



# Pilsley CE Primary School Climate Action Plan

Written March 2025

As a small rural primary school, which is in a conservation area and has listed buildings, our approach to sustainability must balance environmental responsibility with the need to preserve the historical integrity of our site, as well as making the most from our budget and grants available. This **Climate Action Plan** outlines key strategies to reduce carbon emissions, enhance energy efficiency, support biodiversity, and embed sustainability into our school's leadership and culture and reach our target figures of Net Zero by 2050.

Category	Initiative	Timeframe	Key Stakeholders	Resources	Progress Track
1. Reducing Carbon Emissions and Enhancing Energy Efficiency	<b>1.1 Energy Efficiency Upgrades:</b> - Replace lighting with LED bulbs - Optimize insulation – Add Solar panels. - replacement windows-playground door and surrounding glazed panels.	1-5 years	EB DCC Outside agencies	LED bulbs, solar panels insulation materials, energy efficiency grant, other grants	Cost savings reports, maintenance logs
	<b>1.2 Building Management Practices:</b> - Conduct regular energy audits - Maintain heating and electrical systems - Implement automated energy-saving measures	Annual assessments	CF DCC	Energy audits, maintenance schedules	Audit reports, system efficiency tests
	<b>1.3 Behavioural Changes:</b> - Switch-off campaigns - Appoint student-led Energy Champions - Encourage staff and student participation in energy reduction i.e. monitoring of usage in each classroom and award for class who has used the least energy– reduce heating to 18degrees (optimum temp), sort recycling to ensure most effective, use resource	Immediate and continuous	Staff, pupils, Eco-Committee	Awareness campaigns, posters, monitoring tools	Behavioural audit, participation rates

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	school exchange instead of buying all new, grow own food to use in the school kitchen,				
	<b>1.4 Renewable Energy Integration:</b> - Explore feasibility of solar panels - Transition to green energy procurement - Seek funding for renewable energy projects	Within 5 years and ongoing	School Leadership, Governors, External Consultants	funding applications, solar panels	Energy generation reports, funding secured
	<b>1.5 Reducing Food Waste:</b> - Recycle food waste in line with new government guidelines	March 25	EB DCC	New food waste bin Viola pick up schedule	
<b>2. Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure</b>	<b>2.1 Enhancing School Grounds for Biodiversity:</b> - Create wildlife habitats (bug hotels, bird boxes, hedgehog corridors) - Plant native trees and hedgerows (mainly in Forest School time)	Ongoing, phased approach	Eco-Committee, Teachers, Local Conservation Groups (i.e. Peak Park?)	Tree saplings, gardening tools, wildlife monitoring kits	Biodiversity assessments, student participation
	<b>2.2 Outdoor Learning and Student Engagement:</b> - Establish an Eco-Club - Use outdoor spaces for hands-on learning - Integrate biodiversity projects into the curriculum, Enrol in National Education Nature Park (Foundation Nature Prize), consult relevant departments at Chatsworth for help and advice.	Continuous	Teachers, Pupils, External Educators	Eco-club materials, outdoor classroom space	
	<b>2.3 Sustainable Landscaping and Green Infrastructure:</b> - Introduce green roofs or living walls (possibly on outdoor classroom roof)-	Within 2-4 years	EB DCC	Green roofs, permeable pathways, composting systems	Infrastructure maintenance reports,

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	Implement rain gardens and permeable pathways - Set up a composting system for organic waste		Environmental Experts		environmental impact studies
<b>3 Establishing Sustainability Through a Leadership Group</b>	<b>3.1 Creating a Dedicated Sustainability Leadership Group:</b> - Form a team of staff, pupils, governors, and parents - Assign a sustainability lead (no more than 1x term)	Immediate and ongoing	School Leadership, Governors, Eco-Committee, Parents	Meeting schedules, leadership training, sustainability frameworks	Meeting minutes, initiative tracking
	<b>3.2 Setting Clear Goals and Priorities:</b> - Develop a Sustainability Action Plan - Conduct annual energy and waste audits	Annually	Leadership Team, Eco-Committee, Staff	Sustainability action plan, tracking tools	Progress reports, goal completion rate
	<b>3.3 Embedding Sustainability into School Culture:</b> - Include sustainability in the School Development Plan - Organize workshops and assemblies and a possible inset with other schools in the cluster - Promote eco-awareness campaigns	Ongoing	Teachers, Pupils, PTA, Local Community	Curriculum resources, assemblies, workshops	School culture surveys, sustainability integration levels
	<b>3.4 Community Engagement and Collaboration:</b> - Partner with local environmental organizations – liaise with Chatsworth House Trust- Seek funding and grants for green projects - Encourage parental involvement in sustainability initiatives	Continuous	School Leadership, Local Authorities, Other Schools	Partnership programs, funding applications	Engagement tracking, partnership success stories
	<b>3.5 Celebrating Success and Inspiring Action:</b> - Organise an annual Sustainability Week - Recognise eco-achievements with awards - Share progress via newsletters and events.	Annually	Pupils, Teachers, Governors, Community Members	Awards, sustainability week resources, media coverage	Event participation, recognition received

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4. Climate Adaptation and Resilience	<b>4.1 Reducing Flooding and Overheating:</b> - Install rain gardens and permeable surfaces to improve water drainage - Increase tree planting for natural cooling and shade – adopt the National Educators Union’s Protocols (look into this), Seven Trent will come and install a water saving system (free).	Ongoing, phased approach	Facilities Team, Local Authorities, Environmental Experts	Drainage solutions, tree saplings, sustainable building materials	Flood risk assessments, temperature monitoring
	<b>4.2 Future-Proofing Scarce Resources:</b> - Install rainwater harvesting systems for irrigation - Implement water-saving measures, such as low-flow taps - Develop a drought-resistant planting scheme to reduce reliance on water, install planters	Within 3 years	Facilities Team, Teachers, Pupils	Rainwater tanks/SUDs planters, water-efficient fixtures, sustainable landscaping materials	Water usage reports, maintenance records
5. Climate Education, Green Skills, and Green Careers	<b>5.1 Integrating Climate Education Across the Curriculum:</b> - Embed climate change topics into science, geography, and other subjects - Use project-based learning to address real-world environmental issues - Encourage student-led sustainability projects, organise pupil climate day with other schools in the cluster. Forest School Green Schools Award.	Ongoing	Teachers, Curriculum Coordinators, Eco-Committee	Teaching resources, curriculum frameworks, project templates	Lesson observations, student engagement levels
	<b>5.2 Teacher Training and Support:</b> - Provide CPD (Continuous Professional Development) on climate education (INSET cluster) - Offer teaching staff access to expert-led sustainability workshops - Develop a peer network for sharing best practices	Annually and ongoing	School Leadership, External Trainers, Educational Networks	CPD materials, funding for workshops, teacher networks	Training attendance, staff confidence surveys

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	<b>5.3 Career Pathways in Sustainability:</b> - Introduce pupils to green careers through guest speakers - Highlight the importance of sustainability-related skills in future jobs	Continuous	Career Advisors, Local Employers, External Organizations	Career event resources, industry partnerships, work experience placements	Student participation, feedback from employers

### Conclusion

By implementing these strategies, our school can significantly reduce its carbon footprint, enhance biodiversity, and embed sustainability into our culture, all whilst preserving the historical integrity of our listed building. Engaging the entire school community in this effort will not only yield immediate environmental benefits but also foster a generation of environmentally responsible citizens. Climate Ambassadors are professionals who will come and help schools for free with their journey to net Zero.