

Overton CE Primary School

Climate Action Plan December 2025

1. Introduction
2. Vision and Objectives
3. Current achievements
4. Strategic action areas and baseline and targets
5. Climate adaptation and resilience
6. Sustainable procurement and resource use
7. Community and partnerships
8. Staff development and capacity
9. Monitoring and Evaluation
10. Future achievements log
11. Support and resources
12. Conclusion

1. Introduction

Climate change is one of the most pressing challenges of our time, and schools play a pivotal role in shaping the next generation of environmentally conscious citizens. By integrating sustainability into school operations and education, we not only reduce our environmental footprint but also empower children with the knowledge and skills to make a difference. This plan is a living document that will evolve as new opportunities, technologies, and partnerships emerge. Overton CE Primary School recognises the urgent need to address climate change and environmental sustainability. This Climate Action Plan (CAP) outlines our commitment to reducing our environmental impact, enhancing biodiversity, and embedding sustainability into our curriculum and school culture. It aligns with the UK Government's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy for Education and the DfE's Climate Action Plan Guidance

2. Vision and Objectives

Our vision is rooted in the belief that every child has the right to learn in a healthy, sustainable environment. We aim to foster a culture of environmental stewardship by embedding sustainability into our ethos, policies, and daily practices. This includes promoting active travel, reducing single-use plastics, encouraging recycling, ensuring climate change features strongly within our curriculum and encouraging responsible consumption among staff and children alike.

Vision:

To empower our children, staff, and community to become environmentally responsible citizens through education, action, and leadership.

Strategic Objectives:

- Appoint a Sustainability Lead by September 2025
- Develop and implement a whole-school Climate Action Plan
- Reduce carbon emissions and energy use by using 2025-2026 as a baseline to gather data for energy use, carbon emissions, waste volumes and travel modes
- Increase biodiversity within our footprint
- Embed climate education across the curriculum
- Engage children in hands-on sustainability projects
- Increase number of children walking, biking or scootering to school

3. Current Achievements

Verified Sustainability Projects completed at Overton CE Primary School

3.1 Outdoor Learning in the woods

Overton CE makes extensive use of its on-site woodland area for outdoor learning. Children from Early Years to Key Stage 2 engage in:

- Weekly nature exploration sessions
- Themed outdoor days (e.g. Stone Age survival)
- Skills development such as whittling, fire lighting, and den building
- Wildlife observation (e.g. muntjac deer, birds, squirrels)
- Ecosystem education and conservation ethics

This initiative supports biodiversity, wellbeing, and environmental literacy.



3.2 Food Waste Bins

The school received **food waste bins** from our refuse company as it:

- Reduces food waste at lunchtime landfill waste
- Encourages composting and recycling habits
- Collects fruit waste at breaktimes

3.3 Mural to highlight our rich environment with an artist June 2025

Our children collaborated to create a large **mural**. This creative project:

- Contributed to what needed to be included in the painting to represent the local diversity
- Fostered teamwork and environmental awareness
- Engendered pride in our local environment



3.4 Travel plan accreditation

STARS travel plan accreditation awarded by Hampshire Highways. Completed actions include walk to school weeks and purchase of additional scooter racks for children at the school gate. A travel tracker is completed daily with reward scheme of badges and competitions to encourage walking to school and reduce traffic emissions.

3.5 LED lighting

It was identified during our building condition reviews that we had old and aging lighting installations that were not energy efficient, that would be increasingly costly in terms of energy consumption and with an increasing number of lamp failures. We were fortunate to access the support of Hampshire in replacing our lighting as part of a modification process.

3.6 Litter picking

Our Eco Ambassadors carry out regular litter picking and monitor levels of letter and identify any problem areas. We have purchased additional litter picker and gloves to facilitate this.

3.7 Reduce single use plastics

Our community events such as the summer fair and carol service use reusable cups. We also use reusable cups for milk each day and introduced water bottles so that children have access to water throughout the day and at lunchtimes.

3.8 Curriculum links

We look for opportunities to develop children's knowledge and understanding. For example, Year 4 curriculum looks at deforestation and impact on world and climate linked to the Amazon River. Year 6 look at Global trade and impact on environment

and how buying locally can help environment by reducing food miles and carbon footprint.

3.9 Reuse and recycle

We organise an annual toy and Christmas jumper swop day and every child is able to take either a toy or jumper home!



4. Strategic Action Areas

Each action area is designed to be measurable and achievable, with clear timelines and responsibilities. For example, the energy audit will not only identify areas for improvement but also serve as a baseline for tracking progress. The biodiversity initiatives will be supported by local wildlife trusts, and the curriculum integration will be guided by the National Education Nature Park framework. We will also explore funding opportunities through government grants and local partnerships to support infrastructure upgrades.

Theme	Actions	Time line	Lead	Resources needed
Leadership & Governance	Appoint Sustainability Lead 2025 and form our Eco Team for 2025-2026	Autumn 2025	Phase Leader and Site Team Chair of Resources	Weekly meetings
Energy & Carbon	Conduct an energy audit Count the carbon website use Agree and set targets to reduce electricity use for 2026-2027	Spring 2026	Site Manager SBM Site manager to involve Eco ambassadors monthly	Audit tools
Waste & Recycling	Expand recycling to include paper, plastics, and batteries	Ongoing	Site Manager	Bins Signage
Biodiversity	Continue to develop outdoor learning areas and increase biodiversity – sensory garden	Spring	Site Manger and volunteer parents	Seeds, tools
Curriculum Integration	Embed sustainability in science, geography, and PSHE	Ongoing	Curriculum Leads	Staff Development time
Child Engagement	Launch Eco Ambassadors	Ongoing	Phase Leader	Weekly meetings

	<p>and student-led projects</p> <p>Continued focus by School Council on Eco Projects</p> <p>Litter picking and awareness strategy</p> <p>Bags2Schools collections</p> <p>Recycle Christmas jumper and toy swop</p>			
Travel	<p>Continued work on travel plan to gain good accreditation level</p> <p>Continued engagement in WOW campaign to walk to school</p> <p>Agree and set targets to increase active travel participation use for 2026-2027</p>	Ongoing	<p>Walk to School Lead</p> <p>Walk to School Lead to share data half termly with Eco ambassadors</p>	

Establishing Our Baseline and Targets

The 2024–2025 academic year will act as the **baseline year** for Overton CE Primary School’s climate data. Where precise data is not yet available, estimates will be used initially and refined over time.

Baseline activity will include:

- Using the **Count Your Carbon** tool to estimate the school’s carbon footprint
- Reviewing electricity and heating usage data held by the School Business Manager and Site Manager
- Reviewing travel data collected through the STARS travel tracker
- Reviewing current waste and recycling arrangements

Based on this baseline, the school will work towards the following **initial targets**:

- Reduce electricity consumption by **10% by 2028** through efficiency measures and behaviour change
- Increase the proportion of pupils using active travel (walking, scooting or cycling) year-on-year
- Reduce general waste collections by increasing recycling and composting
- Increase pupil participation in sustainability projects across all key stages

Targets will be reviewed and updated annually as data quality improves.

5. Climate adaptation and resilience

Overton has a large site occupying over 10.5 acres and although the site resilience and building comfort for the building have been considered with the extensions and re-clad project completed in 2019, the woodland was not actively managed until 2020. We now have a strategic view of the whole site and school buildings and we consider:

- Heat
- Flooding
- Extreme weather
- Children and staff wellbeing during climate impacts

In addition to reducing its environmental impact, Overton CE Primary School recognises the need to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Key areas of focus include:

- Managing the effects of hot weather, including use of shaded outdoor areas, access to drinking water, and flexibility in learning spaces during heatwaves
- Using the school's woodland and outdoor environments to support wellbeing and provide cooler learning spaces
- Reviewing the school site for potential risks linked to extreme weather, such as heavy rainfall or overheating
- Ensuring emergency and site management procedures take account of climate-related risks

Adaptation measures will be reviewed as part of annual site and risk assessments and will also be used as learning opportunities within the curriculum.

6. Sustainable Procurement & Resources

Overton CE Primary School is committed to reducing environmental impact through responsible use of resources.

Where practicable, the school will:

- Consider durability, reusability and recycled content when purchasing resources
- Reduce reliance on single-use items
- Use recycled paper and environmentally responsible cleaning products where possible
- Promote reuse through uniform, toy and resource swap initiatives

Sustainability considerations will be balanced with cost, safety and educational needs.

7. Community and Partnership Working

Overton CE Primary School recognises the value of working collaboratively to strengthen climate action.

The school will:

- Continue to work with **Sustainable Overton** on shared projects and events
- Engage parents and carers through newsletters and school communications
- Participate in local and national sustainability networks to share learning and access support

Partnership working will help amplify impact and model community-wide responsibility for environmental stewardship.

8. Staff Development and capacity building

Staff play a key role in embedding sustainability across the school.

To support this, the school will:

- Provide opportunities for staff to develop confidence in teaching climate and sustainability topics
- Share good practice through staff meetings and curriculum planning
- Access external support and training where available, such as the **Climate Ambassadors Programme**

This will ensure sustainability is embedded consistently while remaining manageable for staff workload.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

To ensure the Climate Action Plan remains relevant and effective, Overton CE Primary School will:

- Review the plan annually at the end of each academic year led by the Sustainability Lead and site staff
- Monitor progress through simple tracking of key actions (e.g. energy use, recycling initiatives, child engagement)
- Gather feedback from children and staff through informal discussions and Eco-Ambassadors
- Report termly through Resources Committee meetings ensuring climate considerations inform strategic decisions including premises, procurement and curriculum planning.
- Update the plan regularly to reflect new opportunities, challenges, and achievements with a formal review in January/February and new plan from April in line with school improvement planning
- Share updates with the school community via newsletters and the school website

Progress against the Climate Action Plan will be monitored using a small number of **key indicators**, including:

- Annual energy consumption data
- Participation in active travel initiatives
- Recycling and waste management practices
- Number and range of pupil-led sustainability activities

The Sustainability Lead, working with the Site Manager and School Business Manager, will maintain records and review progress annually. Findings will inform updates to the plan and future priorities.

10.Future Achievements Log This section will serve as a dynamic record of our journey towards sustainability. It will capture both small wins and major milestones, providing inspiration and motivation for continued progress. Examples of future achievements may include achieving Eco-Schools Green Flag status, installing solar panels, or launching a school-wide composting program.

Date	Achievement	Impact	Next Steps

11 Support and Resources In addition to the resources listed, schools can access support from organisations such as the Carbon Trust, Energy Saving Trust, and the Woodland Trust and even Sustainable leads at other schools to share ideas/best practices. These organisations offer free tools, case studies, and funding opportunities tailored to the education sector. Networking with other schools through sustainability forums and conferences can also provide valuable insights and collaboration opportunities.

National Guidance and Useful Resources:

- DfE Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sustainability-and-climate-changestrategy/sustainability-and-climate-change-a-strategy-for-the-education-andchildrens-services-systems>
- DfE Climate Action Plan Guidance:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sustainabilityleadership-and-climate-action-plans-in-education>
- Let's Go Zero Campaign: <https://www.letsgozero.org/>
- National Education Nature Park: <https://www.educationnaturepark.org.uk/>

Local Support (Essex):- Essex Schools Climate and Sustainability Hub:
<https://schools.essex.gov.uk/climate-and-sustainability>

- Essex Schools' Advice Pack: <https://www.essexclimate.org.uk/schools-advicepack>
- Essex Climate Action Commission: <https://www.essexclimate.org.uk/>

Tools and Networks:

Climate Ambassador Programme

Volunteer experts help schools develop and implement Climate Action Plans for free. The programme is funded by the Department for Education and led by the University of Reading and EAUC.

 [Visit the Climate Ambassadors Programme](#)

2. Sustainability Support for Education

The Department for Education provides curated resources, training, and guidance to help schools integrate sustainability into teaching and operations. This includes support from COP26 initiatives, water resilience strategies, and climate literacy campaigns.

[🔗 Explore DfE Sustainability Resources](#)

3. Eco-Schools Programme

An international award scheme that empowers children to lead environmental projects through a seven-step framework. Schools can earn the prestigious Green Flag accreditation.

[🔗 Learn More About Eco-Schools](#)

12. Conclusion

By taking a proactive approach to climate action, Overton CE Primary School is not only fulfilling its moral and legal responsibilities but also setting a powerful example for others to follow. This plan represents a collective commitment to a better future—one where education and sustainability go hand in hand. We invite all members of our school community to join us on this journey and contribute their ideas, energy, and passion.

Overton CE Primary School is committed to being a beacon of sustainability locally and to collaborate with our local group, Sustainable Overton. Through this Climate Action Plan, we aim to inspire our children, staff, and wider community to take meaningful action for the planet. By embedding sustainability into every aspect of school life, we prepare our children not only for academic success but for a future where they can thrive as responsible global citizens.

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