

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

**LinkedIn** - [\(3\) UK Schools Sustainability Network Operations Group | Groups | LinkedIn](#)

*“Believe in the power of your own voice. The more noise you make, the more accountability you demand from your leaders, the more our world will change for the better.”*

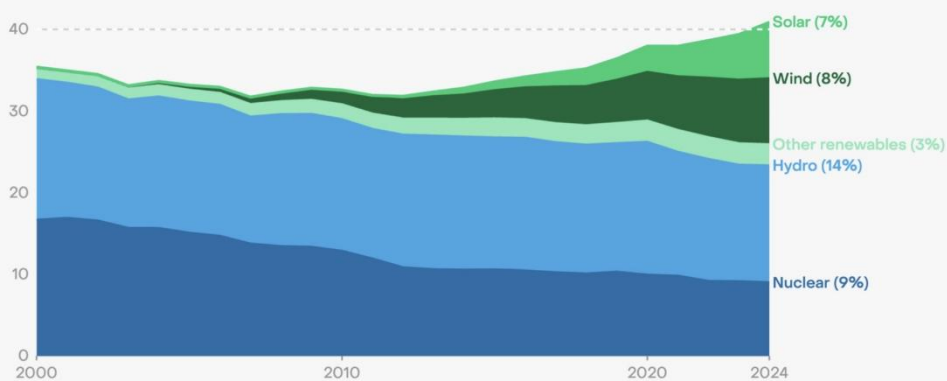
**Al Gore, Former US Vice President**

A briefer holiday newsletter this week ❤️

## In the News

### Solar and wind boom pushes world past 40% clean electricity in 2024

Share of global electricity generation (%)



Source: Yearly electricity data, Ember  
'Other renewables' includes bioenergy, geothermal, tide and wave energy

EMBER

Some good news 😊: solar power and wind energy have helped push the world through the 40% barrier for clean energy generation. There is still a long way to go but renewable energy generation is starting to break through.

## Ideas for Climate Action this week

- **Procurement** - Value Match and Green Schools Project
- **Planning** - Greener Schools Index
- **Celebration** - Sustainability Awards
- **CPD** - planning a summer term of learning

### Procurement in Partnership

The goods and services we buy make up over 50% of our carbon footprint. [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. 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)**

#### **NEW! Greener Schools Index Report - Zenergi**

The first Greener Schools Index (GSI) report has been published. The report is based on findings from the pilot cohort of schools and Trusts. Whilst it is unlikely to be representative of the whole sector, the report shares key findings and actionable advice and tips from practitioners who have successfully developed and integrated their Climate Action Plans.

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. 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.

### **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**

### **NEW - London Schools Eco Network (LSEN) - 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

#### **LSEN CPD day | Highgate School**

On Wednesday 25th June, Highgate School will be hosting its fourth annual CPD day for environmental educators across London and the South-East. As in previous years, the event will be held in collaboration with the London Schools Eco-Network. The day will consist of a series of talks and discussions on key themes in environmental education at secondary school level. The keynote speaker will be Dr Kris De Meyer, Director of the UCL Climate Action Unit and a neuroscientist at King's College, London. There will also be opportunities for attendees to network and share best practice. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

## 🎉 **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 -

- [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)
- North-West [Sustainability Learning Conference](#) (26<sup>th</sup> June 2025)
- [Northern Sustainability Summit](#), Manchester, (10<sup>th</sup> July 2025), all sectors
- [ASCL Annual Sustainability Conference](#), Manchester (5<sup>th</sup> June 2025)



"The response to climate change and embedding changes into school and college life is a priority for many this year. The ASCL Sustainability Conference is returning and is taking place in Manchester on Thursday 5 June 2025. We are thrilled to announce Award Winning Engineer, Global Innovation and Sustainability Consultant, Yewande Akinola, as a keynote speaker. You will have the opportunity to attend some great workshop sessions for you to

get practical takeaways to consider for your setting, and there will be a wonderful session delivered by students too! The full programme is now live on the website."

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

**Plus, plus, plus...**plenty of free, high quality, online training and support -

- **Sustainability Support for Education** - [Action for Climate by Sustainability Support for Education. | Eventbrite](#)
- **Carbon Literacy** - [Free Carbon Literacy training from Let's Go Zero](#)
- **Water Literacy** - [Water Literacy | Accredited Learning Experience](#)
- **Salix Decarbonisation Dialogue (13<sup>th</sup> May at 14.00)** - [The Decarbonisation Dialogue](#)

## ♥ And finally.... ♥

The letter attached to this week's newsletter was published last week. It was written by a group of senior staff across the food industry, sent to investors warning that their businesses are not transparently disclosing the true scale of cascading climate-related risks, which could cause international supply chains to collapse. The architects of the letter claim to collectively account for more than half of the UK's grocery market. They represent producers, manufacturers and retailers. They have chosen to remain anonymous due to perceived personal risk.

***"Yield, quality, and predictability of supply from many of our most critical sourcing regions is not something we will be able to rely upon over the coming years. The data on degrading soil health, water scarcity, global heating and extreme weather events back up what we are seeing from within the system: an interconnected set of crises."***

By taking action on climate change and biodiversity loss we are not just reducing our carbon footprint....we are playing or part in supporting jobs and businesses, we are helping prevent widening inequality, we are improving community health and wellbeing, we are helping reduce pressure on public services, we are reducing pollution and waste...and so much more.

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](#)