# **Climate Action Plan**

# Name of Education Setting: The Cowplain School

1 year plan Autumn 2025 – Autumn 2026

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#### The ABCs of Climate Action Plans

A Climate Action Plan sets your education setting, nursery or college up for a sustainable future — whether it's through your buildings, outdoor spaces or curriculum. It's centred around four pillars which help bring about a multitude of wellbeing, learning and environmental benefits for your learners and your community:

- Adaptation and resilience
- Biodiversity
- Climate education and green careers
- Decarbonisation









### 1. Action Plan Goal: Adaptation and Resilience

Taking actions to reduce the risk of flooding and overheating and to future-proof scarce resources for potential shortages

Adaptation and Resilience: How can education settings adapt their buildings and systems to prepare for the effects of climate change?

#### **Prompt Questions:**

- 1. Has the education setting undertaken an assessment of climate and weather risks?
- 2. Has the education setting experienced the effects of extreme weather in the past e.g. high temperatures in summer, flooding of buildings or grounds?
- 3. What aspects of the education settings life has been or could be affected by these hazards? What damages were incurred?
- 4. Who are the important people in the setting with responsibilities for preparing for and responding to these events?
- 5. Does the setting have any vulnerable staff or students that could be at greater risk?
- 6. Is there any important infrastructure that the setting needs to ensure remains operational, or is high cost e.g. IT equipment, boiler, laboratory or other specialist equipment?
- 7. Does the education setting have any existing plans for action in the event of a heat wave or flood?
- 8. Does the setting know where they can find out what their local climate might look like in the future and how these extreme events might change?

Action (Staff)	Steps	Timeframe/Responsibility/ Key Stakeholders	Information and/or resources required/Cost	Target and Progress
Assess risk and vulnerability to climate change	Use tools to assess climate risk	2 months		
	Vulnerability analysis to identify the most at-risk areas of the school (old building, vulnerable staff/students)	Staff: Teaching staff, site team, SLT	Cost: Dependent on actions chosen	
	g. ,	Start: January 2026	Useful Links: <u>Local Climate</u> <u>Adaptation Tool (lcat.uk)</u>	
		Review: September 2026		

Improve classroom environments during hot weather	Audit classrooms in terms of ventilation and blinds Add blinds to identified classrooms Ensure windows can be opened safely Change uniform expectations, educate/encourage students to wear sunhats and sunscreen Audit shade situation in break areas Planting trees in the correct space to provide natural shade Look into energy sparks audit. Install classroom thermometers Have a policy to adjust hours during periods of extreme weather	6 months to 1 year - Next audit Easter 2026  Staff: Teaching, Support, Site and SLT  Start: March 2026  Review: July 2026	Cost: Blinds, Trees, Energy Sparks Audit  Useful Links: Hot weather and heatwaves: guidance for schools and other education settings – The Education Hub (blog.gov.uk)
Increase staff and students' knowledge of resilience and adaptation by raising awareness in assemblies and CPD sessions	Involve students and staff in resilience building. Recruit student client ambassadors Recruit staff to be part of the climate group Integrate climate education into reflection time programme, science and geography (audit and adapt)	Staff: Teaching, SLT Start: January 2026 Review: July 2026	Resources in link allow students to think about their place and different environments and how a changing climate might impact this  Cost: Free  Useful Links: Climate Ready Places: Lesson Plans - Adaptation Scotland

Water				
Action	Steps	Timeframe/Responsibility/ Key Stakeholders	Information and/or resources required/Cost	Target and Progress

Increase staff and students knowledge of water conservation practices	Run a campaign (with student climate ambassadors). Assembly, posters or a climate newsletter about conserving and not wasting water.	Staff: Teaching, Support, SLT 5 months Start: March 2026 Review: July 2026	Cost: Free  Useful Links: The Pod   Water Week (jointhepod.org)  Conserving water / RHS Campaign for School Gardening	
Monitor drains and install water efficient fixtures wherever appropriate	Push tap fixtures in all student toilets  Drains to be kept clear  Installed drainage into school field (completed Sept 24)  Pooling in specific areas maintained by site staff	Staff: Site Start: ongoing Review: March 2026	Cost: Ongoing	

## 2. Action Plan Goal: Biodiversity

Creating habitats and adopting practices that will enhance species diversity on the education setting estate and beyond

#### **Nature**

#### **Prompt Questions:**

- 1. Has the education setting mapped and recorded biodiversity on their campus?
- 2. Could the settings estate be managed differently, to provide habitats that serve to enhance local biodiversity?
- 3. Does the estates team need CPD and/or help to provide habitats that enhance local biodiversity?
- 4. Do pupils have opportunities to learn in and about nature? Could this be enhanced on the education settings campus or using facilities elsewhere in the local community?

Action	Steps	Timeframe/Responsibility / Key Stakeholders	Information and/or resources required/Cost	Target and Progress
		/ Key Stakeholders	required/Cost	3

	1			
Increase biodiversity on school site by introducing no mow areas and by planting trees	KWB to investigate having a further area located within the main school site, next to Conan Doyle. However, may need to look at risks of the increase in	Start: January 2026	Cost: N/A	
	ticks.	Davious July 2026		
	croics.	Review: July 2026	Useful Links:	
	School is looking to plant approx.		https://www.countryfile.com/news/no-	
	40 additional trees as part of a		mow-may-why-you-should-lock-up-your-	
	planning application for the new		lawnmower-on-1st-may	
	Performing Arts Building.			
Increase biodiversity by	Currently the school has two no-			
rewilding areas of school grounds	mow areas which are located in the Nature Reserve and at the end	Staff: Site, SLT		
grounus	of the school field.		Cost: Free	
		Start: March 2026		
	Forest school have planted lots of			
	wild flower seeds to try to encourage insects to the no-mow	Review: July 2026	Useful Links: Operation Future Hope	
	areas. Further initiatives to be		Seven simple ways to create a wildlife-	
	created with the Forest School.		friendly garden   Natural History Museum	
			(nhm.ac.uk)	
			How to make your garden wilder	
			Rewilding Britain	

Increase biodiversity by offering a gardening club and growing food in planters	The RC and Rose Building have created vegetable planting areas and raised beds throughout 2025, growing vegetables which were shared with staff:	Staff: Teaching, Support Start: January 2026	Cost: Free/low	
	Recruit a replacement Gardener to work with students.	Review: July 2026	Useful Links: Simple gardening club ideas / RHS Campaign for School Gardening  Food Growing and Gardening   edible	
	Create an after-school gardening club - also utilising the areas used by Rose and RC.		<u>rotherhithe</u>	
	Get staff, parents involved in maintenance harvest			
Increase staff and student's knowledge of biodiversity	Involve students and staff in biodiversity initiatives.	Staff: Teaching	Cost: Free	
	Integrate the importance of biodiversity into reflection time programme, science and	Start: January 2026	Useful Link: <a href="https://endeavour.kew.org/challenge">https://endeavour.kew.org/challenge</a>	
	geography (audit and adapt)	Review: July 2026		
	Explore Kew Garden Competitions, events			

# 3. Action Plan Goal: Climate education and green careers

Ensuring the education you provide gives knowledge-rich and comprehensive teaching about climate change, and that your teaching staff feel supported to offer this

#### 3. Culture

#### **Prompt Questions:**

- In what parts of the education settings curriculum do pupils learn about nature, climate change and the importance of sustainability? Could this be broadened and developed? How could it be integrated across all subjects and educational stages?

- How confident are teaching staff in delivering climate change and sustainability material? Do they need CPD? Do they have access to high quality resources?
- Do pupils have opportunities to learn in the natural environment? How is this part of their curricula or extra-curricular programme?
- Are pupils made aware of the likely future career opportunities which exists in the green economy? Do staff have good training about these opportunities?
- What are the skills that pupils will need to be able to develop to access these careers? How can these skills be embedded across the educational offer?

Action	Steps	Timeframe/Responsibility / Key Stakeholders	Information and/or resources required/Cost	Target and Progress
Share with staff and pupils what climate change action	Deliver Assemblies during climate week	Staff: SLT, climate team, teaching staff		
we are taking by promoting successes and achievements		1 week	Cost: Free	
		Start: March 2026	Useful Links: N/A	
		Review: March 2026		
Increase our school's knowledge of climate change initiatives by joining a climate network(s).	Join Hampshire Climate Conference Join Hampshire Climate Unity Art projects	Staff: SLT, climate team, teaching staff	Cost: Free	
a climate network(s).	Offer the idea of sustainability training to governors (offered by HIAS, email: to arrange governor	Start: December 2026	Useful Links: Emma Groves, Climate Advisor: emma.groves@hants.gov.uk	
	training governors@hants.gov.uk. Join Let's go Zero, Climate Ambassadors and National	Review: July 2026	https://re.hias.hants.gov.uk/course/view.php?id=128	
	Education Nature Park		UK Climate Change • Let's Go Zero (letsgozero.org)	
			Home - Eco Schools (eco-schools.org.uk)	
			https://climateambassadors.org.uk/	
			https://www.educationnaturepark.org.uk/	

Increase schools' knowledge of climate change by running a student led climate project.	Recruit climate ambassadors Empower students to come up with their own climate challenge initiative Work with students to develop proposal and plans using available resources Conduct Project Recognise and celebrate students achievement	Staff: Teaching, climate team, SLT Start: January 2026 Review:July 2026	Cost: None/low  Useful Links: Case studies   Royal Society Partnership Grants   Royal Society	

3.Curriculum, Green Skills and Careers				
Action	Steps	Timeframe/Responsibility / Key Stakeholders	Information and/or resources required/Cost	Target and Progress

Embed sustainability and climate education in the wider curriculum by incorporating it in more lessons, tutor time and the careers programme	Recruit team of teachers to be part of climate team Audit curricula Embed climate change in further lessons Review impact Arrange external speakers to visit assemblies or deliver workshops Focus careers week on green careers	Staff: Climate team, SLT, teachers  Start: January 2026	Cost: Free  Useful Links: Teaching for Sustainable Futures  Brighton and Hove's Our City Our World tool  Teach the Future website
	Hold a climate anxiety workshop Enrol students in virtual green WEX, enrol students using link.	Review: December 2026	Eco Active's Green Influencers Scheme  Energy Garden
			Climate Ed,
			Training   LSBU Green Skills Hub

### 4. Action Plan Goal: Decarbonisation

Calculating and taking actions to reduce carbon emissions and becoming more energy efficient

#### 4.Energy - Buildings & Infrastructure

#### **Prompt Questions:**

- 1. What are the total carbon emissions of the education settings operations?
- 2. How efficient are the education settings buildings?
- 3. How could the education setting retrofit their estate and improve energy efficiency?
- 4. Could the education setting reduce their waste and encourage reuse and recycling?
- Does the education setting adopt sustainable procurement practices?
- Does the education setting have food bins or compost their food waste on site?

7. Does the education setting have a travel plan which encourages staff and students to take zero and lower emission forms of travel to and from the setting?

Action	Steps	Timeframe/Responsibility/ Key Stakeholders	Information and/or resources required/Cost	Target and Progress
Reduce carbon emissions by installing motion sensors to switch lights off	During any whole classroom refurbishment motion sensors are installed.	Staff: Site, SLT Start: Ongoing	Cost: as costs arise	
	Any general light replacements are LED.	Review: July 2026	Useful Links:	
Renew windows by replacing old windows	Due to financial constraints, the school works to maintain a rolling programme of window replacements. Old wooden framed sash windows are replaced with new aluminium double glazed windows which offer better insulation.	Staff: Site, SLT Start: Ongoing Review: July 2026	Cost: ongoing - spend around £20K per annum  Useful Links:N/A	
Reduce carbon emissions by insulating and waterproofing flat roofs	The school has successfully received funding in 2025 to have 50% of it's flat roofs insulated and replaced.	Staff: Site, SLT Start: Ongoing Review: March 2026	Cost: £105K Useful Links: N/A	

Reduce carbon emissions by assessing how well the heating system is used	Complete Boiler assessments  Audit staff on perceived effectiveness of heating. Are there areas where the rooms get too hot?	Staff: Site, SLT Start: Ongoing Review: March 2026	Cost: to be looked into Useful Links: N/A	

4.Procurement				
Action	Steps	Timeframe/Responsibility / Key Stakeholders	Information and/or resources required/Cost	Target and Progress
Encourage staff to order from more sustainable alternatives.	Share information on more sustainable order options with staff. Encourage staff to plan ahead so ordering from more sustainable sites is possible.  Monitor department, school orders and suggest more sustainable sources to order from	Start: March 2026 Review: September 2026	Cost: free  Useful Links: https://countysuppliesonline.hants.gov.uk/sustainability	
Move to more sustainable energy supplier using higher levels of renewable energy sources	Current energy suppliers is the DfE recommended Crown Commercial V30 basket: The energy supply is from the supplier's standard 'Brown' product. Everyone who uses this supply gets 30-40% renewable energy through the UK power grid. This percentage is	Start: September 2025 Review: September 2026	Cost: free  USeful Links: Energy for Schools Guidance - Energy for Schools	

Find out more: letsgozero.org sustainabilitysupportforeducation.org.uk educationnaturepark.org.uk

increasing as more renewable energy sources are added to the grid. You can choose to pay more for a product		
that contains more renewable		
energy.		

4.Food				
Action	Steps	Timeframe/Responsibility / Key Stakeholders	Information and/or resources required/Cost	Target and Progress
Assess sustainability standards in school food policy or contract	Explore contract type and options school has to improve sustainability features of food contract.  Talk to kitchen staff	Staff: SLT Start: March 2026 Review: April 2026	Cost: Free  Useful Links: Encourage kitchen staff to complete Chefs in Schools Training to learn to provide healthy and sustainable food.	
Reduce food waste by collecting food waste across the school and composting on site	This is already taking place in Food Preparation Classrooms and the Kitchen.  Get a compost bin  Use compost for school gardens	Start: Ongoing Review:	Cost: £100 Useful Links: Get your school composting for free	

Reduce meat consumption by having a Plant day a week	Explore meat free days with the kitchen team. Put together a meat free menu with students Teach the benefits of reduced meat and more plant in diets in science and food preparation lessons Teach how to make nutritional and tasty vegetarian meals Review Food Prep and Science curriculum to include opportunities Deliver meat free menu Collect student voice	Staff: SLT, climate team, kitchen staff, Food and Science teachers  Start: March 2026  Review: July 2026	Useful Links: ProVeg UK https://meatfreemondays.com/get- involved/educators/ https://thinkkind.org/meatless-mondays- school-kit/	
Increase staff and school's knowledge of the impact of food production and consumption on climate change	Develop and run a sustainable food campaign with student climate ambassadors and link to national campaigns Deliver assemblies Review Food Prep Curriculum to include the impact of food choices on climate change	Start: May 2026  Review: September 2026	Cost: Free  Useful Links: WRAP's Love Food Hate Waste campaign  Run Food Waste Action Week with support from WRAP  https://www.schoolfoodmatters.org/	

4.Transport					
Action	Steps	Timeframe/Responsibility / Key Stakeholders	Information and/or resources required/Cost	Target and Progress	

Cycle skills training for students	Offer cycle racks Safe enclosed cycle storage Offer cycle maintenance Introduce cycle safety assemblies Invite PCSOs to come out to school Contact voluntary organisation to speak to students about road and cycle safety.	Staff: SLT (JPS) Start: March 2026 Review: October 2026	Cost: Free  Useful Links: <a href="https://www.rospa.com/road-safety/road-safety-projects/active-travel/school-communities/how-to-support-walking-and-cycling-to-and-from-school">https://school-communities/how-to-support-walking-and-cycling-to-and-from-school</a> <a href="https://www.brake.org.uk/how-we-help/raising-awareness/our-current-projects/news-and-blogs/cycling-to-school-safely">https://www.brake.org.uk/how-we-help/raising-awareness/our-current-projects/news-and-blogs/cycling-to-school-safely</a>	
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4.Waste				
Action	Steps	Timeframe/Responsibility / Key Stakeholders	Information and/or resources required/Cost	Target and Progress
Reduce waste by lowering single use plastics in canteen, and single use plastic bottles	Further replace plastic wrapping with paper wrapping Encourage students to bring refillable Introduce idea of plastic free July Develop and implement idea	Staff: Kitchen Team, SLT Start: To be discussed Review: July 2026	Cost: Free  USeful Links: How To Reduce Plastic at the School Canteen - Plastic Free July	

Encourage re-use by running second hand uniform event	Liase with the main office staff to set up second hand uniform even.  Look into reusing lost property  Plan for a once every term event	Staff: SLT (ACS), Support staff Start: Review:	Cost: Free Useful Links: N/A	
Waste Recycling	Hazardous waste, Metal, Batteries and Electrical waste is currently collected and sent to recycle sites.  Introduce a more thorough recycling system in classrooms and around the school. Should the school not have general, paper, plastic and can waste bins.	Staff: Site, SLT, teachers Start: January 2026 Review: July 2026	Cost: Approx £1500 p/a Useful Links: N/A	
Increase staff and students knowledge of the difficulties with recycling, encouraging reuse over recycling; running a campaign to remove single use plastics, promote repair and reuse	Educate student and staff in assemblies. Introduce plastic recycling lessons into every subject in Y7 and Y8.	Staff: Teachers,  Start: April 2026  Review: December 2026	Cost: Free  Useful Links: https://www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk/Asset-library/spin-the-bottle-lesson.pdf  https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/kids-club/cool-kids/general-kids-club/plastic-pollution/ https://www.hants.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling/recycleforhampshire/schoolsrecyling	

4.Energy – Behaviour Change				
Action	Steps	Timeframe/Responsibility / Key Stakeholders	Information and/or resources required/Cost	Target and Progress
Change behaviours by running a "Switch off" campaign	Encourage students and staff to turn off lights and monitors during switch off fortnight Design stickers to go above light switches and on TV screen to remind staff to turn appliances of.	Staff: Climate team, Display team, SLT, teachers, support staff Start: November 2026	Cost: Free  USeful Links: <a href="https://www.twinkl.co.uk/event/switch-off-fortnight-2022-2026#:~:text=What%20is%20Switch%20Off%20F">https://www.twinkl.co.uk/event/switch-off-fortnight-2022-2026#:~:text=What%20is%20Switch%20Off%20F</a>	
	Provide information to parents/carers focussing on possible savings per year.	Review:December 2026	ortnight,lights%20when%20not%20in%20use.	

Changing light bulbs to LEDs	This is completed on a running programme.	Staff: Site Start: Ongoing	Cost: ongoing Useful Links: N/A	
		Review: July 2026		
Campaign of Reducing the amount of paper teachers using	Invite heads of department to pledge on areas where paper use will be cut. Introduce mandatory double sided printing Heads of department engage with their teams to develop plan and implement it. Staff training session are paper free. Educate students on the impact of paper (deforestation) use in the school, and how the use can be reduced. Run a paper free challenge day	Staff: Teaching team, climate team, support staff Start: June 2026 Review: December 2026	Cost: free  Useful links: https://www.nottinghamshire.veolia.co.uk/sites/g/files/dvc1716/files/document/2014/11/PaperFreeChallengeDay.pdf	



Sustainability Support for Education is an online service for sustainability leads. From setting up a sustainability team or embedding climate change in the curriculum, to carrying out an energy efficiency assessment or adapting for flooding and overhearing, you can find all you need for planning a holistic approach. sustainabilitysupportforeducation.org.uk



The National Education Nature Park brings together education settings into a virtual nature park, taking action to support nature's recovery. Curriculum-linked teaching resources and activities encourage a connection to nature, improve wellbeing, develop skills, knowledge and agency. educationnaturepark.org.uk



In association with EAUC, STEM Learning and the University of Reading  $\,$ 

For extra help with getting started or delivering your plan, you can register for free, in-person support from the Climate Ambassadors Programme or with their partners at Let's Go Zero.

climateambassadors.org.uk



Climate Action Advisors are experts, who offer free support for schools, colleges, and nurseries across England. They support schools to understand their carbon impact, make effective plans, and find funding and resources. They work with schools of any size, even those that are just starting their sustainability journey. They also spotlight local opportunities for how schools can work together. <a href="Letsgozero.org">Letsgozero.org</a>