

Menu of Actions

Energy

Raise awareness about energy use and its impact on the climate •

Use assemblies, tutor time, displays, newsletters, and the school website to help the community understand how reducing energy use supports climate action, involving parents and carers where possible.

Run a site wide “Switch It Off” campaign ••

Encourage staff and students to switch off lights, screens, and devices when not in use using posters, pledges, competitions, and appointing student energy monitors to remind classrooms regularly.

Explore the school’s energy footprint or install efficient technologies ••••

Conduct a simple energy audit or install energy-efficient technologies like LED lighting to reduce the school’s energy use.

Create and begin putting an energy or climate action plan into place ••••

Develop a practical plan to reduce energy use, created internally or with external help. Provide simple templates or toolkits to guide schools.

Showcase student-led energy-saving projects •••••

Highlight student-led energy-saving projects through data collection, awareness campaigns, practical changes, and encourage sharing results widely or entering sustainability competitions.

Water

Explore water use and why it matters •

Help students understand water sources, use, and saving benefits.

Run a water-saving challenge or campaign ••

Encourage turning off taps and reporting leaks through campaigns or themed weeks.

Make use more efficient across your school ••••

Collect rainwater, explore the installation of water-saving technologies such as dual-flush toilets, and monitor usage.

Include water in a school site strategy ••••

Develop a plan to reduce water use as part of wider sustainability efforts.

Showcase creative/innovative water projects •••••

Highlight new ideas like rainwater art projects, water monitoring apps, or student-led water audits.

Helping Nature

Explore local wildlife and seasonal nature •

Use displays, lessons, or assemblies to connect students with the natural world.

Run a nature club or outdoor challenge ••

Encourage regular outdoor time via clubs or activities like a “nature noticing” week or mini wildlife survey.

Create habitats or improve green space on site •••

Build bug hotels, plant trees, or rewild parts of school grounds. Recommend low-maintenance options like wildflower patches and community partnerships.

Develop a site-wide nature plan or embed nature into the curriculum ••••

Create a plan to improve biodiversity and link nature to curriculum trips or activities.

Support student-led nature projects or campaigns •••••

Enable students to lead initiatives like wildlife mapping, planting for pollinators, or creative awareness projects.

Waste

Raise awareness about waste and its environmental impact •

Use assemblies, displays, or lessons to explore waste’s effects on people and planet. Include simple waste audits or visual displays of local waste issues.

Run a ‘Waste-Free Week’ or food waste challenge ••

Encourage reducing single-use items or food waste through themed weeks or challenges. Investigate options for sustainable food procurement via your catering services

Improve waste systems or work with your waste provider ••••

Improve recycling, reuse, or composting systems.

Create a school-wide waste reduction plan or food waste policy ••••

Develop a plan to reduce waste with input from staff, students, and teams.

Showcase student-led innovation or creative approaches to tackling waste •••••

Highlight projects that rethink waste through campaigns, reuse, or upcycling linking back to the circular economy

Climate Curriculum

Create space to explore climate in the classroom ●

Use lessons, projects, or assemblies to introduce climate change basics.

Support open discussion and reflection ●●

Encourage students to ask questions and think critically in a safe environment.

Connect learning to real-world examples ●●●

Use local stories, current events, or visits to places like Southport Eco Centre.

Reflect climate in whole-school planning ●●●●

Include climate education in curriculum development, staff training, or school values.

Celebrate student-led learning and ideas ●●●●●

Share student research, creative work, or campaigns, and give leadership opportunities.

Innovation & leadership

Share and celebrate student-led ideas ●

Use displays, newsletters, or assemblies to showcase creativity.

Try out a new eco initiative ●●

Launch new campaigns, clubs, or ideas not done before.

Create a new space or system for sustainability ●●●

Set up reuse stations, eco noticeboards, or green corners.

Design and lead a school-wide campaign ●●●●

Students lead posters, events, or assemblies on sustainability issues.

Help form a student sustainability council ●●●●●

Support a group giving students a voice in school environmental action.

Effort Scale Key

(Black dots show estimated level of effort/resources needed)

● = Very low effort / easy to do quickly

●● = Low effort, requires some planning or coordination

●●● = Moderate effort, some resources or time needed

●●●● = High effort, may require external support or longer-term planning

●●●●● = Very high effort, complex projects, significant leadership or resources required

Transport

Raise awareness about travel choices and their impact ●●

Use assemblies, displays, or newsletters to explain impacts on health, air quality, and climate.

Take part in walk, cycle, or public transport challenges ●●

Join national events like Walk to School Week or create your own challenge.

Make small improvements to support active travel ●●●●

Improve bike and scooter storage, promote safe routes, or create 'park and stride' zones.

Include travel in a school-wide sustainability or wellbeing plan ●●●●

Add travel goals to Eco-Schools, Healthy Schools, or climate action plans.

Showcase student-led ideas to improve travel and clean air ●●●●●

Highlight campaigns, posters, or data gathering to promote greener travel.

Food & Healthy Living

Raise awareness about food choices and wellbeing ●

Explore links between food, health, sustainability, and climate.

Run a healthy eating or sustainable food challenge ●●

Encourage reducing waste, trying plant-based meals, or bringing healthy snacks.

Improve food-related systems or spaces ●●●

Include composting, growing herbs/vegetables, or reviewing food sourcing.

Include food and wellbeing in whole-school planning ●●●●

Link food to health, sustainability, curriculum, policies, and partnerships.

Support student-led food projects ●●●●●

Students run surveys, growing projects, or campaigns on healthy/sustainable eating.