

The SIPS logo consists of the letters 'SIPS' in a bold, white, sans-serif font, set against a dark blue rectangular background that is part of a larger, irregular dark blue shape.

SIPS

A light blue banner with the word 'EDUCATION' in dark blue, sans-serif capital letters.

EDUCATION

Greener Governance

DfE Key Initiative–

Sustainability and climate change: a strategy for the education and children's services systems to 2030.

Sustainability leadership and climate action plans in education non statutory guidance.

Decorative elements include three stylized chevrons (two dark blue, one light blue) pointing right at the bottom left, a dashed grey line running diagonally across the middle, and a dark blue triangle at the bottom right containing the text 'SMARTER SPECIALIST SUPPORT' in white.

**SMARTER
SPECIALIST
SUPPORT**

DfE Initiative

The strategy states: “By 2025, all education settings will have nominated a sustainability lead and put in place a climate action plan”. This includes early years settings, schools, multi-academy trusts, colleges, and universities.

Four Strategic Aims:

1. Climate Education – Excellence in education and skills for a changing world.
Preparing children for a climate impacted future
2. Net Zero – Aiming for a sustainable infrastructure in schools.
3. Resilient to climate change, recognising the growing concerns.
4. A better environment for future generations

Action Areas:

1. Climate Education
2. Green skills and careers
3. Education Estate and digital Infrastructure
4. Operations and Supply Chains

Why is this on the agenda?

Environmental Responsibility: Schools play a crucial role in understanding environmental issues and promoting sustainable practices. By integrating sustainability into the school's vision and operations, you help prepare pupils to be environmentally responsible citizens.

Educational Mandates: The DfE has been emphasizing the importance of sustainability in education. Schools are encouraged to embed sustainability into their curriculum and practices, aligning with national strategies and frameworks.

Why is this on the agenda?

Long-term Cost Savings: Implementing sustainable practices can lead to significant cost savings. Energy-efficient buildings, waste reduction programs, and sustainable resource management can reduce operational costs.

Community Engagement: Schools that prioritize sustainability can engage with their local communities, fostering partnerships and encouraging community-wide environmental efforts.

Leadership and Vision: Making sustainability a strategic priority demonstrates leadership and vision, positioning the school as a forward-thinking institution.

What can schools do?

- Have a nominated sustainability lead
- Establish a sustainability policy and climate action plan
- Embed environmental sustainability into the curriculum/learning
- Provide opportunities for outdoor learning e.g. forest school, visits or trips
- Energy saving measures, e.g. solar panels
- Review school transport
- Reduce waste e.g. recycling, composting
- Long term estate planning

What role can governors/trustees play?

- To initiate discussions on environmental sustainability and ensure it features on agenda's
- Consider appointing a sustainability lead governor/trustee or working group
- Incorporate environmental sustainability into school/trust vision or strategy – ensuring a whole school approach including governance
- Develop/agree a school climate change action plan
- Ensure sustainability leadership has been appointed at school level
- Ensure staff have the capacity to deliver on the climate change strategy
- Ensure stakeholder voices are heard.

Questions which governors/trustees can ask

- What is the school already doing that encourages environmental sustainability, what and when do pupils learn about environmental sustainability.
- How can environmental sustainability feature in our school / trust vision?
- Is it a strategic priority in the coming year?
- How do we resource the leadership team to develop the climate change action plan? And how is the plan monitored?
- In what ways do the school/trust buildings and grounds impact environmental sustainability?
- What do we as a board need to engage with this agenda?
- What do you need to do to ensure the whole school/trust is equipped to engage?
- Are there Staff CPD needs?
- What do our stakeholders think?

Climate Action Plan

The sustainability leadership and climate action plans in education non statutory guidance states that the holistic climate action plan should cover the following 4 areas:

- decarbonisation, for example calculating and taking actions to reduce carbon emissions, such as becoming more energy efficient
- adaptation and resilience, such as taking actions to reduce the risk of flooding and overheating
- improving the environment and biodiversity, for example, engaging with the National Education Nature Park * free resources
- climate education and green careers, such as ensuring the education you provide gives knowledge-rich and comprehensive teaching about climate change, and that your teaching staff and lecturers feel supported to offer this

Climate Action Plan

Goal	Action	Steps	Timeline for the action or expected completion date	Resources
Decarbonisation	Reduce carbon emissions in our buildings by changing the light bulbs to LED bulbs in each school building.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Undertake audit of the current situation and develop options to replace lightbulbs 2. Purchase LED lights and replace existing lightbulbs 3. Train staff to use the new lights and replace when necessary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 months • End of 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff involved: Operational staff, senior leadership team • Cost: £££
Establishing your baseline				
Biodiversity				
Resilience and adaptation				
Climate education and green careers				
Active and sustainable Travel				
Air quality				
Waste, consumption and recycling				
Food				

Climate Action Plan



Decarbonisation

- Change light bulbs to LED
- Insulation
- Solar Panels
- Analyse Energy usage/ expenditure & Offset carbon emissions
- Your energy supplier and renewable technologies
- Walk to school and Travel/Traffic reduction initiatives

Adaptation and Resilience

- Food waste policies
- Reduce, reuse, repair, repurpose and recycle
- Site audits - risks of flooding
- Heat exposure
- Estate Management

Biodiversity

- Forest school
- School gardens
- Grow your own food
- Links to local parks/access to green spaces

Climate Education & Green Careers

- Review of vision and ethos for whole school approach
- Embed climate change and environmental sustainability including green skills and careers into our curriculum
- Create Eco Champions pupils and staff
- Work with charity partners in the sector.
- Eco School Initiatives



- [DfE-Sustainability Leadership and Climate Action](#)
- [Sustainability Support for Education](#)
- [Environmental sustainability: a whole school approach | National Governance Association](#)
- [How to make sustainability a strategic priority for your school or trust | GovernorHub](#)
- [The National Education Nature Park](#)
- [London Early Years Foundation sustainability strategy](#)
- [Good estate management for schools – Sustainability of your estate – Guidance – GOV.UK](#)