

Website - [UKSSN Operations Group](#)

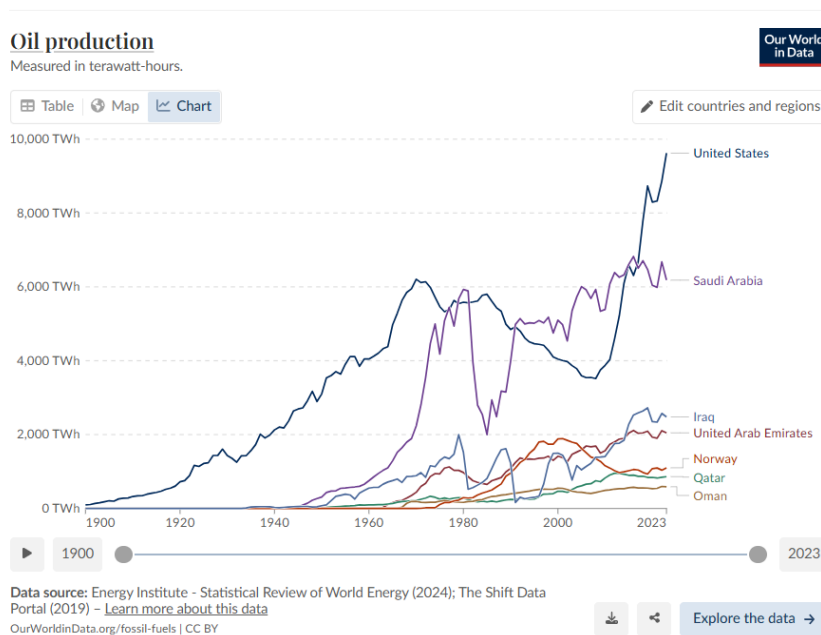
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Stories that are making the news, fresh ideas for your climate action plan, and a wealth of CPD and support, grab yourself a ☕ and enjoy ❤️.

"Americans can always be trusted to do the right thing, after they have tried everything else." (Winston Churchill)

In the news this week

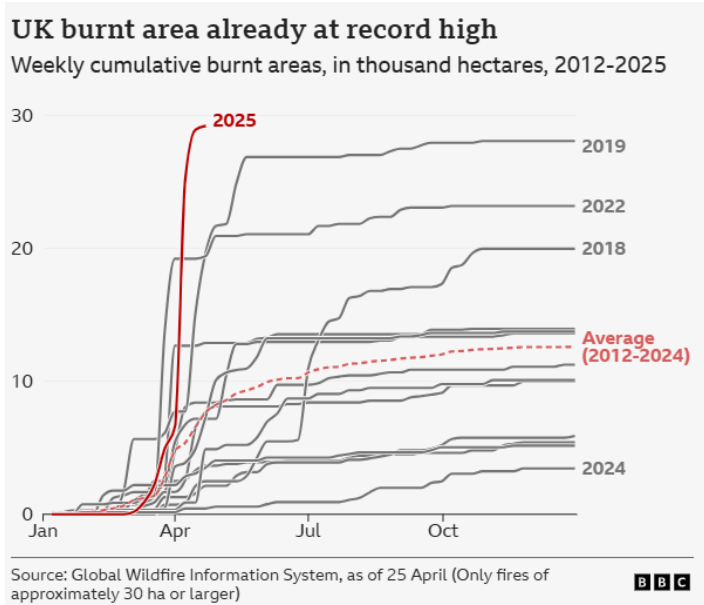
Admittedly not a complementary quote but I write it with a purpose. This week marks 100 days of President Trump v2.0. [Trump has shocked much of the world](#) with the speed at which he has overturned US progress on climate, building on his campaign promise to “drill, baby drill”. His administration has erased all references to climate change, global warming and environmental justice from federal websites and official records.



We could interpret recent events in the US as a reason not to act here....if they aren't taking action why should we?

The scale and complexity of Trump's onslaught may be discouraging but there is a wealth of evidence that shows why it is important we fight back. Here are just a few recent stories and reports that counter the idea that **not** acting has any merit:

- [Wildfires: UK burnt area for 2025 already beats annual record - BBC News](#)
- [UK is not ready for coming climate 'disaster,' government advisers warn | The Independent](#)
- [84% of Reefs Affected By Largest Coral Bleaching Event on Record](#)
- [Climate Change Made 'Bonkers' Central Asia Heatwave 10C Hotter](#)
- [Copernicus: Warmest March in Europe and lowest Arctic winter sea ice | Copernicus](#)



UK Climate Change Committee

Earlier this week the UK Climate Change Committee (CCC) reported on our progress to date, projecting a surge in flood-risk properties from 6.3 million to eight million by 2050. Heatwave-related deaths are predicted to triple to 10,000 annually by mid-century. Their report underscores the economic repercussions of climate inaction, forecasting a 7% hit to the UK's economic output by 2050. Rising sea levels exacerbate coastal flooding, while extreme temperatures and drought fuel an increasing number of wildfires. The CCC emphasized the **vulnerability of essential public services, including schools, hospitals, and care homes**, to the impacts of extreme weather.

So let's not take our lead from Trump, rather let's '[Make Science Great Again](#)' safe in the knowledge the US will eventually join us...in the end they won't have a choice.

Ideas for Climate Action this week

- **Communication** - Talking about Climate Change
- **Climate Majority Project** - NEW Climate Courage Schools
- **Grounds Management** - Six inches of soil & 'No Mow May'
- **Nature** - Education Nature Park Spring update
- **Catering** - Foodsight Magazine
- **Funding** - Update from Barker Associates
- **Support** - Sustainability Support Hub (webinars)
- **Support** - Let's Go Zero Impact Report
- **Support** - NEW Climate Action Plan (CAP) tool
- **Governance** - Sustainability Governance Network
- **Procurement** - Supplier engagement for sustainability
- **Careers** - Looking for a change?
- **Support** - Greener Schools Index
- **CPD** - CAPE Climate Wise programme application
- **CPD** - planning a summer term of learning

Communication: Talking about Climate Action

Globally representative evidence on the actual and perceived support for climate action | Nature Climate Change

Most people underestimate how much people care about climate change. In fact, the overwhelming majority - between 80 and 89% - want their governments to take stronger action. We are caught in a spiral of silence

- <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/apr/22/activate-climate-silent-majority-support-supercharge-action>. A recent US study showed only about 35% talk about climate even occasionally.

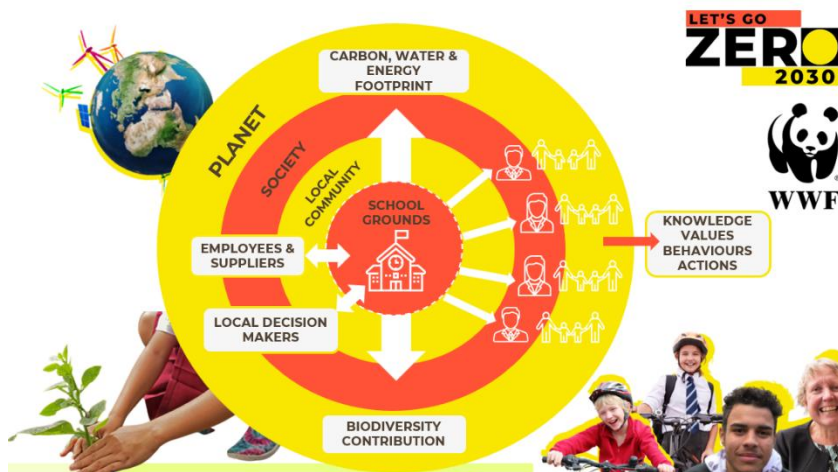
"If no one talks about climate change, people become less likely to talk about it because it is perceived as a taboo topic. The less people talk about climate change, the less it is thought of as a problem, which in turn leads to less action because people don't care or don't know what to do about the problem." (Margaret Orr)

People are more likely to talk about climate change when:

1. They understand the risks (that's the "not-so-good" section),
2. They see that solutions are already happening.
3. They believe their actions matter and that others care too.
4. They see it being talked about in the media.

(Ref. Katharine Heyhoe)

Schools and Trusts have a unique opportunity to influence and encourage talking about climate change, whether through the formal curriculum, or by encouraging behaviour change, or through communicating the climate action they are taking. Assemblies, briefings, celebration events, websites, newsletters, community events... 10 million people go into schools every day. The opportunity to talk to the 89% of people who want more action, role-model new behaviours, teach our young people about the changes that are happening and the roles we can all play, and empower our young people to be change makers, means schools really play a vital role in the fight against climate change.



♥ NEW Climate Majority Project: Climate Courage Schools ♥

Select tickets – Climate Courage Schools: launch – Zoom

Education needs to take the emotional impact of climate change seriously. But this is a hard message to get through when Climate Change Education is in its infancy and the increase in young people struggling with their mental health. The Climate Courage Schools is a campaign to ensure all young people gain the practical, emotional, and cognitive skills needed to “adapt and thrive in the world and workplace of the future”, as pledged by the Department for Education. They have four asks:

1. Safeguard emotional wellbeing. Recognise fear, anxiety and anger as natural responses to today’s world. Ensure schools are fully equipped to support staff and student wellbeing.
2. Embed adaptation throughout the curriculum. Ensure that the knowledge and skills young people need to thrive in an uncertain world are embedded across all subjects.
3. Help schools become adaptation hubs. Empower Sustainability Leads with time, resources and leadership backing. Involve all students and staff in local action projects.
4. Champion future-ready schools. Enable school leaders to experiment and fund a national network of adaptation champions.

The launch event (link above) is Wed 25 Jun 2025, 4.30-6pm.

Plus: 'Stories from the Classroom' - join Gareth Morgan, youth lead for the Climate Psychology Alliance, to explore how young people are experiencing climate distress – and how best to deal with this as a teacher, parent, carer or friend: [Book your place – Climate Courage: stories from the classroom - May 2025 – Zoom](#) (Tue 13 May 2025 4-5pm)

Grounds Management: Soil Literacy & No Mow May

Six Inches of Soil

Schools are collectively responsible for grounds the area of Birmingham, Cardiff, Belfast, and Glasgow combined. We have a fantastic opportunity to improve biodiversity, grow food, and engage children, young people and our colleagues with nature. Yet most people have very little understanding of the ground we walk on, particularly the soil we all rely on.

“Despite all our accomplishments, we owe our existence to a six-inch layer of topsoil and the fact it rains.” (Paul Harvey)

The 'Six Inches of Soil' film is a brilliant way of educating us all about the value of soil and its link to nature, food, commerce and climate. It tells the story of three young farmers, and examines how to break the monopoly of huge retailers to move towards a set of resilient and localised agroecosystems that benefit both biodiversity and the climate.

Plus: Please don't forget about 'No Mow May' - [Plantlife's No Mow May Movement](#). Approximately 97% of flower-rich meadows have been lost since the 1930s, and with them, vital food and habitat needed by wildlife. No Mow May is Plantlife's annual campaign urging everyone to pack away the lawnmower, let wildflowers grow freely and help nature. Whether you're in a city, town or the countryside, it's super easy to take part. No lawn is too small! Even the smallest wild patch can provide vital food needed by bees and butterflies, connecting us with nature and giving nature the best start to summer.



🦋 National Education Nature Park: Outdoor Learning in Spring 🦋

[Home | Education Nature Park](#)

This spring, take teaching and learning outdoors! Join the National Education Nature Park and explore the habitats on your school, nursery or college site. Whether you're new to the programme or already involved, exploring local habitats is a fantastic way for students to connect with nature, develop essential skills and dive into real scientific research.

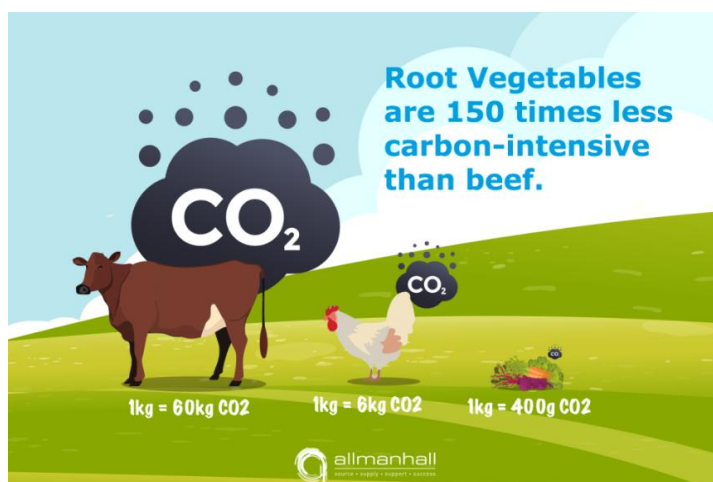
New to the Nature Park? Register today and kickstart your adventure with our [Habitat Heroes activity](#).

Already involved? [Time to map your site!](#) Create a baseline for improving your outdoor spaces and track the incredible difference you're making for both people and wildlife.

🐮 Catering: Allmanhall Foodsight Magazine 🐮

[allmanhall Foodsight Spring 2025 by allmanhall - Issuu](#)

Beef is currently 33% more expensive than this time last year. Poultry prices are 9% higher than April 2024. The link above is for the latest Foodsight report from Allmanhall and includes useful information about food and commodity prices, ideas to reduce food waste, a methodology for carbon labelling and ideas to reduce the carbon footprint of our menus. Allmanhall has also produced a useful blog to explain the food price increase - [Rising meat prices could force a menu rethink | allmanhall](#).



💰 Funding: Update from Barker Associates 💰

[Funding & Finance Update - April 2025](#)

Barker has published a very helpful summary of key capital funding rounds and the latest news and announcements on:

- Condition Improvement Fund
- School Condition Allocation
- Energy Efficiency Funding

- Urgent Capital Support
- School-Based Nursery Fund
- Basic Need
- Further Education College Condition Allocation

Their website also includes useful guidance to adapt the school estate for climate change, for example - [How SuDS Prevent Flooding & Improve School Environments](#)

Support: Sustainability Support Hub

Action for Climate by Sustainability Support for Education. |

Sustainability Support for Education are holding more Action for Climate webinars throughout May and June. 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. Together, with the team you will:

- Identify key actions for your plan
- Engage the right colleagues
- Access expert resources for successful implementation

You will also find webinars dedicated to Early Years settings and a Governor-specific webinar.

Support: Let's Go Zero Impact Report

Impact - Lets Go Zero

Let's Go Zero has published its first impact report, from its work with almost 6,000 schools and over 750 trusts. This is estimated to have cut emissions by 13,610 tonnes CO₂equivalent – the same impact as 150,612 car journeys between London and Glasgow – and existing plans are estimated to deliver further savings worth 68,867 tonnes CO₂ equivalent.

One simple step we can all take is to sign up and engage you local (& free!) LGZ Climate Advisor - [Climate Action Advisors - Lets Go Zero](#)

Support: Climate Action Plan (CAP) tool

Sustainable schools & trusts - start today with a Climate Action Plan - Blue Marble

Blue Marble recently released a new Climate Action Plan tool for schools. According to their website the CAP tool is free for schools, designed to quickly and easily create a plan that unlocks meaningful action. The CAP tool is:

- Free

- Quick to use, with template plans and simple steps built by environmental experts. Likewise, Blue Marble's expert team are on hand to guide you through each step
- Aligned with the Department for Education's 2025 strategy, therefore allowing you to get ahead and be recognised as a leader and sustainable school
- Supported by Lets Go Zero and The Climate Ambassadors. Together with Blue Marble's environmental experts, they can guide you as you complete your Climate Action Plan, and afterwards work with you to develop sustainability initiatives for your school

There is a free 30 minute consultation for the first 50 schools to sign up. The DfE has not mandated a specific format for a CAP. The Blue Marble CAP is one of several available to schools and Trusts...other CAPs are available 😊.

Governance: Sustainability Governor Network

<https://bit.ly/SustainabilityGovernorNetwork>

Whether you're an established Sustainability link governor, or it's something you'd just like to know more about, please join the newly launched national Sustainability Governor Network (or encourage your Governors and Trustees to sign up). Hosted on LinkedIn, the network provides an opportunity to share best practice, ask questions, and hear more about the support available to schools.

Sustainable Procurement: Engaging with Suppliers

[Mastering Supply Chain Engagement | Planet Mark](#)

One of the biggest obstacles that organisations face in reducing their carbon footprint, regardless of their size or industry, is engaging effectively with suppliers. Engaging with your supplier network is an effective way to drive efficiency, reduce costs, and foster collaborative emissions-reduction strategies. Join Planet Mark for an informative session to explore techniques for engaging suppliers and implementing a successful net zero strategy.

- Gain an understanding of your value chain and identify where your critical suppliers and emissions points are.
- Learn how to approach suppliers with an understanding of where they're at in their own net zero journey.
- Discover how to support your procurement team to strengthen relationships and enable effective data-sharing.

Plus: Sign up to [Value Match](#) and [Green Schools Project](#) launch event, 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.

Thursday May 8th at 16:00 - 16:45: <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/363511d7-e740-425b-96b0-19e12471f30d@7c6a9453-a5d0-4963-8cd7-1c6bb4859e04>

Careers: Looking for a change?

On occasion we hear about new roles in sustainability and climate action we think might be of interest to our network. Here are two that are currently open for applications:

- Energy Sparks: Head of Education - [Energy Sparks](#)
- Sustainability and Environmental Education (SEEd): Director of Operations & Development - [Work With SEEd](#)

If you see roles in climate change that support the education sector let us know and we will happily share with colleagues in UKSSN.

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. 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.

🎓 CPD and Support 🎓

Yesterday I had an opportunity to speak about Climate Action at the MAT Strategy Forum ([Home - Multi Academy Trust Strategy Forum](#)). Thank you to the event organisers for putting climate action on the agenda at 9am on day 1 in the main hall. Today I'm heading to the annual #CCADIS event in Luton to be interviewed by children working on climate action in their schools...what a fantastic privilege 🙏.



All schools must have Climate Leadership and develop a Climate Action Plan in 2025. Luckily there is plenty of high quality advice and support available to help us make progress. Below is a selection of relevant events scheduled for the summer term:

🧑🏫 CAPE Climate Wise Programme 🧑🏫

The CAPE Alliance - [Climate Adapted Pathways for Education](#) - CPD programme for school and subject leaders is open for applications. 'Climate Wise Schools' is designed to support you with the knowledge and skills necessary to deliver high-quality, evidence-informed, Climate Change Education in your school or Trust. Highly recommended, see the attached documents for more information.

🧑🏫 NEW - South East Climate Ambassador Events 🧑🏫

- **North Hampshire** Climate Action Planning in Education Workshop- Monday 23rd June 9:30am – 12pm, The Hurst School, Baughurst, Tadley, RG26 5NL- Registration form: [Hampshire's Climate Action Planning in Education Workshop](#)
- **South Hampshire** Climate Action Planning in Education Workshop- Wednesday 25th June 9:30am – 12pm Park Community School, Havant, PO9 4BU- Registration form: [Hampshire's Climate Action Planning in Education Workshop](#)

🧑🏫 UKSSN Network Meeting - 22nd May, 16.00 on TEAMS 🧑🏫

[UKSSN Operations Group](#)

The next UKSSN network meeting is fast approaching. Following the introduction of new recycling regulations at the end of March, our main focus will be on waste management. We will be joined by Devon County Council who have a long-established waste management

programme for schools and the Shropshire Good Food Partnership to talk about their work with schools and strategies to reduce food waste.

Register for the meeting on our website (link above 😊)

Plus...

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

- [Schools Sustainability Showcase](#), ARU Peterborough (22nd May 2025)
- [ASCL Annual Sustainability Conference](#), Manchester (5th June 2025)
- DSLS Climate and Nature in Education, Exeter (5th Jun 2025) - email office@devonsls.co.uk
- [London Schools Eco-Network](#) 2025, Highgate School (25th June 2025)
- North-West [Sustainability Learning Conference](#) (26th June 2025)
- [Northern Sustainability Summit](#), Manchester, (10th July 2025), all sectors



"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 -

- **Carbon Literacy** - [Free Carbon Literacy training from Let's Go Zero](#)
- **Water Literacy** - [Water Literacy | Accredited Learning Experience](#)
- **Salix Decarbonisation Dialogue (13th May at 14.00)** - [The Decarbonisation Dialogue](#)

[Change Agents UK](#) also run regular Carbon Literacy courses, a crucial step in everyone's Climate Action Plan - [Change Agents UK Events - 7 Upcoming Activities and Tickets | Eventbrite](#)

♥ And finally.... ♥

Dr. Jane Goodall is an English zoologist, primatologist and anthropologist. She is considered the world's foremost expert on chimpanzees, after 60 years' studying the social and family interactions of wild chimpanzees. Dr. Goodall is the founder of the Jane Goodall Institute and the Roots & Shoots programme and has worked extensively on conservation and animal welfare issues. In April 2002, she was named a United Nations Messenger of Peace. For Earth Day 2025 Dr. Goodall released a message suggesting we treat "every day of the year as Earth Day".

Read or watch her full message on why it is important to take action starting today - [Dr. Jane Goodall's Message for Earth Day 2025 - YouTube](#)

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](#)