

The Flich Green Academy

Climate Action Plan – September 2025

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1. Introduction

Climate change is one of the most pressing challenges of our time, and schools play a pivotal role in shaping the next generation of environmentally conscious citizens. By integrating sustainability into school operations and education, we not only reduce our environmental footprint but also empower pupils with the knowledge and skills to make a difference.

This plan is a live document that will evolve as new opportunities, technologies, and partnerships emerge.

Changes to the curriculum—developed through consultation with staff and parents—have introduced key drivers such as diversity, wellbeing, and enterprise. Sustainability naturally aligns with these drivers and reflects our core values. We are “*Learning for Life*”, and that ethos embraces the challenges we face in using energy and resources more sustainably.

The Flich Green Academy recognises the urgent need to address climate change and environmental sustainability. This Climate Action Plan (CAP) outlines our commitment to

reducing our environmental impact, enhancing biodiversity, and embedding sustainability into our curriculum and school culture. It aligns with:

- The UK Government's *Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy for Education*
 - The DfE's *Climate Action Plan Guidance*
 - Essex County Council's *Schools Climate Advice Pack*
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2. Vision and Objectives

Vision

To empower our pupils, staff, and community to become environmentally responsible citizens through education, action, and leadership.

Strategic Objectives

- Appoint a **Sustainability Lead** in Autumn 2025, with a link governor to oversee developments.
- Develop and implement a whole-school **Climate Action Plan**.
- Reduce carbon emissions and energy use.
- Increase biodiversity within our school footprint.
- Embed climate education across the curriculum.
- Engage pupils in hands-on sustainability projects.
- Encourage sustainable travel (walking, cycling, scootering), building on our already strong uptake due to our catchment area.

School Culture

Our vision is rooted in the belief that every child has the right to learn in a healthy, sustainable environment. We aim to foster a culture of environmental stewardship by embedding sustainability into our ethos, policies, and daily practices. Examples include reducing single-use plastics, promoting recycling, and encouraging responsible consumption among staff and pupils.

In Year 6, leadership roles include **Eco Warriors**, who act as young champions of sustainability across the school community.

3. Current Achievements

Sustainability projects and behaviours already in place at The Flitch Green Academy:

- Forest School
 - Bike and scooter park
 - LED lighting across the site
 - Reduction in plastic and single-use materials
 - Active Eco Warrior pupil group
 - Bikeability training
 - All-weather running track
 - DT projects using recycled materials
 - Reduction in the number of bins on site
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4. Strategic Action Areas

Each action area is designed to be measurable and achievable, with clear timelines and responsibilities.

Examples:

- **Energy Consumption:** Benchmarking and monitoring are standing items at governor meetings.
- **Biodiversity Initiatives:** Supported by local wildlife trusts.
- **Curriculum Integration:** Guided by the National Education Nature Park framework.
- **Funding Opportunities:** To be explored through government grants and local partnerships for infrastructure upgrades.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

To ensure the Climate Action Plan remains relevant and effective, The Flitch Green Academy will:

- Review the plan annually, led by the Sustainability Lead and site staff.
- Track progress through key actions (e.g. energy use, recycling initiatives, pupil engagement).
- Celebrate successes publicly to build a positive sustainability culture.
- Gather feedback from pupils and staff through Eco-Warrior input and informal discussions.
- Update the plan regularly to reflect new opportunities, challenges, and achievements.
- Share updates with the school community via newsletters and the school website.

6. Future Achievements Log

This section will serve as a dynamic record of our sustainability journey. It will capture both small wins and major milestones, providing inspiration and motivation for continued progress.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Achievement</i>	<i>Impact</i>	<i>Next Steps</i>

Examples of future achievements could include installing solar panels or launching a school-wide composting programme.

7. Conclusion

By taking a proactive approach to climate action, The Flitch Green Academy is not only fulfilling its moral and legal responsibilities but also setting a powerful example for others to follow.

This plan represents a collective commitment to a better future—one where education and sustainability go hand in hand. We invite all members of our school community to join us on this journey and contribute their ideas, energy, and passion.

The Flitch Green Academy is committed to being a beacon of sustainability in Essex. Through this Climate Action Plan, we aim to inspire our pupils, staff, and wider community to take meaningful action for the planet. By embedding sustainability into every aspect of school life, we prepare our children not only for academic success but also to thrive as responsible global citizens.

Claire Smyth
Head Teacher

8. National Guidance and Useful Resources

Schools can access additional support from organisations such as the **Carbon Trust**, **Energy Saving Trust**, **Woodland Trust**, and sustainability leads in other schools to share best practices. These organisations provide free tools, case studies, and funding opportunities tailored to the education sector. Networking through forums and conferences can also provide valuable insights.

Key Resources:

- **DfE Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sustainability-and-climate-change-strategy/sustainability-and-climate-change-a-strategy-for-the-education-and-childrens-services-systems>

- **DfE Climate Action Plan Guidance**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sustainability-leadership-and-climate-action-plans-in-education>

- **Let's Go Zero Campaign**

<https://www.letsgozero.org/>

- **National Education Nature Park**

<https://www.educationnaturepark.org.uk/>

Local Support (Essex):

- **Essex Schools Climate and Sustainability Hub**
<https://schools.essex.gov.uk/climate-and-sustainability>
- **Essex Schools' Advice Pack**
<https://www.essexclimate.org.uk/schools-advice-pack>
- **Essex Climate Action Commission**
<https://www.essexclimate.org.uk/>

Tools and Networks:

- **Climate Ambassador Programme**
Volunteer experts help schools develop and implement Climate Action Plans for free (funded by the DfE, led by University of Reading and EAUC).
- **Sustainability Support for Education**
Curated resources, training, and guidance from the DfE, including COP26 initiatives and climate literacy campaigns.
- **Eco-Schools Programme**
An international award scheme enabling pupils to lead environmental projects through a seven-step framework, with the opportunity to earn *Green Flag* accreditation.