








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

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*'When science is silenced, truth is lost. Let's make science impossible to ignore.*

**#MakeScienceGreatAgain'** 

Stories to spark conversation, fresh ideas, signposts to support services, a wealth of CPD and events, and    ...grab yourself a  and enjoy .

For your Climate Action Plan this week:

- **UKSSN Network Meeting** - CPD for Climate Action
- **DfE Climate Snapshot** - June 2025
- **Academy Trust Handbook** - Updates for 2025/26
- **CST and GSI** - what is our sector saying it needs
- **Finance** - Funding decarbonisation
- **Engagement** - Engaging Leaders
- **Engagement** - Engager Masterclass (new September date added)
- **Energy** - planning for 2025/26
- **Finance** - Water management
- **Nature** - National Education Nature Park survey
- **Council Climate Action Scorecards** - 2025 update
- **Health & Safety** - Managing heat

## **Stories to share this week**

June has been a fairly bleak month in terms of measured progress in slowing or reversing the effects of climate change. On 11 June, the MET Office published the first sea ice briefing on the season which shows Arctic sea ice extent is the 5th lowest on record for the time of year, after its lowest recorded winter maximum. The Arctic ice cover plays an important role in maintaining Earth's temperature—the shiny white ice reflects light and heat that the ocean would otherwise absorb, keeping the Northern Hemisphere cool. The continued loss of Arctic sea ice will include further Arctic warming, erosion of Arctic coastlines, and a disturbance of global weather patterns. Sea ice loss will also open up the Arctic to increased human activity, further disturbing Arctic communities and ecosystems. Antarctic sea ice extent is currently 3rd lowest on record for the time of year.

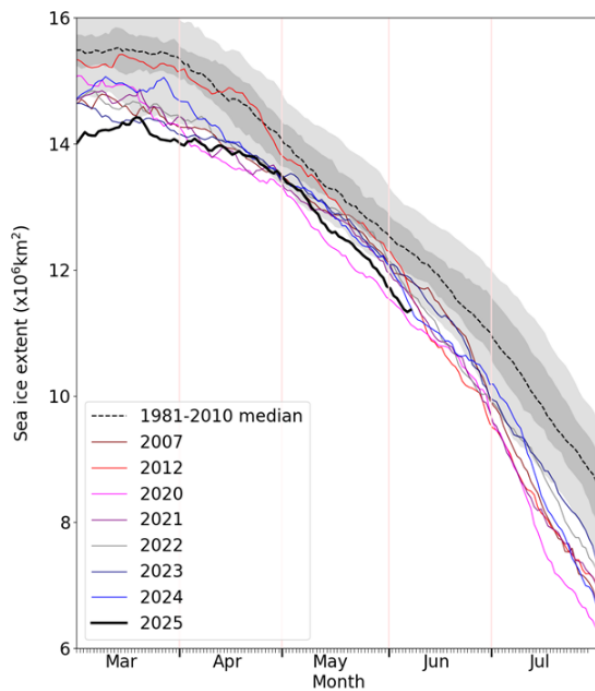
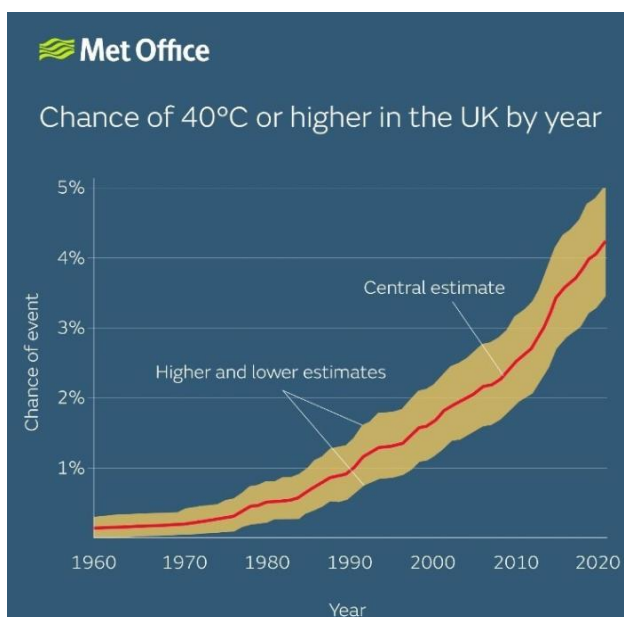
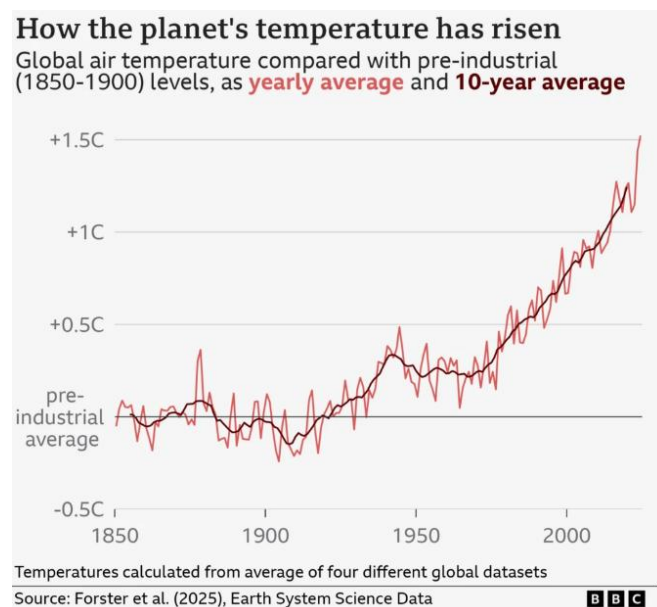


Figure 1. Daily Arctic sea ice extent for 2025, compared with recent years and the 1981-2010 average with interquartile and interdecile ranges shown by the shaded areas. Data are from the OSI SAF Sea Ice Index (Lavergne et al., 2023).

On 18 June, a new study was published detailing the increasing likelihood of extreme temperatures in the UK, revealing that the chance of exceeding  $40^\circ\text{C}$  in the UK is accelerating at pace. Dr Gillian Kay, Senior Scientist at the Met Office, and lead author explains: "The chance of exceeding  $40^\circ\text{C}$  has been rapidly increasing, and it is now over 20 times more likely than it was in the 1960s. Because our climate continues to warm, we can expect the chance to keep rising. We also found that temperatures several degrees higher than we saw in July 2022 are possible in today's climate."



On 19 June, an annual update of key indicators of the state of the climate system and human influence was published. Indicators of Global Climate Change 2024 suggests that the 1.5°C warming limit could be breached in as little as three years at current levels of carbon dioxide emissions - [essd-17-2641-2025.pdf](#). That's the stark warning from more than 60 of the world's leading climate scientists in the most up-to-date assessment of the state of global warming. "Things are all moving in the wrong direction," said lead author Prof Piers Forster, director of the Priestley Centre for Climate Futures at the University of Leeds. "We're seeing some unprecedented changes and we're also seeing the heating of the Earth and sea-level rise accelerating as well."



## Department for Education Update

[Summary of findings in relation to 3 climate risks: overheating, flooding and water scarcity - GOV.UK](#)

Also on 19<sup>th</sup> June, DfE published 'Summary of findings in relation to 3 climate risks: overheating, flooding and water scarcity'. Children in England face prolonged “lost learning” caused by extreme heat and flooding at school, according to research on the potential impact of the climate crisis on education.

- Under one scenario, by 2050 rising heat levels will cause the equivalent of more than eight days of lost learning as classrooms become too hot for effective teaching, unless adaptations such as improved ventilation are made.
- The research also found that more than one in three secondary schools and one in five primaries have a high risk of their buildings being flooded by surface, river or sea water.
- The DfE summary, based on Met Office and University College London analysis, also said that even temperatures below extreme levels could result in “decreased ability to learn over the course of a typical academic year”.

“In the longer term, without the implementation of any adaptation measures, students could potentially lose up to 12 days of learning per year on average, as [the] result of generally warmer temperatures and not just from extreme heat.”

School leaders call for action on adaptation measures as DfE research warns of potential impact of climate crisis



📷 Stephen Morgan, the early education minister, visits a school climate resilience pilot.  
Photograph: DfE

## UK Climate Change Committee Update

[CCC: UK climate advisers now ‘more optimistic’ net-zero goals can be met - Carbon Brief](#)

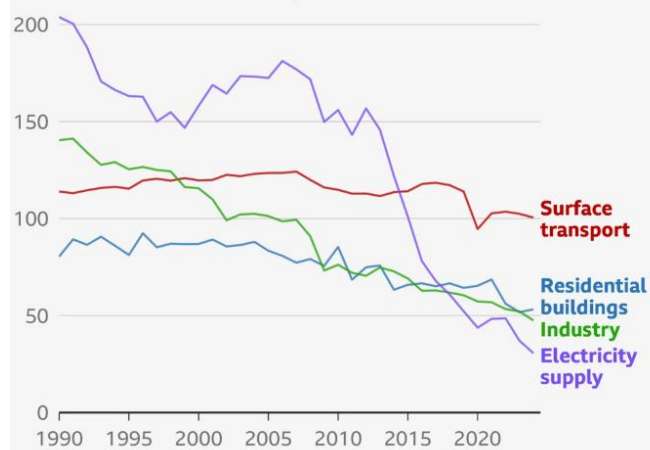
In contrast - it is not all bad news - the 2025 UK Climate Change Committee (CCC) report strikes a slightly more optimistic tone, at least compared to their 2024 report. This is the first progress report from the CCC to assess climate policy and action under the new Labour government. Last year’s edition had said that “urgent action is needed” and that the UK was “not on track” for its 2030 international climate goal, namely, a 68% reduction in emissions relative to 1990 levels.

“This target is within reach, provided the government stays the course.”

Speaking at a pre-launch press briefing, CCC interim chair Prof Piers Forster said: “[This is] an optimistic report, [showing] that it is possible for the country to meet its climate commitments.”

## Electricity supply has led emissions cuts

UK greenhouse gas emissions by sector, 1990-2024, million tonnes of carbon dioxide-equivalent



Only top four emitting sectors in 1990 shown

Source: Climate Change Committee

BBC

## Ideas for Climate Action this week

### **UKSSN Network Meeting - CPD for Climate Action**

#### UKSSN Operations Group

Yesterday we had our final UKSSN meeting of 2024/25 where we focussed in on CPD for climate action. A big thank you to our guest speakers:

- Carbon Literacy Project - [Schools - The Carbon Literacy Project](#)
- Let's Go Zero - [Free Carbon Literacy training from Let's Go Zero](#)
- Waterwise Water Literacy - [Water Literacy Programme | The launching | Projects | Waterwise](#)
- Climate Clarity and the Climate Fresk initiative - [Climate Fresk | Climate Clarity](#)
- Institute of School Business Leaders and the ISBL Sustainability Standards - [ISBL Professional Standards — ISBL](#)

A link to the meeting recording can be found here - [UKSSN Operations Group Online Community](#)

#### **Plus:**

##### Level 3 Certificate in Sustainability

On the subject of learning, OCR has created a new Level 3 Certificate in Sustainability for students aged 16 to develop applied subject knowledge and transferable skills. It focuses on the basics of sustainability and areas that students know about like consumer and business topics. Imagine your students confidently studying real-world organisations and making solid suggestions for a greener future.

#### **Plus:**

##### IEMA Environmental Sustainability Skills — ecoACTIVE | environmental education in East London

ecoACTIVE is an established environmental education charity known for its experiential and solution-based approach to sustainability education. [www.ecoactive.org.uk](http://www.ecoactive.org.uk)

'With support from Watts Sustainability, we run the first IEMA accredited KS5 course Environmental Sustainability for the Workforce to equip young people to make their first step in the green sector. Our courses can complement your Climate Action Plan within the pillars Climate Education & Green Skills and Biodiversity & Nature Connection.' See document attached for more information.

### **DfE Climate Snapshot: June 2025**

[DfE's Climate in Education Snapshot- June 2025](#)

The new DfE Climate in Education snapshot has been published. This month's snapshot includes:

- Videos on **Climate Action and Climate Action Plans and an introduction to Sustainability Support and Early Years**
- **National Education Nature Park and the Pollinator count**
- Join the **Festival of Education**
- Schools learning opportunities - **Zero Carbon Schools, #Showyourstripes and the University of York's Climate Action Planning event**
- CPD opportunities - **All things water and Developing a whole school approach**
- **Youth Sustainability Champions**
- **King's birthday honours'**

#### **Academy Trust Handbook (ATH): Updates for 2025/26**

##### [Academy trust handbook 2025: effective from 1 September 2025 - GOV.UK](#)

In recent years we have been arguing for a strengthening of guidance and regulation for climate action in education. This year the ATH has taken a very small step forward -

- Added a link to [guidance and support on sustainability](#) to help trusts have a climate action plan in place by 2025.

The supplementary letter to Trustees adds 'Cross-government discussions on electric vehicle salary sacrifice schemes (EVSS) are ongoing. We are committed to informing you when a decision has been made and the handbook will be updated accordingly.'

That's is 🙄. My question back to DfE...if not now, then when?

#### **CST and GSI - What is our sector saying we need**

The recent Confederation of School Trusts (CST) Operations Community online meeting painted a revealing picture of sustainability progress across school trusts in England. While there is growing awareness of environmental responsibilities, the findings from both the CST poll and the April 2025 Greener Schools Index (GSI) report underscore a sector still grappling with the practicalities of aligning with the UK government's net zero ambitions and the Department for Education's (DfE) Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy.

The CST and GSI findings converge on a clear message: the education sector is motivated but under-qualified and under-resourced. There is a critical need for:

- Strategic leadership that integrates climate action into core educational and operational goals.

- Training and CPD for sustainability leads and staff.
- Robust data systems to track progress and inform decision-making.
- Sector-wide collaboration to share best practices and scale successful models.
- Targeted funding to support sustainability initiatives.

As the DfE's 2025 deadline for Climate Action Plans approaches, the time for coordinated, sector-wide transformation is now.

The full text briefing note will be published soon.

### 💰 Finance - Funding Decarbonisation 💰

#### PSDS is Cancelled. Long Live Smarter, Sector-Focused Sustainability

In recent weeks we have seen the withdrawal of the Low Carbon Skills Fund and Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund. Although a setback, for some the end of PSDS might just be a blessing in disguise. Robert Gould (Barker Associates) gives his view on why the change isn't necessarily all bad.

Earlier this week the Green Finance Institute and Ashden Climate Solutions launched their 'Financing Decarbonisation of Schools' report - [REPORT](#). Their report sets out how government policy and more effective use of public funding could help raise the £16.3 billion needed to decarbonise the school estate. The challenge of relying solely on public funds to decarbonise is compounded by the current £13.8bn condition backlog which traditionally takes priority over decarbonisation works.

*'Public money is currently being used less efficiently than it could be – these funds could strategically catalyse the private investment needed. However, deploying private capital into the school estate is hindered by restrictive policies designed to prevent schools from incurring unmanageable debt, resulting from HM Treasury accounting rules of school exposure. Existing solutions can be scaled but support to deliver more innovative solutions will unlock the significant investment needed to capture this opportunity.'*

### 👤 Engagement: Engaging Leaders 👤

<https://tinyurl.com/mpj9mf5a>

Science education is not only important for children and young people. We need to ensure leadership understands the science that underpins climate change and biodiversity loss so they are fully informed of the risks and consequences of inaction, and they feel empowered to join the conversation. Regular science briefings need to become mandatory viewing for every leader on the planet. Johan Rockström's latest keynote is a powerful example of the kind of science we urgently need to bring to a much wider audience.



Is regular engagement and communication with your school or Trust leadership part of your Climate Action Plan?

### 👏 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

📅 Join Livvy on 10th July or 11th September for the first Action Plan Engager Blueprint Masterclass. Early bird until 1st July.

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

### ⚡ Energy - Planning for 2025/26 ⚡

#### Energy Sparks

According to Energy Sparks, last year their average primary school spent £1,400 on energy during the summer holidays and the average secondary school spent over £10,000. Plan ahead and create a holiday switch off - [Energy Sparks](#)

If you are interested in utilising Energy Sparks as part of your 2025/26 Climate Action Plan, why not book a training session this term and plan how to get the most out of their platform and resources - [Training | Energy Sparks](#).

### 💧 Finance - Water Management 💧

[Action for Climate-Water Webinar Tickets, Tue, Jul 8, 2025 at 4:30 PM | Eventbrite](#)

Wholesale water prices are expected to increase by 42%, on average, over the next five years. It is likely these increases will be front loaded over years one and two (2025/26, 2026/27), tailing off towards 2030. The only way to affect such wholesale charges is to use less water through better usage management, efficiency measures and leakage detection. Therefore, to mitigate the emerging wholesale prices increases, settings will need to act now to reduce their water consumption. Join Sustainability Support for Education and the Climate Ambassadors in an interactive webinar to help you:

- Understand the new cost increases
- See how your setting's water use compares to other settings
- Identify SIMPLE actions you can take to (i) reduce water consumption, (ii) save money, (iii) encourage your students water stewardship, and add these actions to your Climate Action Plan
- Hear real case studies of steps other settings have taken that have reduced their water consumption and saved money!

### **Nature - National Education Nature Park Survey**

<https://tinyurl.com/2z46rz7h>

The DfE has commissioned independent evaluators, Ecorys UK, to evaluate the National Education Nature Park Programme. The research will assess how the programme is delivered in education settings, how it is experienced by staff and children and young people, and will gather feedback and valuable learning to help shape the future of the programme. The survey takes less than 15 minutes to complete, with only 1 response needed from each school/education setting, ideally from the lead teacher for the Nature Park programme. The survey is open until Friday 18th July.

### **Council Climate Action Scorecard: 2025 update**

[Council Climate Action Scorecards | Climate Emergency UK](#)


Climate Emergency UK assessed all UK councils on the actions they've taken towards net zero. The 2025 Action Scorecard assessment consists of 93 questions or less, depending on council type, across 7 different sections, created in consultation with over 90 different organisations and individuals. Each council was marked against these criteria.

- Do you engage with your local council on climate action?
- Is there scope for collaboration, sharing ideas and resources, student engagement, amplifying messages?

Have a look at your own council and seek out opportunities to support their work. Bedford Borough has improved by 11 points compared to 2023:

- Five solar arrays have been installed on council buildings and schools, funded by the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS), Sports England and the Council's own capital budget, with one large array due to be completed by the end of the summer.
- With help from the PSDS the council has also converted two schools and one care home to using air source heat pumps (ASHP), where two of these were previously heating by oil.
- The borough council is one of "just 7 percent" of unitary authorities to offset more than 20 percent of energy usage with renewable energy generated from onsite sources.
- And Bedford Borough Council is also among the 9 percent of unitary authorities that have mandatory training on climate awareness which applies to senior management and councillors alike, ensuring a corporate-wide understanding of the importance and impact of climate change.

41% might not sound a lot but it marks progress!

Questions	Bedford Borough Council	
	2025	Versus 2023
Buildings & Heating	79%	★▲ 40
Transport	11%	--
<div>  <b>Penalty marks</b>            Bedford Borough Council incurred a penalty of 6% in this section            3 = Total score (4.38) - Penalty points (-1.3800000000000001)         </div>		
Planning & Land Use	50%	▲ 10
Governance & Finance	36%	▲ 3
Biodiversity	21%	▼ -2
Collaboration & Engagement	63%	▲ 5
Waste Reduction & Food	33%	▲ 21
Total score	41%	▲ 11

## Health & Safety - Heat

With another heatwave on the horizon, don't forget that increased levels of heat affect our health and wellbeing at work and at home, and the wellbeing of children and young people in our care. The impact will likely be greater on those least able to adapt (e.g. areas of high

deprivation). Have you recently reviewed your safeguarding policy, risk assessments and wellbeing plans? A few resources that might help:

- Sleep toolkit - [Sleep and Recovery Toolkit For Employers](#)
- Find out more here - [Temperature in the workplace: Is it too cold or hot to work? - HSE](#)
- Guidance for schools - [Hot weather and heatwaves: guidance for schools and other education settings – The Education Hub](#)

If you want to learn more about the health impacts of climate change try 'Outrage and Optimism, an interview with Julia Gillard, Chair of Wellcome Trust' - [\*\*Health Warning: The Human Cost of Climate Inaction with Julia Gillard\*\*](#)

## **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 and July.

- 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](#)**

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 – [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.

### **Carbon Literacy Project [Carbon Literacy Action Day - The Carbon Literacy Project](#)**

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 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 show your school's climate leadership. Find out more and register your interest.

## CPD and Events

 **NEW: Empowering schools towards a sustainable future (Thursday 27 November 2025 | Sandy Park, Exeter) - [Sustainability conference: Empowering schools towards a sustainable future | DES](#)** 

Timed to align with the appointment of your schools sustainability lead and support them with their journey to creating and implementing a climate action plan, this event will focus on growing an understanding of climate adaptation and how it relates to schools. This conference will share invaluable insights and practical tools for making your school more sustainable - sharing initiatives that not only help the environment but also save your school money and reduce its carbon footprint.

There is still a few more CPD, training and networking opportunities between now and the summer break to support climate and biodiversity action in education:

- 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

If you are planning an event for the new year 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...protecting our oceans

### Three Takeaways from the UN Ocean Conference in Nice | United Nations

The recent UN Ocean conference has been heralded a success, with more countries ratifying a key treaty to protect marine life and more progress on curbing plastics and illegal fishing in our seas. Nearly 200 countries came together in Nice, France to discuss how to tackle the most pressing issues facing the oceans. The world's seas are facing threats on multiple fronts from plastic pollution to climate change.

"From progress on the High Seas Treaty to French Polynesia's marine protected area, UNOC provided the latest proof that when we work together, real accomplishment is possible," said John Kerry, former US Secretary of State and Climate Envoy.



📍 Calm waters in the Pacific Ocean. Pacific island nations, who contribute least and stand to suffer most from the effects of the climate crisis, welcomed the chance to put their case at the ocean summit in Nice. Photograph: Paul Hilton/Greenpeace

Have a great weekend   



## 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](#)