

# CLIMATE AMBASSADORS

## Introduction to the Climate Ambassadors Scheme for Education Settings

*Turning climate ambition into climate action in education*

Emma Baines, West Midlands Regional Hub Manager

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# What we will cover

1. An introduction to the Climate Ambassadors Scheme
2. Why should education settings take climate action?
3. The climate action journey
4. Resources available for support
5. Next steps and Q&A

# Our objective

To provide education settings within England access to free specialised support from volunteer **Climate Ambassadors**, who will help them develop and deliver impactful Climate Action Plans.

Find out more: [DfE Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy](#)

By 2025:

- all education settings will have nominated a sustainability lead and put in place a climate action plan

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# Our delivery model

Regional hubs

Supported by a national infrastructure

Operating in a well-coordinated ecosystem

**Funded by**



**Led by**



**Digital Infrastructure**



**Training and Mentoring**



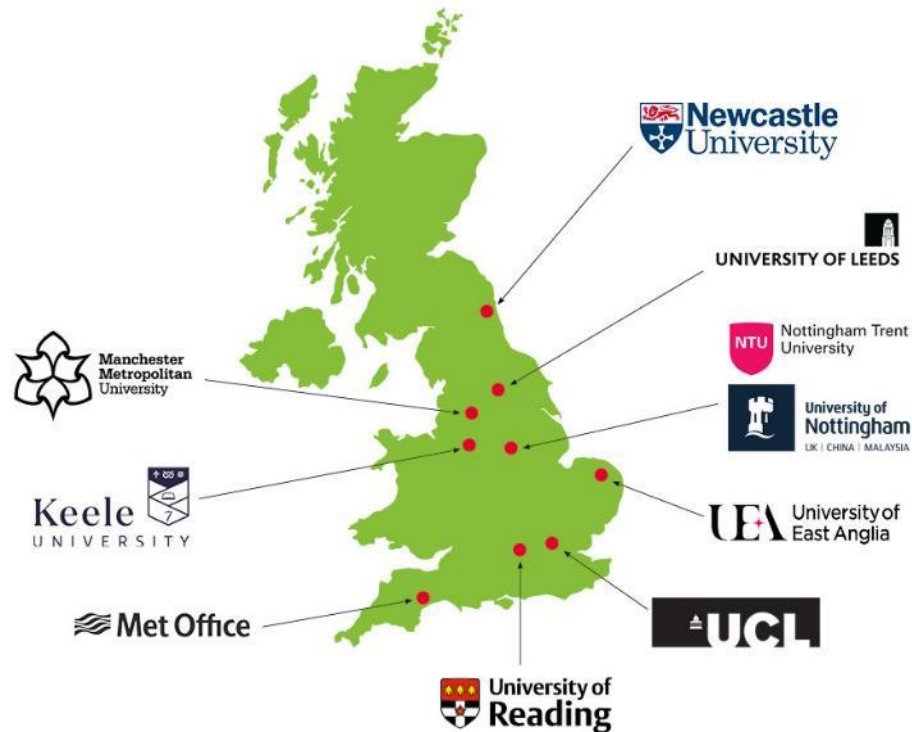
**Engagement**



## CLIMATE AMBASSADORS

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

**Regional Hubs**



**'Sister' Projects**



# Why should education settings take climate action?

- Education is the public sector's largest emitter of carbon from buildings, accounting for 37% of public sector emissions (National Audit Officer 2023).
- 95% of teachers find teaching about sustainability and climate change extremely important (UNESCO 2021) yet 70% don't feel ready to do so (Teach the Future 2021).
- 70% of young people feel poorly prepared to face the challenges of climate change (UNESCO 2022).

# The climate action journey...

What we  
have  
achieved



What is  
possible



Whole  
school  
approach



Action  
across the  
pillars



Writing my  
CAP



Delivering  
the CAP





# Who are our Climate Ambassadors?

# Who are our Climate Ambassadors?

We recruit Ambassadors from across **private, public, charity and university sectors** who want to put their sustainability expertise to work.

## What do we ask of Climate Ambassadors?

- Willingness to make a lasting connection with the education setting and wider community.
- Volunteer a minimum of one day a year, spread over three activities.
- Undertake mandatory safeguarding training and Enhanced DBS check



# Meet Tom

Thomas Guilbert-Newall, Sustainability Officer



"Tom and his colleagues decided to take action, becoming Climate Ambassadors and working with the West Midlands Climate Ambassadors Hub to create useful resources for the 50+ education settings in the borough as well to be used by external education settings. The team have created a one stop shop for climate action planning, an interactive climate action planning template, a list of local and national stakeholder contacts for education settings and finally a document that details the offers from the Council for education settings which includes talks, workshops, stalls and even green awards! They've already been able to work with multiple schools on the borough to create their own climate actions plans to use the tools the Council provides. These tools are available to any education settings on the website here: [The community and sustainability – Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council](#). This work is key for a more sustainable future and to ensure sustainability is embedded in our education systems."

# West Midlands Ambassadors

- Energy consultant volunteer helped 2 MATs change to renewable energy tariffs, conduct a carbon audit and reduce energy usage.
- University academic supported his local primary school to develop a Climate Action Plan, explain its importance to governors, and identify staff to take each action forward.
- Fashion business owner delivered workshops to embed sustainability into the curriculum, teaching children about the important of reusing and recycling.



**Resources available to support  
you on your journey**

# Climate action plan templates

## Climate Action Plans

A climate action plan (CAP) is a detailed plan to enable an education setting, or trust, to progress or commence sustainability initiatives. It allows education settings to take a structured and strategic route toward ensuring they are acting toward, and educating about, sustainability. The CAP can sit within an individual setting, across a trust, or both. It is important that the whole education setting, or trust, is engaged when creating a CAP so that planning becomes action.

For a CAP to be effective, you must consider the following:

1. Who will own and develop the CAP and monitor progress towards your targets?
2. What additional training might your sustainability leadership team need?
3. How will the CAP fit with your governance structures? Where will progress against the CAP be reported?
4. How will you communicate with your wider community about your CAP?

### A whole setting approach

Best practice shows that change is delivered when driven by a diverse team of passionate individuals. It is important that the whole education setting, or trust, is engaged in developing a CAP so that planning becomes action. Remember to include both educational and operational expertise in this team. Take a whole setting approach when developing a CAP, including individuals who represent different parts of a settings community:

- **Senior leadership team, governors, trustees and executive leaders**- critical for planning and implementation to be successful. They have the authority, capacity, and support to influence and lead strategic change within the setting and ensure climate change and sustainability feature on the agenda at key meetings.
- **Learners**-inspire enthusiasm to help drive positive change and give learners a sense of agency, whilst increasing their practical knowledge of sustainability and climate change. Learners can develop a sense of pride in their education setting and engage their parents, carers and the wider community in sustainability & climate change, expanding the impact of your CAP.
- **Teachers**- identify where climate change and sustainability teaching fits into the curriculum and embed this into learning.
- **Estates management**- it is important the estates manager or management team inform the CAP as they have the operational knowledge of an education setting. This is required for baseline data and to enact more sustainable practices.



### What has already been achieved?

Before developing a CAP it is important to assess and celebrate what has already been achieved. Education settings may have already implemented sustainability initiatives, for example, taking part in environmental action days, developing a travel plan or improving recycling within their setting. Make a note of these successes using a table like the below example, as they are a good foundation to build future actions for a CAP.

Action	Benefit/ Impact

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### Decarbonisation

**Our Vision** (how can an education setting reduce emissions and support students to be part of the transition to net zero?):

#### Prompt Questions:

- What are the total carbon emissions of the education settings operations?
- How efficient are the education settings buildings?
- How could the education setting retrofit their estate and improve energy efficiency?

### Biodiversity

**Our Vision** (how can an education setting enhance biodiversity, improve air quality and increase access to, and connection with, nature?):

#### Prompt Questions:

- Has the education setting mapped and recorded biodiversity on their campus?
- Could the settings estate be managed differently, to provide habitats that serve to enhance local biodiversity?
- Does the estates team need CPD and/or help to provide habitats that enhance local biodiversity?
- 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	Link to Improvement Plan	Responsibility and Key Stakeholders	Timescale	Information and/or resources required	Target/ Measure	Progress (Update at regular review points)
			Start date: Review Date:	Useful links:		
			Start date: Review Date:	Useful links:		
			Start date: Review Date:	Useful links:		





# Sustainability Support for Education

A free online service for all education settings to start or progress on climate action.

[Visit the service](#)

It will continue to improve. Over time, we will continuously be adding **more suggested actions** and **more resources**.

To help you work out the **sustainability goals** that are right for you, based on your **specific circumstances** by:

- Creating accounts, where you will be able to save your details and find suggestions **relevant** to you
- **Saving** suggested actions and resources to come back to and **build** your own sustainability plan

To get you **quickly** to **trusted** information and resources that support you to take that action across:

- Decarbonisation and energy
- Climate education
- Biodiversity
- Climate adaptation

For anyone who works or volunteers in education, in **teaching, non-teaching** and **leadership** roles

# Climate Action Plan tool (online)

## Empowering Your Sustainability Journey

Build, Track, and Advance Your Climate Action Plan

A smart, easy-to-use tool for nurseries, schools and colleges to create and manage their Climate Action Plan, driving meaningful sustainability impact

[Create Your Climate Action Plan now](#)

- Create your climate action plan with confidence
- Coordinate your Trust's Sustainability Strategy
- Works in tandem with Sustainability Support for Education



# Network of green spaces in schools, colleges and nurseries across England created by children & young people

- Commissioned by DfE as part of the **Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy**
- Engaging with the Nature Park fulfils many areas on your **Climate Action Plan**
- **Free** programme for all education settings in England
- **Increase biodiversity** through **pupil led engagement**



# This is just the beginning...

Next steps to start or progress your climate action plan:

1. Get in touch with your [Regional Hub Manager](#)
2. Register on [Sustainability Support for Education](#)
3. Request support from a [Climate Ambassador](#) – work out where you are already
4. Sign up to [Nature Park](#) – this could be your first action on your climate action plan!



# The call to action...

- Connect with us via the [regional email address](#).
- Join us at the Climate Ambassadors event at the University of Birmingham on Tuesday **8th April 2025**  
[Register here](#).
- Spread the word...

# CLIMATE AMBASSADORS

## THANK YOU ANY QUESTIONS?

Key contact: Emma Baines [climate-ambassadors.wm@keele.ac.uk](mailto:climate-ambassadors.wm@keele.ac.uk)

Visit the website: [www.climateambassadors.org.uk](http://www.climateambassadors.org.uk)

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