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Stories to spark conversation, fresh ideas for your climate action plan, signposts to support services, a wealth of CPD and events, and 🤖 🤖 🤖 ...grab yourself a ☕ and enjoy ❤️.

The spring of 2025 was the UK's warmest on record, BBC News reports. The outlet says that according to provisional figures from the UK Met Office, eight of the ten warmest UK springs have occurred since 2000. The three warmest springs have all occurred since 2017.

Here are some answers to **Frequently Asked Questions**:

1. Yes, the sun's output varies slightly
2. Yes, the climate has changed before
3. Yes, we've considered that
4. Physics
5. Yes, the atmosphere is 0.04 CO₂ – roughly the same level as caffeine in coffee
6. Yes, it still gets cold sometimes
7. The natural world is telling us the planet is warming too
8. No, climate scientists are not getting rich from this
9. It's never too late – the climate risks are lower if we start earlier and act faster
10. Talk about it

(Attributed to Professor Ed Hawkins, Professor of Climate Science, University of Reading)

Stories to share this week

Yesterday was World Environment Day, an international observance that began in 1973. We celebrated by joining colleagues in Manchester for the annual ASCL Sustainability Conference. The day was crammed with inspirational speakers and workshops, young students, DfE, school leaders, and education and climate experts, all collaborating to help build a healthier future. Great work ASCL and Emma Harrison for investing time and energy to put the conference together.

2025 is a threshold year for climate action in schools – publishing climate action plans, appointing climate leaders, the establishment of DfE sustainability support services, the curriculum review, the DfE sustainability strategy review, the School Estates Management Standards – and lots more. We need to keep talking about climate action, even when faced with opposition or apathy, and conferences are a great place to start a conversation.

I'll share three of many insights from the day:

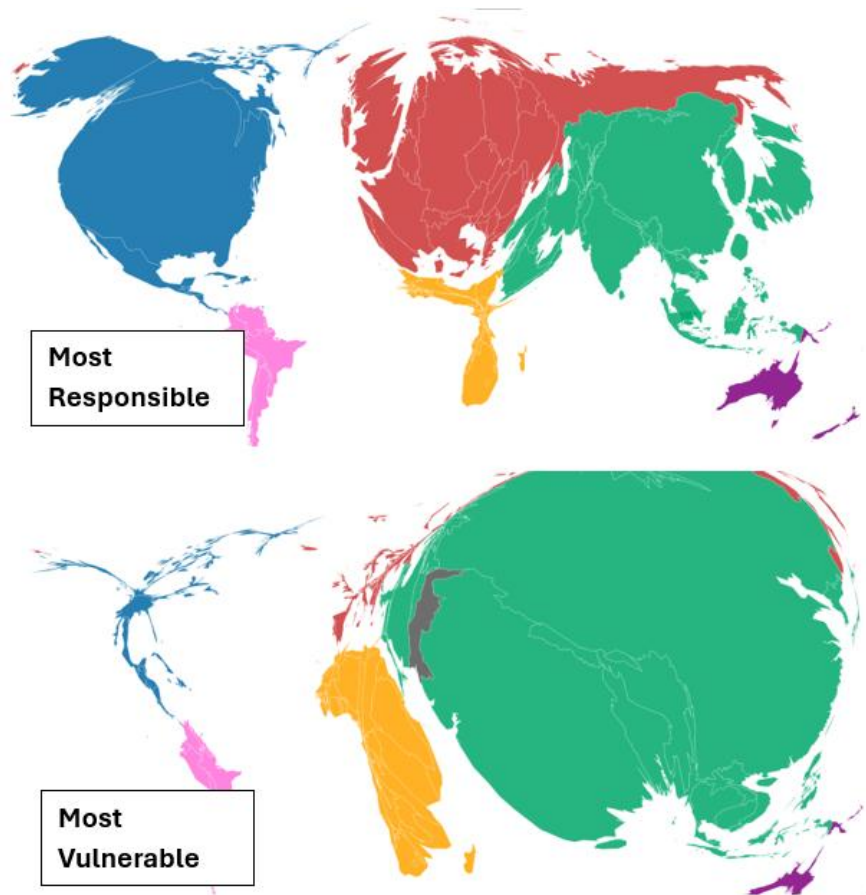
1. There are only 288 weeks to 2030...time to get cracking 😬.
2. **Northern Star Academies Trust** base their climate action on five core priorities:
 - Start with Leadership
 - Get children outside
 - Give children agency
 - Understand your community assets
 - Adapt your curriculum

Northern Star are recognised leaders in climate action in schools and members of the CAPE Alliance.

3. Climate change is a **safeguarding** issue; it directly affects the health, safety, and well-being of children. Extreme weather events, such as heatwaves, floods, and storms, can disrupt education, damage school infrastructure, and pose physical risks to students and staff. Poor air quality and rising temperatures can exacerbate health conditions like asthma, impacting attendance and learning. Vulnerable children may face increased anxiety or displacement due to climate-related events. Schools have a duty to protect pupils from harm, and addressing climate change is essential to creating a safe, resilient, and supportive learning environment for all students.

If we do not act to curb climate change immediately, we will leave our children and grandchildren an unrecognizable planet. It is the poor, those least responsible for climate change and least able to afford adaptation who would suffer the most. (Jim Yong Kim)

4. Climate change is also a story of **injustice and inequality**. The first distorted map below illustrates the parts of the world most responsible for the climate crisis (country size adjusted for historic emissions). The second map shows the parts of the world most vulnerable to the consequences. The maps were presented to conference by young students as part of the Teach the Teacher initiative (SOS-UK)



Plus:

Ahead of World Environment Day, **24 union leaders representing over one million workers** - including those from the National Education Union - handed in [a letter](#) to the government, urging them to address ‘the climate-nature crisis not as an abstract ideal—but as an urgent battle to protect livelihoods, create decent work, and deliver a just transition for all.’

Union leaders warn that the UK risks facing increasingly extreme working conditions, due to rising temperatures and flooding and argue “environmental justice and economic justice are inseparable”. The TUC has developed ‘Greener Workplaces for a Just Transition’ toolkit with guidance and resources to support the transition to a greener and fairer UK - [Greener workplaces for a Just Transition | TUC](#).

‘No matter how many mistakes you make or how slow your progress you’re still way ahead of everyone who isn’t (yet) trying.’ (Tony Robbins)

Ideas for Climate Action this week

- **Sustainable ICT:** New research
- **Nature:** Education Nature Park update
- **Nature:** Nature Friendly Grounds
- **Procurement:** Strategies for environmental outcomes
- **Energy:** Solar investment
- **Climate Action Plan:** Blue Marble
- **Careers:** Future of jobs report
- **Communication:** Rebooting our Future

Sustainable ICT – New research

<https://px3.org.uk/contact/>

A new scientific research project report by the University of Warwick, sustainable ICT carbon footprint experts Px3 and the United Kingdom Government's Department for Education has been published (you can request a copy through the link above). A few statistics -

- Information and communications technology (ICT) currently generates as much as 5% of all global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
- With over 16.1 million computer users, the English state funded education sector represents one of the world's largest end user computing communities.
- The annual carbon footprint of end-user computing devices in the state education sector requires 20.3 million trees to sequester the resulting carbon every year.
- Nationally 6 million kg of e-waste is currently generated annually
- Spending on end user computing procurement and use exceeds £1.2 billion, equivalent to employing 34,860 teachers

The research delivers evidence that sustainable ICT strategies, such as lifespan extension and using carbon footprint as a selection criterion, are effective at a local level. There are strategies that can be utilised by all schools to deliver both financial and environmental benefits; we just need to adopt them.

Nature: Update from the National Education Nature Park

[E-Newsletter Signup | Education Nature Park](#)

[Insect Week](#) celebrates all of the life buzzing about this time of year, making it the perfect time to take part in the [Nature Park's Pollinator Count](#). Plus...

- Mapping the habitats on your site is an essential first step in your Nature Park journey. Catch up on previous webinars or sign up to our next one to find out more about the process (Wednesday 11 June)

- Free CPD with The Poetry Society Cloud Chamber for a session about poetry and biodiversity (Thursday 26th June)
- Take part in a computing co-creation day (Friday 11th July).

Sign up to their newsletter to get all of the links (plus lots more).



Nature: SOS-UK Nature Friendly Grounds

[Nature Friendly Grounds | SOS-UK](#)

Nature Friendly Grounds is a new programme from SOS-UK, bringing nature back to the places we learn. Launching in the 2025/26 academic year, they are asking for expressions of interest from institutions who would like to take part in the pilot.

Nature Friendly Grounds is being developed in collaboration with the British Ecological Society, Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges, Learning Through Landscapes; Nature Positive Universities (University of Oxford), Swansea University, UK Youth for Nature, The Mammal Society, RSPB, Natural England and NatureScot.

Read more about the programme here: [68271d39a2bfbb7f743d2c49_Nature_Friendly_Grounds_Concept_note.pdf](#)

Please share with your institution and submit an expression of interest by Friday 27th June 2025.

Procurement: Strategies for Environmental Outcomes

[Value Match | Purpose led procurement solutions delivered with integrity](#)

A recent Freedom of Information (FOI) request by Gusto Group has revealed that many English council tender processes do not adequately consider supplier sustainability.

- 95% of the 282 councils who responded could not provide figures on how many ESG-focused suppliers they worked with.
- 61% of responding councils stated that B Corp certification or equivalents were not part of their current tender process.
- More than a third of respondents answered 'extremely unconfident' when asked how they felt in knowing how to prioritise B-Corp companies in their tender process.

It is worth remembering that over half of a school carbon footprint will be associated with the goods and services it buys.

“If we want to turbo charge the economy and have any hope in reaching net zero, we need to start finding ways to recognise and incentivise environmentally conscious businesses. We should be pulling out all the stops to encourage businesses who are willing to innovate and push boundaries.” (Steve Wright, Gusto Group)

Giving environmental benefits a minor weighting in a tender process isn't good enough. We need a transition to environmental sustainability being a mandatory prerequisite to participate in the process.

If you need advice, one option we have found that is working well for us is to speak to Value Match, a CST Platinum Partner - [Platinum Partners](#).

Plus:

<https://tinyurl.com/yc25dwm3>

If you have an interest or role in procurement, join a 2-hour virtual conference from 'Supply Chain Sustainability' to explore the impacts of the Act and its implications for organisations across the UK procurement landscape by providing insights and resources that will help supply chains navigate these shifts effectively.

By attending this virtual conference, you will:

- Gain insights into the Procurement Act 2023 and its early impacts.
- Learn from case studies on how organisations are adapting to the new procurement landscape.
- Engage with a panel of experts and peers discussing real-world challenges and opportunities.

⚡ Energy: Solar Investment ⚡

[ASCL - Solar PV in Schools: How do schools do it?](#)

Investment in solar PV is a great way to reduce a school carbon footprint, save on long-term costs and reduce exposure to energy price volatility. However, anyone who has done it knows it can be a tricky process to navigate. Barker Associates have written a blog to help you map your way forward (with a helpful self-assessment tool to understand your readiness).

Climate Action Plan: Blue Marble

[Climate Action Plan](#)

The DfE are not prescribing a particular climate action plan tool. If you need one and/or are seeking to move away from a simple document, then this one from Blue Marble might prove helpful.

'This tool helps nurseries, schools and colleges to build tailored Climate Action Plans that align with the Department for Education's (DfE) 2025 Climate Action Plan target. Designed for busy leaders and staff, it guides you through each step of the process, aligning with the [Let's Go](#)

Zero and Sustainability Support for Education Programmes to help you plan and prioritise your actions.'

Climate Action Countdown: Let's Go Zero

Join the Climate Action Countdown! – Let's Go Zero

Join thousands of schools across the UK between Monday 23 – Friday 27 June 2025 for a week of climate action, creativity and community. This free, exciting initiative is packed with curriculum-friendly activities that help build pupils' passion for a zero-carbon future.

Sign up to get instant access to your FREE resource pack – with ready-to-use activities for primary and secondary schools.

What's included in your FREE resource pack?

- A step-by-step teacher's guide to running a climate assembly
- A pick-and-mix menu of fun, impactful climate actions
- Tailored resources for primary and secondary settings
- Printable posters, manifestos and PowerPoints
- Inspiration to involve your whole school community – from pupils to parents and PTAs

Join the Climate Action Countdown!

Careers: Future of Jobs report

The Future of Jobs Report 2025 | World Economic Forum

The 'Future of Jobs' report was published earlier this year. It shows two of the biggest influences on the jobs of the future will be:

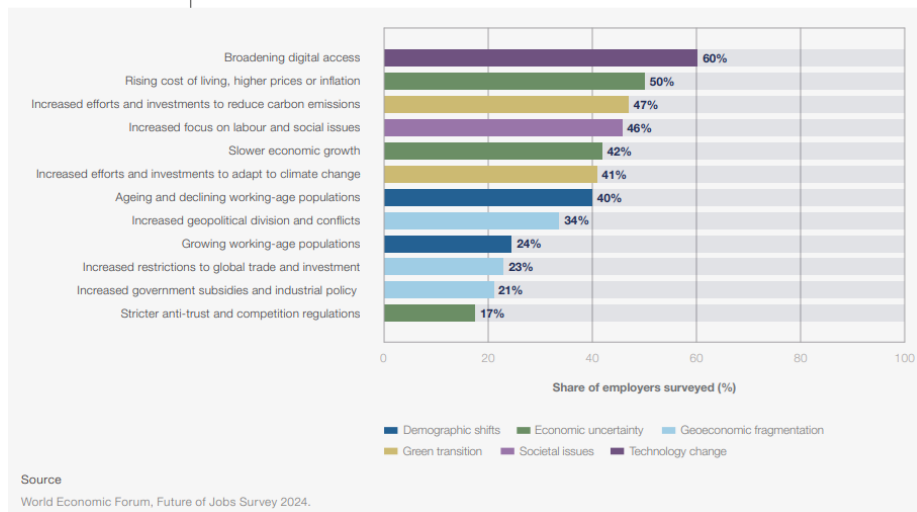
1. Increased efforts and investments to reduce carbon emissions (ranked 3rd)
2. Increased efforts and investments to adapt to climate change (ranked 6th)

The green transition is a powerful force that will redefine the global labour market, and its impact will only accelerate by 2030.

FIGURE 1.1

Macrotrends driving business transformation

Share of employers surveyed that identify the stated trend as likely to drive business transformation.



The green economy is set to grow from 0.8% of GDP today to around 6% by 2050. Futureproofing growth demands that we rethink how we train, support, and empower people across every sector and region.

Green Skills Map

If you want to know more about Green Careers, the [Green Skills Map](#) is an open-source framework for the purpose of cataloguing, evaluating, and contextualizing the different components of the rapidly expanding field of green jobs. This comprehensive taxonomy is intended to serve as a resource for understanding the full spectrum and complexity of green skills required across various sectors.

🎬 Communication: Rebooting Our Future 🎬

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ub5I_x8impk

We want to share our new climate crisis film with you, made with schools and colleges in mind. Titled *System Update - Rebooting Our Future*, the film features leading academics, experts, and change-makers from across the UK. It calls for a reboot of outdated systems that have so far failed to appropriately respond to climate change. *System Update* breaks down this complex issue in clear, engaging ways, and is free to watch.

Support Services: Where to turn for help

Sustainability Support Hub - [Action for Climate by Sustainability Support for Education](#)

Sustainability Support for Education are holding more Action for Climate webinars throughout June.

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

National Education Nature Park - [Home | Education Nature Park](#)

Join the National Education Nature Park and explore the habitats in your school, nursery, or college site. Whether you are 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 scientific research. 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 difference you're making for both people and wildlife.

Let's Go Zero - [Climate Action Advisors - Lets Go Zero](#)

One simple step we can all take is to sign up and engage your local (& free!) LGZ Climate Advisor. Let's Go Zero are also offering Carbon Literacy courses, a key part of your CPD plan for climate action -

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

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

Climate Ambassadors - [Contact us & get involved | Climate Ambassadors](#)

The Minister for Early Years, Stephen Morgan MP, who leads on sustainability at the Department for Education, has become the UK's 1,000th Climate Ambassador 😊. Minister Morgan said: "The Climate Ambassadors programme is a vital part of our strategy to empower schools and educators in tackling the climate crisis, and I'm proud to be joining over 1,000 volunteers to support schools in developing and delivering their climate action plans."

Count Your Carbon - [Home - Count Your Carbon](#)

Count Your Carbon is the nation's first free, full-scope carbon emissions calculator, built for – and in collaboration with – nurseries, schools and colleges. It supports educational settings to calculate, understand, reduce and track your carbon emissions.

PLUS:

Waterwise – [Water Literacy | Accredited Learning Experience](#)

With growing pressure on water supplies, learn more about why water management is a critical part of an effective Climate Action Plan:

Blue Marble (New) - [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.

Greener Schools Index - [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.

Salix - [Salix Finance - Salixfinance.co.uk](#)

Since its formation in 2004 up to 31 March 2023, Salix has helped public sector organisations commit to more than 22,000 projects by administering £3.3 billion of funding, with projects saving 1.1 million tonnes of carbon dioxide annually.

CPD and Events

There is still a multitude of CPD, training and networking opportunities between now and the summer break to support climate and biodiversity action in education. Below are just some of the highlights to look forward to over the summer term:

- Reading Climate Festival (University of Reading) - Climate Action Planning - <https://tinyurl.com/ycrk9nf3> (17th June, 15.00-18.30)
- 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](#)
- [London Schools Eco-Network](#) 2025, Highgate School (25th June 2025)
- Zenergi Energy Management workshop (ISBL accredited), Leeds - <https://zenergi.co.uk/news/sustainability-lead-training-an-introduction-to-energy-and-carbon-management/> (25th June 2025) - email Helen.burge@buoyantimpact.co.uk for free tickets 😊
- North-West [Sustainability Learning Conference](#) (26th June 2025)
- Reimagine Places & Spaces, GovNews, London & Online - [Reimagine Places & Spaces: The Future of Modern Workplace](#) (3rd July 2025)
- [Northern Sustainability Summit](#), Manchester, (10th July 2025), all sectors

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

Plus...

Don't forget there are other useful (& sometimes free) training opportunities to help progress your Climate Action Plan, including -

- [Home - Supply Chain Sustainability School](#)
- [Free Online Environmental Sustainability Training Course with Certificate](#)
- [IEMA - Training](#)
- [8-week, cohort-based programmes | Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership \(CISL\)](#)

If you are aware of other high-quality courses, please let us know and we will add to our growing list 🙌

👉 And finally...a giant whale 👉

[Canary Wharf whale sculpture a reminder of plastic waste in oceans - BBC News](#)

A giant whale has emerged in Canary Wharf, London. The blue whale sculpture has been unveiled as a reminder of the millions of tonnes of plastic waste swimming in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.



An 11m (36ft) blue whale sculpture has been installed at Canary Wharf

Standing at eleven metres tall, the sculpture is made from plastic waste, from scooters to flip-flops. Even the base uses spent coffee grounds from Canary Wharf's cafes and restaurants.

"There is more plastic swimming in our oceans than there are whales," said artists Jason Klimoski and Lesley Chang. "Whale on the Wharf is a physical example of why we need to change how we use and dispose of plastic in the world today."

Have a great weekend ❤️ ❤️ ❤️

'The ability to simplify means to eliminate the unnecessary so the necessary may speak'. (Hans Hofmann)

Other 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](#)
12. Count Your Carbon (Eco Schools) - [Home - Count Your Carbon](#)

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](#)