

**Website** - [UKSSN Operations Group](#)

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***"As the climate crisis deepens, close to half of the world's people have [little defence against deadly heat](#). At the same time, energy demand from cooling – by those who can afford it – could more than double by 2050."* Radhika Khosla, Associate Professor of Urban Sustainability, University of Oxford**

A bumper newsletter to end the term ❤️ .

## **A look back at March 2025**

In many respects, March was a bleak month for climate change news...

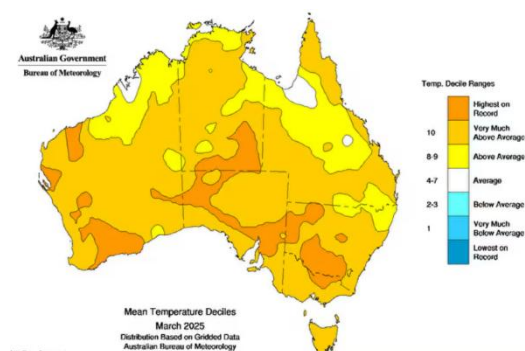
### **Arctic sea ice**

The extent of Arctic winter sea ice in March 2025 was the [lowest ever recorded](#). This decline in sea ice means the Earth reflects less of the Sun's energy back into space. So, more climate change leads to less sea ice – and more climate change.

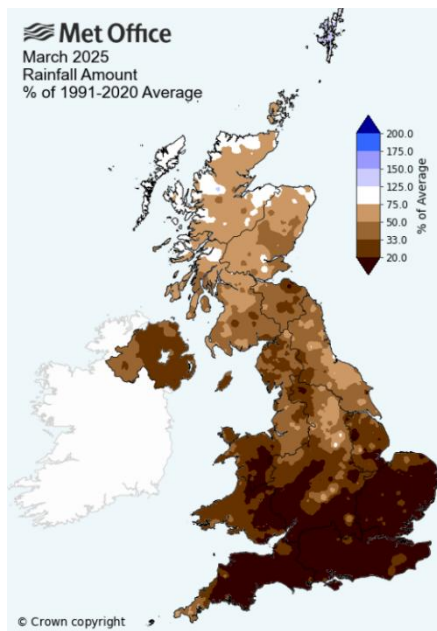
➔ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGAujCOcyc&t=1s>

### **Weather records**

Australia recorded its warmest March on record - '[Same S\\*\\*t, different year](#)'



Closer to home, the UK recorded just 43% of its average rainfall for March with warning of '[very high to extreme risk](#)' of wildfires.



### ***Damaging feedback loops***

The world is on track for [disastrous global heating](#) – but this will create profits for air conditioning companies, according to new forecasts by leading Wall Street financial institutions. The need to cool ourselves, and briefly escape the consequences of climate change, is driving more climate change. Demand for coal rose 1% globally in 2024 off the back of intense heatwaves in China and India, which spurred a [frenzy for air-conditioners and excess fuel to power them](#).

### ***Shutting down of environmental activism***

A jury in North Dakota ruled in favour of Energy Transfer, a \$70 billion oil giant, in a [case against Greenpeace](#). The company sued the non-profit for ‘inciting’ protests against the Dakota Access Pipeline in 2016. Peaceful protest and free speech are fundamental human rights that underpin social progress—and Greenpeace warns that this lawsuit is an abuse of the legal system and a blatant attempt to silence legitimate environmental activism.

### ***Most people will be financially worse off***

The new study, in the journal [Environmental Research Letters](#), took one of the most popular economic models and enhanced it with climate change forecasts to capture the impacts of extreme weather events across global supply chains. The new research looked at the likely impact of global heating of 4 degrees – seen by many climate experts as catastrophic for the planet – finding it would make the average person 40% poorer.

The study suggests average per person GDP across the globe will be reduced by 16% even if warming is kept to 2 degrees above pre-industrial levels

### So, let's take a lesson from history....

That is enough unwelcome news to paralyse most people into giving up. Before we do, it is worth reflecting on the history of social movements and what they can teach us about the climate crisis. Today we benefit from the environmental movement's campaigns to put scrubbers on factory chimneys, take lead out of petrol, and add catalytic converters to cars. These changes and many others like them were the result of deliberate effort that shifted social structures that felt unshakable at the time. A couple of lessons to take away

1. **We don't have to wait for dramatic moments to make a difference.** Everyone has heard of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech; but the [work](#) that brought a quarter of a million people to the Lincoln Memorial in the Civil Rights Movement's biggest march is hidden. So is the work that turned Rosa Parks' courageous moment on the bus into an effective boycott and then built it into a Supreme Court case and school-district-by-school-district work of petitioning, local politicking, and acts of student courage that actually desegregated U.S. schools in the 1960s. There are similar parallels with the Suffragette movement in Britain.

If you can't imagine yourself as an eloquent orator there is still plenty to be done, from talking to colleagues to showing up at meetings. History shows us how crucial changes come from the cumulative effects of local efforts that, on their own, feel too small to accomplish anything.

2. **We don't have to spend years convincing an entire movement to pull in the same direction.** Indeed, we shouldn't try. Every major successful social movement has been made up of dozens or hundreds of different groups with interests, ideas, and tactics that only sometimes align. The "environmental mainstream" is made up of thousands of different groups, whose disunity and capacity for independent action arguably allows us to accomplish *more*, not less.

History is clear that there are lots of things to do! What is most needed is lots of different doers: some of whom coordinate, but others of whom use their own initiative and energy to simply do what needs doing.

## Ideas for Climate Action this week

- **Climate Change Education** - CAPE collaborations & BERA ❤️
- **Engagement** - engaging your people in sustainability
- **Planning** - Greener Schools Index
- **Procurement** - More great collaboration 😊
- **Energy** - volunteering and switching off
- **Waste Management** - Simpler Recycling
- **Water** - Waterwise 'Water Saving Week'
- **Fundraising** - Clothing
- **Climate Ambassadors** - 1,000 signed up already!
- **Celebration** - Sustainability Awards

## Climate Adapted Pathways for Education (CAPE)

### [Climate Adapted Pathways for Education](#)

In recent years, there has been growing recognition of the importance of climate change education (CCE) in schools. However, despite the strategic direction set by the Department for Education, teachers and school leaders report that they lack the knowledge and expertise to effectively deliver this critical and complex educational entitlement for children and young people. The demand for high-quality professional development in CCE has become evident, along with the need to address the emotional impact of climate change on pupils. In response to these challenges, Climate Adapted Pathways for Education (CAPE) and Leeds Trinity University are leading the way by delivering this ground-breaking professional development programme to equip teachers and school leaders with the necessary knowledge and skills to deliver CCE and support pupils.

### CAPE and National Education Nature Park

CAPE has recently partnered with [National Education Nature Park](#) to embed the nature park within their professional development programme. Nature Park has two upcoming webinars all about habitat mapping - an essential first step in the Nature Park process. They're taking place this **Thursday 3 April** and **Thursday 24 April**. Habitat mapping guides educators and students through creating a baseline map of the habitats on their site, helping them identify opportunities to improve it for people and wildlife, track the difference they're making and contribute to real scientific research. In these webinars, Tom Lawrence, Community Science Officer at the Natural History Museum, will guide you through the process of habitat mapping. You'll learn how to:

- Use the Habitat Mapper tool to create a baseline map
- Explore different habitat types and what they mean for your site
- Discover creative ideas for running a habitat mapping session with your class

There'll also be time for a Q+A so you can ask any questions you might have.

- Thursday 3 April, 16.15-17.15: [Register now](#).
- Thursday 24 April, 16.15-17.15: [Register now](#).

National Education Nature Park is supported by the [Natural History Museum \(NHM\)](#). The NHM has just opened its first new gallery in almost a decade, 'Fixing Our Broken Planet'. The gallery, a permanent addition to the museum, is designed to inspire millions of visitors to become advocates for the planet and take positive, practical action. Perhaps a destination for a future school trip 🚌.

### **CAPE and Learning through Landscapes**

#### [Apply for Climate School 180 | Learning through Landscapes](#)

CAPE is also allied with [Learning through Landscapes](#). Climate School 180 is Learning through Landscapes' climate-focused initiative. The project aims to develop and share a better understanding of how schools can implement quality climate change education in their setting. Working collaboratively with us, the process will challenge your school to embed climate change as a theme across the curriculum and use the school grounds as a learning environment for all pupils. The process will also audit your outdoor space, creating the opportunity for learners to use their school grounds to consider the impact of our changing climate and the nature-based solutions we can implement.

The training and advice will support a small group of staff to develop a whole-school approach to climate change education. Successful implementation of Climate School 180 will also help develop a local context of climate change relating to broader global issues and how this affects young people.

### **BERA Bites: Education and the environment**

#### [BERA Bites, issue 12: Education and the environment | BERA](#)

Given the complex global environmental challenges we face, and the widespread recognition of the role education has in achieving environmentally just and sustainable futures, in this BERA Bites collection guest editors Elizabeth Rushton and Amanda Anderson have organised 13 blog posts that look across broad themes of Education and

Environment. The [Curriculum and Assessment Review Interim Report \(March 2025\)](#) offers hope that our curriculum will adapt over time - 'global social and environmental challenges require attention to scientific and cultural knowledge and skills that can equip young people to meet the challenges of the future'; there is much we can do and learn now to help move us in the right direction.

### **Engagement - getting people on board**

Earth-centric values are not everyone's centre of gravity. Time, money, career progression – these are things that are. They are immediate, they are here, and they speak to **their** self-interest and motivators. An important step in engaging people in sustainability is to meet them where they are, talk to them from their point of view. [Couch to Carbon](#) are experts in employee engagement. If you are struggling with engagement or want to ramp it up watch their free 30 minute masterclass [here](#) for ideas and inspiration.

### **Procurement in Partnership**

It is great to see the emergence of more exciting new collaborations in the education sector. [Value Match](#) and [Green Schools Project](#) have joined forces to offer a new combined service that will help your school trust save money, procure sustainably, and drive forward climate education and action through a whole-school approach. By accessing their joint service, your school will be able to:

- Obtain a clear data led view of procurement activity for your school trust - identifying savings, improving compliance, and enabling strategic decisions to unlock long term value
- Baseline your sustainability journey via Value Match Sustainable Schools Assessment.
- Create a clear Climate Action Plan for the end of 2025 deadline.
- Undertake a year of climate education through Green Schools Project's support, training, and resources.
- Calculate your school's carbon footprint and enable your pupils to design and lead projects to reduce it.
- Receive two CPD teacher training sessions around delivering climate and sustainability education.

By accessing the joint service, you will receive Value Match's sustainability and procurement support alongside Green Schools Project's Premium [Zero Carbon Schools programme](#), as well as the benefit of an additional in-person session co-delivered by both teams about sustainable procurement. To find out more email [laura.davies@value-match.co.uk](mailto:laura.davies@value-match.co.uk) or come along to a free taster session:

**Tuesday April 29th at 11:00 -**

**11:45:** <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/501f7b71-0074-4a6b-9046-96658b8ef83a@7c6a9453-a5d0-4963-8cd7-1c6bb4859e04>

**Thursday May 8th at 16:00 -**

**16:45:** <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/363511d7-e740-425b-96b0-19e12471f30d@7c6a9453-a5d0-4963-8cd7-1c6bb4859e04>

### **Planning: Greener School Index (GSI)**

#### Greener Schools Index

The GSI is a free tool self-assessment tool designed to support all schools, however big or small, and at whatever stage they are on their net zero journey.

- Helps you evaluate your school's progress, strengths and areas for improvement in essential areas such as air quality, biodiversity, catering management, energy, ICT, procurement, waste management and water.
- Each completed survey generates an individual pdf report of responses that can be shared with Governors and Trustees, or used to inform a Climate Action Plan and help develop your school's sustainability roadmap.

The first pilot of the GSI ran until the end of February 2025 with a report due out soon. The second phase of GSI is now open and will help you assess your current level of climate action and identify areas for further development. Give it a try...it is free and a particularly useful planning tool.

### **Energy**

Energy Sparks is seeking a new Chair of Trustees, an exciting voluntary opportunity to provide strategic leadership to a charity that is supporting hundreds of schools to reduce their carbon footprint. Whilst this is perhaps not a traditional step in a climate action plan, for the right person this is a role that can carry significant impact for our sector. Click [here](#) for more information.

### **Budget planning**

We spend roughly the same on gas and electricity as we do on curriculum resources, education licences and other teaching and learning supplies. Our budgets will likely be significantly constrained in the coming years as public sector finances adjust to a new reality. Energy efficiency is a great way to reduce waste, save money, save the planet and protect education. Energy Sparks also has multiple programmes that can help identify waste, change behavior, and support a more environmentally sustainable

culture. [Sustainability Support for Education](#) also has plenty of signposts for energy reduction measures.

[Earth Day](#) takes place every year on 22nd April to remind us of the importance of tackling climate change. This year's theme is 'Our power, our planet' focussing on energy. Help celebrate Earth Day with a renewed focus on reducing energy waste in schools.

**Don't forget...holiday switch-off:** 20% of a typical school's energy is used during the holidays. Do you have a [switch-off plan](#) for the Easter break? With the majority of power still used outside core school hours, there is not time to waste in making sure all non-essential equipment and appliances are turned off for the next few weeks.

### **Waste Management: Simpler Recycling**

[Simpler Recycling in England: policy update - GOV.UK](#)

From 31 March 2025, schools and Trusts in England will need to arrange for the collection of the core recyclable waste streams, except for garden waste (glass, metal, plastic, paper and card, and food waste). The Environment Agency recently recorded a webinar on Simpler Recycling. Access the recording and helpful guide here: [https://lnkd.in/e8ub\\_FPF](https://lnkd.in/e8ub_FPF)

We have dedicated our next UKSSN network meeting on Thursday 22nd May to talk about waste management. If you have any case studies to share, please get in touch








### **Water Saving Week: 12th to 16th May**

[Water Saving Week | Campaign | Waterwise](#)


The 2025 Waterwise Conference 'No Time To Waste', held online in March, brought together over 300 leaders, policymakers, and innovators to tackle one of the UK's most pressing challenges – growing water scarcity. Supported by government, the day focussed on water efficiency, creating a water-saving culture, sustainable water use, innovation, and re-use. Water is an important but often overlooked aspect of a Climate Action Plan. Water Saving Week 2025 is just around the corner and Waterwise is calling on water-saving heroes everywhere to take action. Last year, over 4.7 million people joined the movement, with 2,000+ resource downloads. Your Mission for the week (should you choose to accept it):



-  Laundry Legend – Make every wash count
-  Tap Guardian – Save water, one drop at a time
-  Shower Saviour – Trim a minute, save litres
-  Dishwasher Defender – Wash wisely, waste less
-  Leak Buster – Find and fix sneaky leaks

### **Fundraising: Clothing**

#### [Bag2School Fundraiser | UK's No.1 Fundraiser for Schools](#)

There are lots of opportunities to raise additional funds for schools and link it to your Climate Action Plan. Bag2School is a free eco-friendly fundraising scheme that helps schools and community groups raise funds through textile recycling as well as spreading textile recycling awareness. We clearly need to reduce the amount of clothes we buy; Bag2School is away of extending the life of the clothing, involving children and the community, and generating a bit of income too. Well done Cauldwell Primary .



**300,000+**  
Collections in the UK.

**£48 Million**  
Paid out since 1999.

**12,000+**  
Use our fundraiser.

### **Climate Ambassadors: 1,000 signed up to support**

#### [Our work | Climate Ambassadors](#)

The Climate Ambassador programme has passed a key project milestone, with over 1,000 Climate Ambassadors signed up to help. The national and regional teams are concentrating on strengthening relationships with their volunteers, ensuring that they have all the training and support they need to work with nurseries, schools and colleges across England. A few examples of their work so far:

- An Energy Consultant helped two MATs to change to renewable energy tariffs, conduct a carbon audit and reduce energy usage.
- A Digital Learning Designer supported a primary school to develop a climate action plan, explained its importance to governors and helped to identify staff to progress action.

- A Fashion Business Owner delivered workshops to embed sustainability into the curriculum, teaching children about the importance of reusing and recycling.

Great case study from Drake Primary School here - [Drake Primary School's sustainability journey | Climate Ambassadors](#)

## 🎉 Celebrating Sustainability: Sustainability Awards 🎉

The Department for Education [Sustainability Award](#) is now open for applications (closing date 24th April). The award recognises institutions that have taken innovative, measurable, and impactful steps to embed sustainability within their operations, curriculum, and community. The winning school or college will receive a £2,500 award to further support sustainability initiatives. Awards for sustainability are great for showing other schools and Trusts what can be achieved.

## 🎓 CPD and Support 🎓

[Sustainability training: Top tips for creating effective L&D initiatives which deliver results - edie](#)



This week I had another opportunity to work with [Climate Clarity](#) to co-facilitate a [Climate Fresk](#) workshop, this time at the Suffolk Sustainability in Education conference. The East of England sustainability series was supported by the Department for Education sustainability team, and brought together a wealth of experience and

support for schools across the region. The series will return in the Autumn...more regions, more support, more action 😊.

Training and upskilling our workforce beyond the Sustainability Leadership is critical to building an earth-care culture. To help navigate these challenges we have listed below a range of quality CPD we have engaged with and believe is of value to our sector.

### ***Sustainability Support for Education***

#### **[Action for Climate by Sustainability Support for Education. | Eventbrite](#)**

By 2025, every school will need a Climate Action Plan to lead the way in tackling climate change. This plan will integrate sustainability into every aspect of school life, empowering students to create a sustainable future. These free interactive workshops throughout April and May are designed to help progress your climate action plan. Early Years special on 8<sup>th</sup> April at 16.00.

### ***Carbon Literacy***

#### **[Free Carbon Literacy training from Let's Go Zero](#)**

25,000 people working in education are already Carbon Literate. There are more and more opportunities to take part in Carbon Literacy training in your local area (or online). Training our teams is often the first step in taking effective climate action. Plus...if you have not already signed up to meet with your local [Climate Advisor](#) I would urge you to make that the next step in your Climate Action Plan.

#### **Plus:**

In June 2025 [Carbon Literacy Project](#) will be releasing a new **Schools Toolkit**, which has been designed for school staff in Primary and Secondary School settings. The toolkit will be a fantastic way to support other educational settings in reaching their government mandated sustainability strategies, as well as supporting your own CLE goals. If you work with schools or school settings and are interested in using the materials for delivery, then get in touch at [school@carbonliteracy.com](mailto:school@carbonliteracy.com).

### ***Water Literacy***

#### **[Water Literacy | Accredited Learning Experience](#)**

Despite the UK's rain drenched reputation, demand for fresh water increasingly outstrips supply. This creates a state of water scarcity, which has damaging environmental impacts. Despite this, water remains an undervalued, regularly wasted resource. We need a wave of change, and this course will empower you to be a part of it. Water Literacy is a learning experience to inspire, motivate and educate professionals to

play their part in addressing the environmental impact of water scarcity in the UK. It is an informative, accessible, and action-orientated course. Through a single day of learning, participants are empowered to embed change at their organisations, at home, and in their communities.

### ***Salix Decarbonisation Dialogue - 13<sup>th</sup> May at 14.00***

#### ***The Decarbonisation Dialogue***

On Tuesday 13th May 2025 Salix is holding the next in its series of decarbonisation webinars. The webinar will provide you with an opportunity to listen, learn, contribute, question and discuss all things decarbonisation and energy efficiency with fellow public sector counterparts.

#### ***Regional and National events***

Conferences and events for climate and nature are great for CPD and building your network. We promote training on the website where all Members have facility to add local or regional events.

### **NEW - CCADIS 2025 - 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2025**

On Friday 2nd May, the third Climate Change and Digital Innovation Summit (#CCADIS) will be held in Luton. This is a really special, pupil-focused event, organised by [Denbigh High School, Luton - Bedfordshire](#) in partnership with [Apps for Good](#), [Luton Borough Council](#) and all of the schools in [Chiltern Learning Trust](#). The free [Apps for Good](#) "Innovate for Climate Change" course that our primary and secondary pupils have been participating in addresses all of these challenges head on. On 2nd May, learners from all of the schools will be presenting the innovative technological solutions they have created to a range of industry experts at both a market place event and a "Dragon's Den" style one minute pitching session. Attendees will have the chance to vote for their favourite app idea and all student teams will have the opportunity to enter the National Showcase.

This year there is a limited number of additional places for audience members. The event is invitation only, so if you are interested in attending, seeking inspiration or finding out more please complete the form here - <https://lnkd.in/eiGBEjZc>

#### **Plus...**

Here are just a few more events to look forward to -

- [Climate and Nature Action in Education](#), Birmingham (8th April 2025)
- [The Trust Network national conference](#), Pelsall (23rd April 2025)

- [Education Estates Net Zero Conference](#), LSE London (24th April 2025)
- [Schools Sustainability Showcase](#), ARU Peterborough (22nd May 2025)
- [ASCL Annual Sustainability Conference](#), Manchester (5<sup>th</sup> June 2025)
- North-West [Sustainability Learning Conference](#) (26<sup>th</sup> June 2025)
- [Northern Sustainability Summit](#), Manchester, (10<sup>th</sup> July 2025), all sectors

If you are planning an event let us know and we will share with colleagues in the network.

♥ And finally.... ♥

With thanks to [Sustainable\(ish\)](#)...

Easter is coming! And that can only mean one thing. Chocolate! (Before you e-mail angrily, I know that Easter is about more than chocolate. Who could forget hot cross buns..? 😊 )

Chocolate has it's dark side (and I'm not just talking cocoa content). Have you seen [Netflix series Rotten called 'Bitter Chocolate'](#)? "The long journey from bean to bar is packed with misery" - which isn't really something we think about when it comes to chocolate. And then with Easter eggs there's also the mountain of packaging to take into account. For anyone that hasn't already bought their Easter Eggs, here are a few 'Sustainable(ish)' options: [SUSTAINABLE\(ISH\) EASTER EGGS – Sustainable\(ish\)](#)



Have a great weekend ♥

## **Recommended sources of advice and support**

1. DfE sustainability hub: [Sustainability Support for Education](#) (with updated features for 2025 and updates in [LinkedIn](#))
2. UKSSN: [UKSSN Operations Group](#)
3. Education Nature Park: [Home | Education Nature Park](#)
4. Climate Ambassadors: [Climate Ambassadors: Turning Climate Ambition into Climate Action in Education | Climate Ambassadors](#)
5. Let's Go Zero: [UK Climate Change • Let's Go Zero](#)
6. EAUC: [The Platform - Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges, EAUC - United Kingdom](#)
7. FED: [FED | Climate Change](#)
8. Good Estate Management for Schools - [Good estate management for schools - Guidance - GOV.UK](#)
9. Sustainable Drainage (SUDS) - [Susdrain - The community for sustainable drainage](#)
10. The Trust Network (TTN) - [The Trust Network supporting good school estates & facilities management](#)
11. Salix - [Project delivery: support and guidance](#)

## **Other useful references**

### **HM Government Net Zero Strategy (October 2021, page 29)**

‘Government is leading the way – embedding climate into our policy and spending decisions, increasing the transparency of our progress on climate goals, and providing funding to drive ambitious emissions reductions in schools and hospitals.’

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6194dfa4d3bf7f0555071b1b/net-zero-strategy-beis.pdf>

### **Department for Education Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy (April 2022)**

[Sustainability and climate change strategy - GOV.UK](#)

### **Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting (SECR)**

[Environmental reporting guidelines: including Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting requirements - GOV.UK](#)