Beckers Green Primary School
Climate Action Plan September 2026

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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 living document that will evolve as new opportunities, technologies, and partnerships emerge.
Beckers Green Primary School 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, and Essex County Council's Schools Climate Advice Pack.

2. Vision and Objectives

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. This includes promoting active travel, reducing single-use plastics, encouraging recycling, ensuring climate change features strongly within our curriculum and encouraging responsible consumption among staff and pupils alike.

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

Strategic Objectives:

- Appoint a Sustainability Lead by September 2025.
- Develop and implement a whole-school Climate Action Plan.
- Reduce carbon emissions and energy use.
- Increase biodiversity within our footprint through application for a Nature Parks grant – increasing green spaces
- Embed climate education across the curriculum.
- Engage pupils in hands-on sustainability projects.
- Increase number of pupils walking, biking or scootering to school.

3. Current Achievements

Verified Sustainability Projects completed at Beckers Green Primary School

1. Outdoor Learning in the Copse

Beckers Green makes extensive use of its on-site woodland area, known as *the copse*, for outdoor learning. Pupils from Early Years to Key Stage 2 engage in:

- Weekly nature exploration sessions
- Themed outdoor days (e.g. Stone Age survival)
- Skills development such as whittling, fire lighting, and den building
- Wildlife observation (e.g. muntjac deer, birds, squirrels)
- Ecosystem education and conservation ethics

This initiative supports biodiversity, wellbeing, and environmental literacy.

2. Food Waste Bin Project

The school received funding from the **Braintree District Cultural Education Partnership (BDCEP)** to install **food waste bins in the playground**. This project was part of a district-wide eco-initiative where pupils pitched their ideas in a Dragons' Den-style event and won funding

The project:

- Reduces landfill waste
- Encourages composting and recycling habits
- Was pupil-led, enhancing ownership and public speaking skills

3. Earth Mural from Recycled Materials

Pupils from EYFS, Year 1, and Year 2 collaborated to create a large **Earth mural using old newspapers**. This creative project:

- Promoted recycling and reuse
- Fostered teamwork and environmental awareness
- Was part of a wider district initiative to showcase climate action through art.

4. Travel plan accreditation

STARS travel plan accreditation awarded by Essex Highways. Completed actions include walk to school weeks, purchase of scooters to borrow, Scooter safety training and work with local councillors to fund a scooter park at school.

Hi Claire,

I'm very pleased to say your "Approved" travel plan accreditation certificate has arrived with me, and I've just popped it in the post to you. It'd be great to do some kind of celebration, perhaps in an assembly before the end of term, and promote the achievement to families, both current and for the new Reception pupils starting in September.

It'd be great to build on this, and get you up to at least "Good", not least because you get a frame for the certificate at that point. You just need a few more consultations and initiatives marked off as complete, ideally with some evidence uploaded. Things like walking trips, scooter storage, promotions in the newsletter, etc might've already happened, and have you tried delivering the scooter training I sent you the material for yet?

As always I'm more than happy to answer any questions you have, and look out for a hard-back envelope with the certificate in.

Regards,

Nick

LED lighting installed – project led by Head of Estates

3. Strategic Action Areas

Each action area is designed to be measurable and achievable, with clear timelines and responsibilities. For example, the energy audit will not only identify areas for improvement but also serve as a baseline for tracking progress. The biodiversity initiatives will be supported by local wildlife trusts, and the curriculum integration will be guided by the National Education Nature Park framework. We will also explore funding opportunities through government grants and local partnerships to support infrastructure upgrades.

Theme	Actions	Timeline	Lead	Resources Needed
Leadership & Governance	Appoint a Sustainability Lead and discuss regularly at governor's meetings	Autumn 2025	Headteacher	Time allocation, training
Energy & Carbon	Conduct an energy audit Count the carbon website use	Spring 2027	Site/Estates Manager	Audit tools, funding
Waste & Recycling	Expand recycling to include paper, plastics, and batteries	Ongoing	Site Manager	Bins, signage
Water Use	Install water-saving devices in toilets and taps	Summer 2026	Site Manager	Plumbing support
Biodiversity	Continue to develop outdoor learning areas and increase	Autumn 2026	Site manager and outdoor learning lead	Seeds, tools, volunteers

	biodiversity – sensory garden Make application for Nature parks grant to increase raised beds for gardening club and food growing			
Curriculum Integration	Embed sustainability in science, geography, and PSHE. Develop Fragile Earth topic.	Ongoing	Curriculum Leads	CPD, lesson plans
Pupil Engagement	Launch Eco-Club and student-led projects Continued focus by School Parliament on Eco Projects Litter picking and awareness strategy	Autumn 2025	Headteacher	Club time, materials
Travel	Travel tracker engagement with badges for rewards Installation of council funded scooter park Walk to swimming and local events	Ongoing	Headteacher PE lead	

Walk to school weeks

Beat the streets engagement

Engagement in WOW campaign to walk to school

4. Monitoring and Evaluation

To ensure accountability, the school will maintain a sustainability dashboard that tracks key performance indicators such as energy usage, waste reduction, and pupil engagement. This dashboard will be reviewed termly by the the trust and shared with the wider school community. We will also conduct annual surveys to gather feedback from pupils, staff, and parents on the effectiveness of our initiatives.
- Annual Review: The CAP will be reviewed each July by the Sustainability Lead and **site staff.**
- Pupil Voice: Regular surveys and Eco-Club feedback will inform improvements.
- Carbon Tracking: Use DfE tools to monitor energy and emissions reductions.
- Reporting: Publish updates on the school website and in newsletters.

6. Future Achievements Log

This section will serve as a dynamic record of our journey towards sustainability. It will capture both small wins and major milestones, providing inspiration and motivation for continued progress. Examples of future achievements may include achieving Eco-Schools Green Flag status, installing solar panels, or launching a school-wide composting program.

Date	Achievement	Impact	Next Steps
Summer 2026	New windows installed to improve energy loss		
Summer 2026	Work on sensory and butterfly gardens started	To improve biodiversity	

Autumn 2026	Site boundary and Habitat mapping activities completed to begin Nature park grant submissions		Submit application to increase biodiversity through development of further green spaces
Autumn 2026	Purchase of composting equipment		

7. **Support and Resources** In addition to the resources listed, schools can access support from organisations such as the Carbon Trust, Energy Saving Trust, and the Woodland Trust and even Sustainable leads at other schools to share idea/best practice. These organisations offer free tools, case studies, and funding opportunities tailored to the education sector. Networking with other schools through sustainability forums and conferences can also provide valuable insights and collaboration opportunities.

National Guidance and Useful 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. The programme is funded by the Department for Education and led by the University of Reading and EAUC.

Visit the Climate Ambassadors Programme

2. Sustainability Support for Education

The Department for Education provides curated resources, training, and guidance to help schools integrate sustainability into teaching and operations. This includes support from COP26 initiatives, water resilience strategies, and climate literacy campaigns.

Explore DfE Sustainability Resources

3. Eco-Schools Programme

An international award scheme that empowers pupils to lead environmental projects through a seven-step framework. Schools can earn the prestigious Green Flag accreditation.

Learn More About Eco-Schools

8. Conclusion By taking a proactive approach to climate action, Beckers Green Primary School 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.

Beckers Green Primary School 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 for a future where they can thrive as responsible global citizens.