking bus'.

Cut single-use plastics
Consider banning single-use plastics, such as cups and water bottles, and using alternatives instead. There are resources for your teachers for both primary and secondary schools on the Plastic Clever Schools website (https://plasticcleverschools.org/resources).

We'd love to hear from you

Whether you want to tell us about things that are missing from this toolkit, give us more ideas for tackling climate change or share what your school is already doing to reduce its environmental impact with us, you can get in touch with our Climate Change team (https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/contact-the-climate-change-team).

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