Website - UKSSN Operations Group

**LinkedIn** - (3) UK Schools Sustainability Network Operations Group | Groups | LinkedIn

"Climate change does not respect borders; it does not respect who you are - rich and poor, small and big. Therefore, it is what we call 'global challenges,' which require global solidarity."

#### Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations

Stories to spark conversation, fresh ideas, signposts to support services, a wealth of CPD and events, and  $\boxtimes \boxtimes \boxtimes$  ...grab yourself a  $\bigcirc$  and enjoy  $\bigcirc$ . For your Climate Action Plan this week:

- Funding: Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme
- **Health:** Heat Safety
- Engagement: Action Plan Engager Blueprint Masterclass
- Communication: Frontier science for young people
- **CPD**: Carbon Literacy Action Day (CLAD)
- ICT & Digital: Carbon footprint of Al tools
- Nature: SOS UK Nature Friendly Grounds
- **Procurement:** Contracting for supplies
- Climate Action Countdown: Let's Go Zero

# **Stories to share this week**

#### **2025 Government Spending Review**

While recent media speculation had raised concerns that climate investment might face funding cuts, this weeks Spending Review largely protected key green initiatives:

There are diverse views on some major projects, but government reaffirmed its commitment to major low-carbon infrastructure projects, such as the Sizewell C nuclear plant, small modular reactors (SMRs), and carbon capture and storage hubs. These projects are expected to receive increased investment, which could translate into new learning opportunities, partnerships, and career pathways for students in science, technology and engineering. Importantly for many children and communities, the £13.2bn Warm Homes Plan remains intact.

However, good news needs to be balanced with areas of concern:

 Yesterday's announcement about the withdrawal of Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) funding - see comments below.

- The level of support for nature and biodiversity. Funding for nature-friendly farming schemes, which often provide valuable outdoor learning experiences, remains uncertain and planning reforms may weaken existing nature protections.
- Cuts to overseas aid might also limit global education partnerships and reduce support for climate resilience projects in developing countries areas that often enrich global citizenship education in schools.

Despite these concerns, government has reiterated its legal commitment to achieving net zero emissions by 2050. For schools, we can interpret the Spending Review as a signal of continued support for sustainability, albeit there are plenty of headwinds to navigate.

A summary of the Spending Review as it relates to the environment is attached.

#### **Fashion Industry Report**

Stand.earth recently published their annual report card for the fashion industry. As the rampant production of fossil-fuelled clothing continues to rise, contributing at least 4% of global emissions in 2024, the fashion industry must urgently correct course by ending its dependency on fossil fuels for manufacturing, transportation, and raw materials. The 2025 Stand.earth report shows industry is showing signs of progress, with clear leaders emerging; but that serious and systemic blind-spots concerning supply chain equity and support for workers on the front lines of climate breakdown persist.

Top of the charts -

COMPANY	TOTAL	COMMIT- MENTS & TRANSPAR- ENCY	RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSITION	ADVOCACY	MATERIALS AND CIRCU- LARITY	CLEAN SHIPPING
H&M Group	B+	A+	B+	Α	С	С
Eileen Fisher	B-	C+	C+	В	A-	D+
Kering (Gucci, YSL)	C+	B+	C-	D	A-	C+
Levi Strauss & Co.	C+	C+	B-	D	C+	C-
Patagonia	C+	C-	С	С	B+	D+
Mammut	С	C-	C+	D	C+	<b>A+</b>
PUMA	С	B+	С	D	C+	C+
Nike	С	С	C-	В	C-	B-
Inditex (Zara)	С	В	D+	D	B+	С
Lululemon	С	B-	C-	D	С	С

**BEST PERFORMER** - It may be surprising for a fast fashion brand, but H&M Group scored B+ overall as the brand providing the most active financial support to its suppliers to cut emissions.

#### Bottom of the pile -

MEC	F	D-	F	F	D	D
Under Armour	F	D	F	F	D	F
Next	F	D	F	F	D	F
Boohoo	F	F	F	F	F	F
SHEIN	F	F	F	F	D-	F
Aritzia	F	F	F	F	D-	F
Columbia	F	F	F	F	D-	F

**BIGGEST POLLUTER** - If SHEIN were a country, it would be the 100th biggest emitter in the world, almost as much pollution as the entire country of Lebanon, having increased Scope 3 emissions by over 170% in just two years.

The full scorecard report and analysis can be found here - FFF-Scorecard-2025.pdf

# Ideas for Climate Action this week

### 🐧 Funding - Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme 🐧

#### Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme | Salix Finance

Following the recent withdrawal of the Low Carbon Skills Fund, Government has announced that it has taken the decision to commit no further investment for the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme beyond currently awarded projects. All currently awarded projects in the scheme remain fully funded.

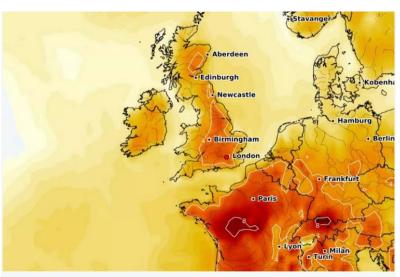
'The government remains committed to building on the existing Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and is looking at ways to incentivise the public sector as a whole to take steps to decarbonise.' (Salix Finance)

We will update when we have more information about future funding streams to support decarbonisation.

#### 🚜 Health - Heat Safety 👭

Tougher rules being enforced in Japan will see employers fined if they do not take adequate precautions to protect workers from extreme temperatures. The revised legislation, which came into effect June 1, is a rare global example of a national-level policy on heat safety for employees. Along with public health impacts, higher temperatures can affect worker productivity and there is growing concern about the economic toll that heat waves have on economies.

The UK is predicted to experience a hotter-than-average summer with an increased chance for heatwaves - <u>UK weather: Hotter than normal summer more likely says Met Office - BBC Weather</u>



**Temperature** anomaly maps show the mercury will rise above average later this month (Image: WXCharts)

The UK does not have laws for working above a particular temperature limit, but heat is classified as a workplace hazard and employers have a duty of care to protect their employees. Schools operate to a higher set of standards with the need to safeguard children and young people and prevent harm.

Find out more here - Temperature in the workplace: Is it too cold or hot to work? - HSE

Guidance for schools - <u>Hot weather and heatwaves: guidance for schools and other</u> education settings — The Education Hub

## 🖐 Engagement: Action Plan Engager Blueprint Masterclass 🖐

https://www.tickettailor.com/events/sustainablesidekicks/1677336?

Calling all sustainability leads and green teams struggling with employee engagement. Do you have:

- **©** Targets and commitments to achieve
- Colleagues kicking action down the line
- Too much to do for siloed working
- Reduced budgets

Livvy Drake (Sustainable Sidekicks) has delivered this 4-step process with London Marathon, Bachy Soletanche, Hillarys Blinds and BM Park with employees of all levels. The outcome:

- ▼ The underlying barriers uncovered
- Employees identifying solutions to their challenges
- ▼ Tables full of actionable steps and commitments to take action

iii Join Livvy on 10th July for the first Action Plan Engager Blueprint Masterclass. Early bird until 21st June.

Contact Livvy on 07534 382665 with questions or on Linkedin https://www.linkedin.com/in/livvy-drake/

### Communication: Science for Young People

Frontiers for Young Minds: Science for kids, edited by kids

Frontiers is one of the world's largest and most impactful research publishers, dedicated to making peer-reviewed, quality-certified science openly accessible. Frontiers for Young Minds believes that the best way to make cutting-edge science discoveries available to younger audiences is to enable young people and scientists to work together to create articles that are both top quality and exciting.

Distinguished scientists are invited to write about their discoveries in a language that is accessible for young readers, and it is then up to the kids themselves – with the help of a science mentor – to provide feedback and explain to the authors how to best improve the articles before publication.

This unique process produces a collection of freely available scientific articles by leading scientists, shaped for younger audiences by the input of their own young peers.

Great example here: What Do Different Levels of Climate Change Mean For Our Future? Frontiers for Young Minds

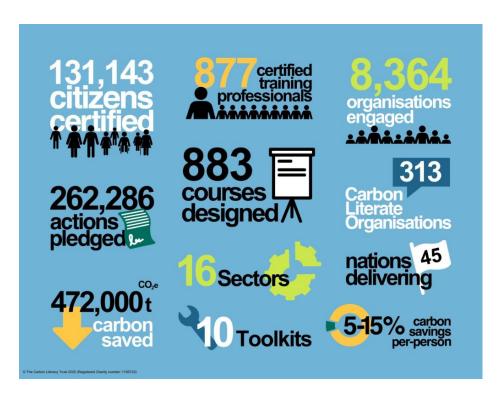
#### Tennament CPD: Carbon Literacy Action Day

#### Carbon Literacy Action Day - The Carbon Literacy Project

Carbon Literacy is a proven tool that can help educators to develop and implement their climate action plans by providing the vital knowledge needed and encouraging a whole school response. Climate action is not something that can be done to people, but instead needs to be done by everyone. Carbon Literacy will help school settings in delivering their climate action plans.

The Carbon Literacy project has developed a new Toolkit Course for School Staff to support governors, leadership, teachers, and volunteers to develop their understanding and confidence around climate education, action, and leadership. This can be passed on, building up that learning in their school community; creating a movement of action which is relevant, helpful and practical, and that will show huge benefits for themselves, their school community and of course, the planet.

Plan ahead for Carbon Literacy Action Day – on the 13th November 2025. Coinciding with the UN COP30 Climate Change Conference, the annual International Action Day is the biggest climate education-and-action training event of its kind and offers the perfect opportunity to jumpstart your Carbon Literacy training programme and demonstrate your school's climate leadership. Find out more and register your interest.



### ICT & Digital – Carbon Footprint of Al Tools

#### **Greening Digital Companies 2025 Final.pdf**

We are fielding more and more questions about the impact of AI on our carbon footprint, and the relative costs and benefits of these new and emerging tools. A new report - Greening Digital Companies 2025 - helps shine more of a light on what is a very complex area of sustainability.

A few interesting Assessment Scores in the 2025 report (with 9 being the highest and best score):

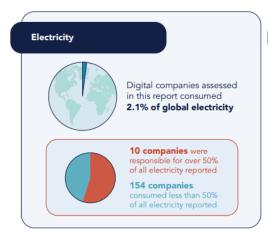
Meta (Facebook, Insta, WhatsApp): 7.16

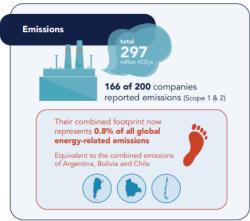
Apple: 7.16Microsoft: 6.66

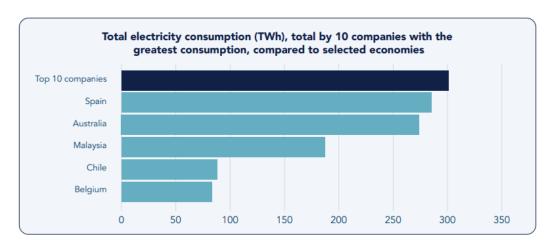
• Alphabet (Google): 4.33

Amazon: 3.83

• X: 0.00







We aren't ready to draw conclusions on the use of a technology that is very new and will no doubt bring many benefits to our world. However, the research and data does tell us that our choice of Al tool provider can and must consider environmental harms as part of a holistic decision-making process.

As with all procurement decisions, we need to be mindful of who we partner with, and who we choose to avoid.

### 🔭 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: <u>68271d39a2bfbb7f743d2c49\_Nature Friendly</u> Grounds Concept note.pdf

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

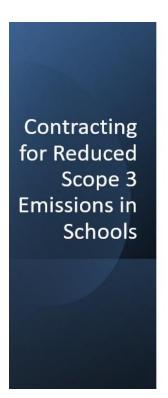
#### Procurement: Contracting for Environmental Outcomes

Earlier this week I had the privilege of speaking at an Education Executive-ISBL event. We asked the audience:

Q. 'How many of you have a contract in place for the purchase of workplace supplies (paper, stationery, textbooks, glue-sticks, cleaning materials)?'

#### A. No one.

Yet it is very likely that these products will be a significant contributor to your school carbon footprint (they do for us). Having a contract with a supplier can over time significantly help a school reduce its Scope 3 carbon emissions - those indirect emissions from the supply chain. Here are five key reasons why:



Guided by Agreed Sustainability Terms: Suppliers must follow clear contract terms on sustainability—like local sourcing, minimal packaging, and low-emission transport.

Reporting Emissions Transparently: Contracts can require suppliers to share emissions data, helping schools track and reduce their indirect carbon footprint.

Engaging in Long-Term Partnerships: Sustained relationships foster innovation in greener practices, such as reusable materials or shared delivery systems.

Efficiency and Cost Savings: Eco-friendly procurement often leads to lower long-term costs through bulk buying, energy-efficient products, and reduced waste.

Nurturing Accountability: Formal agreements hold suppliers responsible for meeting environmental standards, aligning with the school's climate goals.

If you need advice, one option we have found that is working well for us is to speak to <u>Value</u> Match, a CST Platinum Partner - Platinum Partners.

### 🕭 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!



# Sustainability Support Hub - <u>Action for Climate by Sustainability Support for Education</u>

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 <a href="Habitat Heroes activity">Habitat Heroes activity</a>. Already involved? <a href="Time to map your site">Time to map your site</a>! 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

  Stephen Morgan MP 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 - <u>Water Literacy | Accredited Learning Experience</u>

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) - <u>Sustainable schools & trusts - start today with a Climate</u> 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.

## **PACT OF CAPPER OF CAPPER**

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:

Next week CST is holding a special Operations Community online event where the focus will be on Climate Action in Schools. Hear from a number of Trust Sustainability Leads on the work they have been doing to reduce the carbon footprint of their schools.

#### Operations professional community

## Confederation of School Trusts

#### Climate action

Paul Edmond, HEART Academies Trust Helen Burge, Buoyant Impact Julie Rowlandson, St. Barts Multi Academy Trust Vicky Fraser, E-ACT Emily Brunton, United Learning Jessica Marshall, Oasis Community Learning





- 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
   23<sup>rd</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> June 9:30am – 12pm Park Community School, Havant, PO9 4BU- Registration form: <u>Hampshire's Climate Action Planning in Education Workshop</u>
- 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 <u>Sustainability Learning Conference</u> (26<sup>th</sup> June 2025)
- Reimagine Places & Spaces, GovNews, London & Online Reimagine Places & Spaces: The Future of Modern Workplace (3rd July 2025)
- Northern Sustainability Summit, Manchester, (10<sup>th</sup> July 2025), all sectors

Don't forget with have our final UKSSN meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> June (Teams) where we will be focussing on CPD for sustainability.



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 A

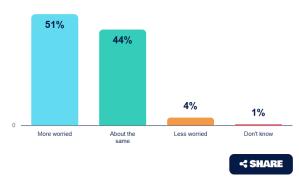
# X And finally...the Peoples' Climate Vote

#### PEOPLES' CLIMATE VOTE

People's Climate Vote, led by the United Nations Development Programme and Oxford University, is the world's largest survey on climate change. The UK results from the most recent survey show -

- 84% want our country to do more on climate change
- 80% think the UK needs to do more to protect and restore nature
- 71% thought our schools need to teach more about climate change
- 50% thought their community had a 'worse than usual' experience of a changing climate over the past year

... but in most countries, the majority of people don't talk about climate change - or hear anyone else talk about it - on a regular basis. As a result, all too often, they think they're in the minority.



# Compared with last year, are you more or less worried about climate change?

As the impacts of climate change become more present in people's daily lives, we asked what this means for their personal outlook.

The world changes when the people demand it. Civil rights, apartheid, smoking, drink driving, safeguarding, health and safety...when enough people speak out then anything is possible.

"We are much more likely to achieve structural and systemic change is we live our values and show our commitment to the world we want to see."

George Monbiot

Have a great weekend 💙 💙

### Other recommended sources of advice and support

- DfE sustainability hub: <u>Sustainability Support for Education</u> (with updated features for 2025 and updates in <u>LinkedIn</u>
- 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: <u>The Platform Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges</u>, 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) <u>The Trust Network supporting good school estates & facilities management</u>
- 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