



CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY 2025 - 2028

North Newton Community Primary School Climate Plan: 2024-27

What is a Climate Action Plan?

In April 2022, the Department for Education released a sustainability and climate change strategy specifically for education. By 2025, all education settings are expected to appoint a sustainability lead and develop a climate action plan. This plan will guide schools in both implementing and educating about various sustainability initiatives.

Our climate action plan has been created collaboratively by the headteacher, the sustainability learning lead, staff and the chair of governors, and the lead governor for sustainability.

Why Do We Want to Act?

Our ethos is deeply rooted in preparing our pupils for a sustainable future while celebrating our local heritage. The core belief, "Global Awareness - Local Responsibility," captures our commitment to thinking globally and acting locally to address the climate crisis. We thread this ethos throughout our 'Whole School Cultural Capital'. We strive to equip our students with the understanding and tools to make a positive impact on the world.



Respect and care for the environment have always been integral to our school culture. We are fortunate to be surrounded by beautiful green spaces in Somerset, and through our outdoor learning environment, students regularly engage with and appreciate the natural world. We have close links with the Lundy Island Education Ambassador and Warden of the Island. Our children had a visit from the Ambassador of the Island where they learnt about protecting the seals on the island.

This summer we were the overall winner of the 'Lundy Island Seal Poster' competition. The children's posters are currently displayed in the church on the Island (St Helens).

Sustainable Development Goals are woven throughout our curriculum and through our Cultural Capital documents, ensuring that our students develop a comprehensive understanding of environmental responsibility. We have personalised our Curriculum Maestro planning to ensure all children gain a clear understanding of 'Global Awareness'.

Tree planting 2024/5



In Local Area studies, we emphasise land use and community impact. Through our geographical and scientific topic learning we look closely at: Weather and Seasons and Rivers, we address climate patterns and water preservation, "Clean Water and Sanitation".

When exploring Natural Disasters such as volcanoes and earthquakes, we discuss the human and environmental impact, teaching students to respect and prepare for natural forces, which ties into building resilience against climate change. Our Biomes learning engages students with "Life on Land", as they conduct fieldwork to determine whether our school grounds support local wildlife sufficiently. This hands-on investigation promotes environmental stewardship. Additionally, Climate Zones and the significance of regions like North America's Rocky Mountains reinforce the importance of preserving natural ecosystems. Our children in upper KS2 use our 'Talk for Writing' strategy to learn, embed and secure climate zone knowledge.

Environmental education is further embedded through our topics, exploring the impact of natural disasters, investigating polar regions, and promoting sustainable food practices. We also inspire our students by learning about environmental champions like David Attenborough, who exemplify the importance of protecting our planet.

However, given the escalating climate crisis, the impact on children's mental health, and the necessity for our students to develop skills relevant to life in the 2030s, we recognize that more must be done.

Our climate action plan is a core component of our overall school development strategy and one of our key governance objectives. We will review it regularly, ensuring our environmental impact is considered in every decision — whether daily operational choices or long-term strategic planning. By embodying sustainable practices, we will demonstrate the respect we hold for our planet and model the importance of environmental stewardship.

How will we deliver this climate action plan and monitor progress?

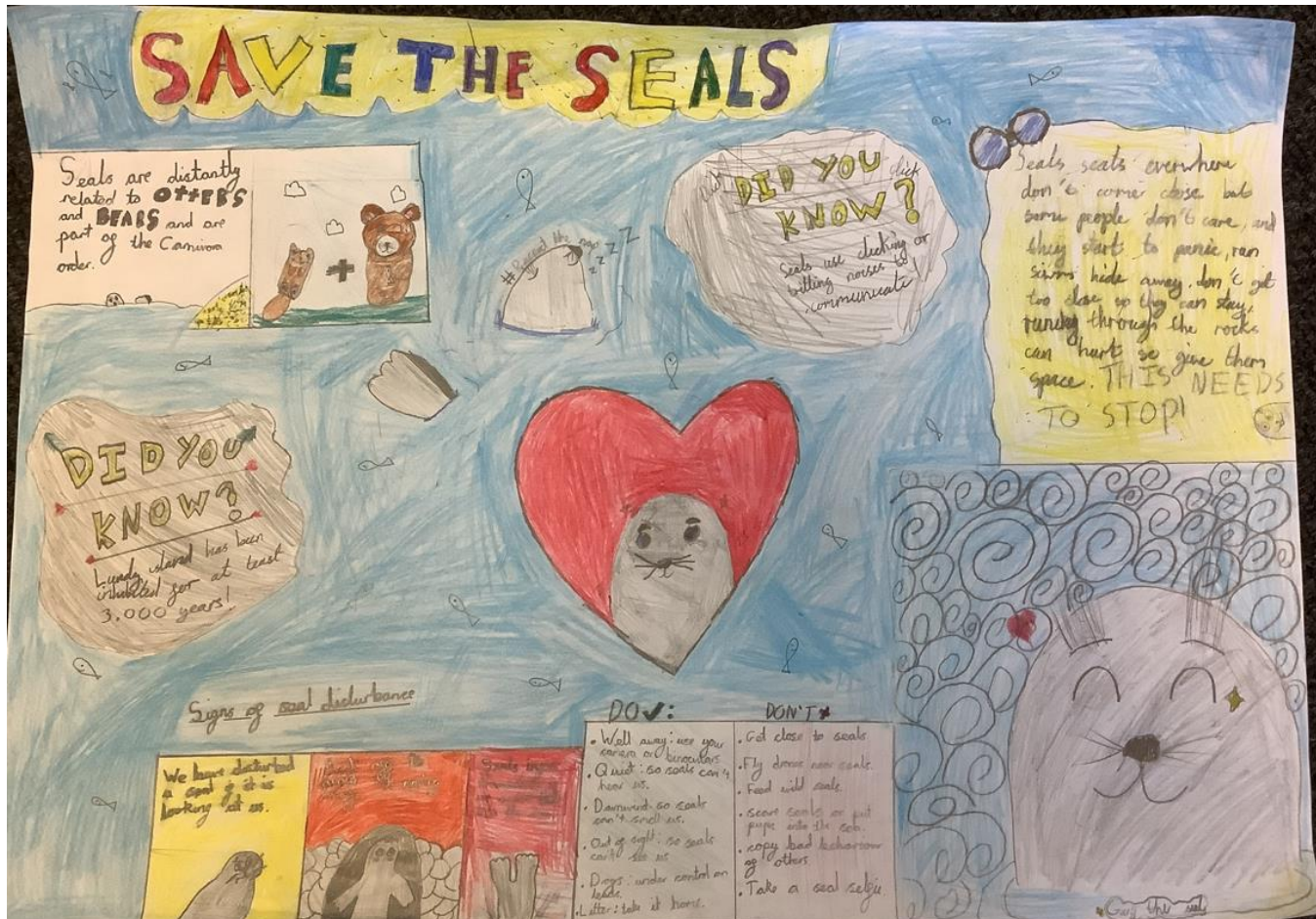
Our climate action plan will focus on four key areas: decarbonisation, adaptation and resilience, biodiversity, and climate education and green skills. Each of these areas will have clear objectives, with specific actions outlined for the current academic year.

Our entire school community - students, staff, parents, and the wider local community - will work collaboratively to bring this plan to life. Engaging with everyone, listening to their ideas, and involving them in our green initiatives is crucial. We will continue to build on existing relationships and forge new partnerships, to help meet our sustainability goals.

The delivery of our climate action plan will be overseen by the governing body, with regular monitoring conducted by our sustainability lead governor. To ensure the plan is implemented effectively, we will provide staff with the necessary time and resources to develop and carry out the actions. Specific members of staff will be identified as leads for key elements of the plan.

This overarching climate action plan will be reviewed and updated every three years to reflect progress and evolving needs. On an annual basis, we will set new goals and assess our progress, ensuring we are on track to meet our sustainability targets. Regular termly reviews will help keep us focused and accountable as we work towards our long-term vision.

Lundy Seal Competition:



Decarbonisation at North Newton Community Primary School

At North Newton Primary School, our goal is to achieve net-zero carbon status by 2030. This means that by this date, we aim for the school to have no contribution to climate change through carbon emissions, whether from the school site, activities, or procurement. Our efforts to decarbonise will focus on the following key areas:

- Energy Use
- Food • School Grounds
- Procurement • Travel

• Waste • Water

We will calculate our carbon emissions and implement strategies to reduce them. This includes becoming more energy-efficient, transitioning to greener energy sources, and encouraging both staff and students to actively monitor and reduce energy consumption. **Sustainability** will be a core element of our school site strategy, which will be outlined in a separate document. Additionally, we will develop a sustainable procurement policy to guide our purchasing decisions, ensuring that we consider the environmental impact of the products and services we buy, as well as the companies we support. Transport is a significant contributor to air pollution and carbon emissions, particularly in areas around schools, which can also affect children's health. Therefore, we will collaborate with local organisations to encourage low-carbon commuting options for both staff and students, promoting walking, cycling, and the use of public transport.

Recycling will be a priority at North Newton Primary, with an increase in the recycling of materials such as food waste, alongside efforts to reduce overall waste, particularly single-use plastics and food packaging. We will also explore opportunities to enhance water efficiency, including harvesting rainwater. To support our decarbonisation goals, we will explore various funding opportunities, such as grants, school reserves, and potential capital funding from local authorities. By improving energy efficiency, we expect to not only reduce our carbon footprint but also lower long-term energy costs and other associated expenses, such as waste disposal.

Adaptation and Resilience at North Newton Primary

At North Newton Primary School, we are committed to maintaining a high-quality learning environment for all our students, even as the climate changes. To achieve this, we will adapt our school site to mitigate the impacts of climate change. Our actions will enhance the biodiversity of our school site. We will introduce nature-based solutions, such as planting species that are resilient to the changing climate, which will support local wildlife and help create a more sustainable and environmentally friendly space for our students.

As part of our ongoing efforts to educate students about the climate crisis, we will also embed sustainability and climate change into the curriculum. Students will engage with environmental topics across subjects, including geography lessons focussing on the local and global impacts of climate change. Our school will further enrich student learning by incorporating opportunities for outdoor learning and connecting with nature, offering students real-life experiences related to climate resilience and sustainability. To support our adaptation and resilience goals, we will introduce additional shade structures and plant more trees and shrubs to improve air quality and provide relief from extreme heat. We will also consider using rainwater collection systems to support sustainable gardening practices. Our

school's active involvement in climate education, paired with these physical adaptations to the school grounds, will ensure that our community is not only resilient to climate impacts but also engaged in meaningful action.

Biodiversity at North Newton Community Primary School

We recognise the importance of contributing to the solution of the biodiversity crisis. We are already making some progress in enhancing the biodiversity of our school grounds through initiatives like outdoor learning and gardening club. As a school we are limited with outdoor learning space, however we aim to be creative in developing an outdoor sustainable environment through creative gardening, protecting our nesting swallows in the summer and making bug hotels. We will further our commitment to biodiversity by actively participating in the National Education Nature Park and the Climate Action Awards, both of which will provide valuable learning opportunities for our students. These programmes will help children build the skills necessary for a sustainable future, while strengthening their understanding of climate change and green careers. This will allow us to identify areas where we can make further improvements, enhancing habitats for wildlife and creating more sustainable spaces. When selecting plant species for our grounds, we will carefully consider their impact on local ecosystems, including their water needs and the potential for invasive species. Our priority will be to choose native plants and drought-tolerant species, ensuring that our planting choices support the resilience of the site in the face of a changing climate.

As part of our commitment to adaptation and resilience over the next few years, we will be introducing a Clean Air Zone initiative around the school. This includes encouraging parents to park away from school grounds and switch off their engines, reducing pollution from traffic. Through these actions and the development of our sustainable action plan, we aim to foster a thriving natural environment at North Newton Community Primary School, where students can directly engage with and learn from nature, and the school itself becomes more resilient to climate impacts.

At North Newton Primary School, we believe that it is essential for children to understand the climate crisis to actively contribute to its mitigation and be prepared for the challenges of the future, including exploring potential green careers. We are committed to providing a knowledge-rich curriculum that incorporates climate change education, ensuring that our teachers are fully supported in delivering this important content. We also recognise that the environment in which children are taught plays a vital role in fostering sustainability. Our school environment will reflect our commitment to sustainability, providing a nurturing, engaging, and enjoyable space for learning.

Our approach will focus on the following key areas:

- Outdoor Learning provision
- Curriculum development
- Leadership at all levels
- Training and professional development

Our curriculum will include age-appropriate references to climate change, aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These will be further integrated across subjects, ensuring our students develop a sense of social responsibility and an understanding of the interconnection between people and the planet. In addition to our focus on academic learning, we will also address pupil mental health and well-being. We will continue our commitment to national and local environmental initiatives, alongside providing opportunities for field trips to ecofriendly sites, ensuring that our students are inspired by real-world examples of sustainability in action. We will also further develop our links with Lundy Island.

In Autumn 2025 we had a visiting artist Darrell to work with us to design pieces of artwork which embrace world conservation:





