

Thackley Primary School - Climate Action Plan

At our school, we recognise that the climate and ecological crisis is one of the greatest challenges facing today's children and future generations. As a primary school, we have a unique responsibility and opportunity to empower young people with the knowledge, skills and values they need to care for the planet and contribute positively to a sustainable future.

This Climate Action Plan sets out our whole-school approach to sustainability. It reflects our belief that environmental responsibility should be embedded in everyday school life, from how we use energy and resources to how we teach, learn and engage with our local community.

Our vision

To create a thriving, environmentally responsible school where every child feels connected to nature, understands the importance of sustainability and feels empowered to take action that protects our planet for future generations.

Our mission

Our mission is to reduce our environmental impact, build resilience to climate change and nurture pupils who are knowledgeable, confident and motivated to care for the world around them. Through strong curriculum links, practical projects and community involvement, we aim to lead by example and inspire positive change.

Aligned with the [Department for Education's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy](#), our Climate Action Plan focuses on four core areas:

- ✓ Decarbonisation
- ✓ Adaptation and Resilience
- ✓ Biodiversity
- ✓ Climate Education, Green skills and Careers



✓ Getting started

Objective	Actions	Lead/person responsible	Timescale/monitoring
Understand school's carbon footprint by identifying where emissions come from.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Register an account with 'Count Your Carbon' – use the carbon calculator to complete calculation, then review the report. 	Sustainability Lead	Review each year to measure carbon footprint and emissions and monitor changes. 1 st calculation – end of Autumn 2.
Create site boundary to put ourselves on the map as part of our preparation before getting young people involved in exploring and mapping habitats.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Register an account with National Education Nature Park and complete first task – use site boundary creator tool to place our setting on the Nature Park map. 	Sustainability Lead	By the end of Autumn 2 2025
Add sustainability plans to the school website and share projects and successes through wider communications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create climate action plan and section on school website. Post regular updates on wider communications e.g. website, social media, newsletters. 	Headteacher + Sustainability Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By the end of Autumn 2 2025 Regular posts and updates throughout the year.
Understand school's waste by conducting a bin audit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct bin audit using How to do a plastic waste bin audit - Plastic Free July Review findings and propose recommendations to reduce or recycle waste. 	Sustainability Lead	By the end of Spring 1 2026
Incorporate sustainability plans into Eco schools work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Form new eco team for this academic year and ensure that the eco schools plan and sustainability plans work simultaneously. 	Sustainability lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New team by the end of Autumn 1 2025 Plans for Eco schools and Sustainability by the end of Autumn 2 2025.

✓ Decarbonisation

Goal – To reduce the school's carbon footprint across energy, transport, food, and waste.

Objective	Actions	Lead/person responsible	Timescale/monitoring
To reduce energy use and involve pupils in monitoring energy use around the school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assign energy monitors within the eco team. Conduct a sustainability/carbon audit to establish a baseline and identify high-impact areas. Check all lighting (LED/sensor lights) and optimise settings to ensure heating and hot water systems have efficient timings and temperatures. Turn off devices when not in use – monitors to check. Earth Day 22nd April 2026 'Planet vs Plastics' – book into calendar, plan for whole school event. Organise other 'switch off' campaigns. 	Sustainability Lead, Eco team, SLT, Site Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assign energy monitors by the end of Autumn 2 2025 Monitor and evaluate throughout the year with audits, meetings and feedback. (use count your carbon and Energy Sparks) Assembly – guidance for children and staff in Spring 1 2026 Time in part of a staff meeting to go through plans for Earth Day – before Easter half term.
To improve recycling in school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly label all bins. Provide guidance to pupils on what can/cannot be recycled. Eco team members to monitor correct use of bins and rota for emptying their classroom recycling bins with CM. Second hand uniform swap – fuel for school trolley 	Sustainability Lead, Eco team, CM (cleaner)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By the end of Autumn 2 2025. Assembly – guidance for children and staff in Spring 1 2026. Monitor daily, rota to go out to all classrooms as reminders by Autumn 2 2025 – eco members to empty recycling bins with CM 2x a week.
Sustainable food and waste.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with Kitchen staff to look at options for school meals – can it be made more sustainable? Reduce meat options one day a week? Review food bins and composting procedures – continue to measure food waste and monitor. Implement three simple actions to reduce food waste. Eco team and staff to give stickers out at lunchtimes to encourage children to eat all of their lunch. Fuel for school stall – eco team to continue selling surplus food from Rethink Food Academy. 	Kitchen staff, SLT, Eco team, Sustainability Lead, Teachers	Meet in Spring 2 2026

To reduce transport emissions and promote active and sustainable travel.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel Survey & Staff Consultation -undertake a travel survey to understand commuting patterns and consult staff on their commuting habits and preferences. Take part in whole school events in 2026 – Big Walk and Wheel – 16th-27th March Walk to School Week – 18th – 22nd May Reduce idling around pick up zones – create and implement actions -information and reminders sent out to parents in newsletters. Register for ModeShift STARS to help create, deliver and track effectiveness of travel plans OR School Street scheme – get help and support from volunteers (school staff, site management, parents, governors – involved in meet and greet/gate duties. 	Sustainability Lead, teaching staff, parents/carers, governors, site management, SLT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff survey/audit to be sent out in Spring term Registration for Big Walk and Wheel opens in January 2026. Register for Walk to school Week ASAP. School assembly at beginning of each event to promote to pupils and staff. Spring 2 Newsletter? By the end of Spring 2
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✓ Adaptation and Resilience

Goal – Ensure the school is prepared for the impacts of climate change, including extreme weather, heatwaves, and snow.

Objective	Actions	Lead/person responsible	Timescale/monitoring
To stay safe in extreme weather conditions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct a climate resilience audit – Climate Ready School Grounds Audit (LtL) – Review and follow school safety plans for extreme weather. Monitor temperatures in learning spaces – look at ways to reduce temperatures in classrooms that get too hot e.g. solar film, external window shutters. Ensure staff understand how to cool rooms through cross ventilation and other context specific measures. Ensure there is enough outdoor shading in playgrounds and outdoor learning areas. Subscribe to receive 'Heat Health Alerts'. Increase awareness of extreme weather risks and events locally and globally – include in 'Thackley Thinks' and 'Picture News'. 	Sustainability lead, SLT, Site manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By the end of academic year 2026. Thackley Thinks and Picture News throughout the year to include global and local climate events.
To reduce water wastage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water butts around school to harvest rainwater – outdoor use. Yorkshire water planters – Sustainable Drainage System Planters around school. Monitor water meter for any leaks etc. Raise awareness around consumption and efficiency. Signs and posters around school to reduce water wastage. 	Sustainability lead, SLT, Site manager, eco team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By the end of academic year 2026. Termly monitoring of water meters, audits etc. By the end of Spring 2.

✓ Biodiversity

Goal – To create a school environment that supports local wildlife and teaches pupils the value of nature.

Objective	Actions	Lead/person responsible	Timescale/monitoring
To develop outdoor areas and wildlife awareness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor learning programme – continue with 'Grow to school'. Utilise resources and implement into curriculum. Set up an eco club/gardening/nature after school club – involve children in children maintaining outdoor areas, planting for habitats, make bug hotels, bird boxes, animal shelters. Create signs to raise awareness of plants and animals, insect and plant identification cards. Take part in The Nature Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> look at resources and how to implement into curriculum. The Hidden Nature Challenge – first step to get outdoors with learners and take a closer look at what is around them. Write vision statement – to help learners discuss and reflect on what matters for them for the future. 	Sustainability lead, SLT, Site manager, Eco team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise sessions for each half term in academic year 2025/2026. Use resources for curriculum planning – staff meeting by end of academic year 2026.
Establish a school composting station.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Composting bin at one site/station/bins around school – look at how and where we can do this. 	Sustainability lead, Vashti - Grow to School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By end of academic year 2026.
Keep the school environment safe.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid litter, chemicals, and anything that could harm wildlife – regular litter picking around the school grounds. Cleaning products: Audit the cleaning products to find out which products are eco-friendly. Replace cleaning products with eco friendly versions if needed. 	Sustainability lead, Eco team, Site manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On going By end of Spring 1.

✓ Climate Education, Green Skills and Careers

Goal – To provide all students with learning opportunities that deepen their understanding of climate change, care for the environment, explore green career pathways and take whole-school action for a sustainable future.

Objective	Actions	Lead/person responsible	Timescale/monitoring
Embed climate education and sustainability into the curriculum.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curriculum sustainability audit (Map the Curriculum) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audit current curriculum for sustainability content. Identify opportunities to include climate education. Develop recommendations for curriculum enhancement. Integrate climate change and sustainability across all subjects, focus on science, geography, and PSHE. Develop outdoor learning spaces. Staff CPD (sustainability lead) – cut your carbon, eco schools, rethink food webinars etc. Assemblies Climate section in the library. 	Curriculum lead/SLT, Sustainability lead, Teaching staff/subjects leads, Vashti (Grow to school)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review curriculum for academic year 2026/2027
School Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue with Eco team – lead sustainability initiatives. Eco/gardening club. Displays, posters and signs around school. 	Sustainability/eco team lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gardening club in summer term 2026
Green skills and careers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite role models - Arrange visits, talks or virtual sessions with professionals working in green industries to inspire students and show real-world pathways. Provide opportunity for all pupils to take leadership on sustainability. Introduce Awareness of Green Careers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teach students about jobs that support sustainability like renewable energy technicians, environmental scientists, urban gardeners and conservationists. Use age-appropriate activities such as storytelling, videos and role-play to make careers tangible. 	Sustainability lead, SLT, teaching staff/subject leads.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review curriculum for academic year 2026/2027

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Link Learning to Real-World Sustainability. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate hands-on projects like composting, school gardens, recycling programs and energy-saving initiatives. Show how these activities connect to potential careers in sustainability, environmental management or climate science. <p>Link to Science careers, Geography and links to other areas of curriculum.</p>		
Community awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create space in whole school newsletters. Involve parents who work in green industries to share experiences and mentoring opportunities. 	Sustainability lead, SLT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review curriculum and include for academic year 2026/2027