

Climate Action Plan

St James CofE Academy

1 year plan September 2025 – 2026

Carbon baseline: 190.62 tCo2e Calculation: 29/5/25



Jelly.moring@letsgozero.org

Operational area	Emissions area	t co2e*	% of footprint
Energy & Utilities	Fuel Usage	44.3	23%
	Electricity Usage	21.1	11%
	Waste Usage	0.1	0%
	Water Usage	0.4	<1%
Transport	Vehicles	0	0%
	School Trips	0.3	<1%
	Student Commutes	17.9	9%
	Staff Commutes	7.4	4%
Food & Drink	Meals	32.4	17%
Purchases	Spending	30.2	16%
	Uniforms	36.5	19%



*'t co2e' or 'co2e' tonnes means 'tonnes of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent'. Under the GHG protocol, 7 greenhouse gases are tracked and summarised as the equivalent amount of Carbon Dioxide that would produce the same warming effect.

GET STARTED				
ACTION	TIMEFRAME	STAKEHOLDERS	NOTES	TRACKER
Sign up to the Let's Go Zero campaign By joining this campaign, your school confirms that it is taking action now to reduce its own carbon impact, and that it demands the UK Government help all schools reach this goal by the end of the decade.	Start: Review:			Completed
Calculate your school's carbon footprint using Count Your Carbon ★ This free digital tool allows you to calculate the carbon footprint for your educational setting.	Start: Review:			Completed
Sign up to the Sustainability Support for Education A DfE-funded project that enables education settings to start or progress on their sustainability journey. This includes all types of settings from Early Years to Higher Education, offering suggested actions paired with quality-assured resources. You can filter these to show suggestions relevant to your setting based on your teaching age, priorities, how far you've progressed already, estate, and more.	Start: Review:			

1. Decarbonisation and Energy Efficiency

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

ENERGY – BEHAVIOUR CHANGE				
ACTION	TIMEFRAME	STAKEHOLDERS	NOTES	TRACKER
Take part in a switch off campaign ★	Start: Review:			Planning

Take part in a Switch-Off campaign, e.g. Switch-Off Fortnight . Aim for 10% reduction of energy use (the typical amount saved by participating schools).				
Instruct all staff to follow heating efficiency practices e.g. turn heating down vs opening windows Give staff clear instructions on how to manage heating in their classrooms, e.g. ensure all teachers know where TRVs are or how to control their classroom thermostat, when to open windows and how to be proactive rather than reactive to overheating issues.	Start: Review:			
Incentivise students to address energy usage e.g. Energy Champions initiative Proactively engage and empower the student body to take a lead in promoting and implementing energy efficient behaviour changes to help save costs, reduce emissions, and make their setting more sustainable.	Start: Review:			
Access support from your local Net Zero Hub on decarbonising your heat systems Net Zero Hubs work with Local Enterprise Partnerships, Local Authorities and community organisations incl schools to improve capacity and capability on the journey to reaching net zero. Their aim is to help develop and finance decarbonisation and energy projects, supporting partners to decarbonise their respective regions. Contact for Coventry & Warwickshire: Rupert Cope rupert.cope@nottinghamcity.gov.uk	Start: Review:			

PROCUREMENT				
ACTION	TIMEFRAME	STAKEHOLDERS	NOTES	TRACKER
Reuse school uniform through a uniform and PE kit exchange	Start: Review:			Planning

Set a target of reusing a specific number of uniform and PE items each year through your Uniform Exchange				
Remove the requirement to wear a uniform PE kit and allow appropriate own clothes Allow students to wear suitable active clothing in PE lessons rather than branded PE kit.	Start: Review:			In progress
Ensure that policies and procedures are reviewed with sustainability as a criteria across all areas Check your policy and procedures review schedule. When reviews are happening, include a statement of intent for sustainability on all policies if appropriate to do so. Your Let's Go Zero Climate Action Advisor can share example statements to use on Curriculum Subject policies, procurement policies and more.	Start: Review:			

FOOD				
ACTION	TIMEFRAME	STAKEHOLDERS	NOTES	TRACKER
Explain reasons for eating less meat during lessons, assemblies etc. Promote plant-based menu options. Aim to increase uptake of plant-based meals through pupil-led assemblies. Use ProVeg's free Canteen to Classroom lessons to explain the carbon impact of food choices or run a virtual assembly: contact Martin.skingley@proveg.org	Start: Review:			
Incorporate plant-based foods as a theme as part of the food technology classes Build planet-friendly considerations into food tech including vegan cooking and produce that is locally grown. (This is also more accessible for students with dairy intolerances, as a bonus!)	Start: Review:			

Have separate bins for food waste in the kitchen/ cafeteria/ dining room/ staff room Organise food waste caddies for all appropriate spaces and divert all food waste out of general waste and into either your composter or your food waste collection, as appropriate.	Start: Review:			
--	---------------------------------	--	--	--

TRANSPORT				
ACTION	TIMEFRAME	STAKEHOLDERS	NOTES	TRACKER
Encourage staff to carpool There are many apps that can help with this, or alternatively a simple sign-up sheet in the staff office works well!	Start: Review:			
Run active travel campaigns Participate in the three annual Active Travel Weeks: Living Streets , Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel and Cycle to School Week . Aim for these events to trigger a permanent shift to sustainable travel from students who live locally enough to do so.	Start: Review:			In progress
Promote walking/cycling/public transport to school/ Park & Stride Communicate to the wider school community the benefits of active travel .	Start: Review:			In progress

WASTE				
ACTION	TIMEFRAME	STAKEHOLDERS	NOTES	TRACKER
Establish procedures for the reuse of school supplies For example, have a sorting procedure before the end of summer term. See what supplies can be re-used. Any unwanted items can be donated. School Resources	Start: Review:			Planning

Exchange is a brilliant platform that can help with this and signing up is free!				
Ensure your recyclable, food and general waste are being collected separately This should reduce overall waste cost as general waste is generally more costly compared to recycling or anaerobic digestion processing costs.	Start: Review:			
Ensure recycling bins are in all key areas e.g. classrooms, corridors, playgrounds, cafeteria and staffroom. Ensure that there are bins in all relevant areas of the school and that they are clearly labelled to make choosing to recycle easy. Consider colour differences to highlight general vs recycling clearly. You can work with your students to design signage for these, or Wastebusters have signs and resources designed for primary age and you can access food waste bin labels on Guardians of Grub .	Start: Review:			
Education around recycling as part of assemblies or other whole school opportunities Deliver assembly/ information to students regarding what is to be put in each bin. Young Climate Warriors provide slides/ assemblies Do a waste audit and encourage students to take part in the whole process. Wastebusters have a helpful step-by-step guide for this.	Start: Review:			

2. Climate 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				
ACTION	TIMEFRAME	STAKEHOLDERS	NOTES	TRACKER

Write a heatwave policy that addresses areas such as school dress code, passive ventilation measures, PE lessons and slip slap slop campaigns Write a heat wave policy to address issues such as uniform, PE, sunscreen and outdoor learning. Consider adopting the joint union heatwave protocol including short term, medium term and long term measures.	Start: Review:			
Build sheltered areas on playgrounds for heat resilience Use awnings/shading measures to provide adequate shelter for students on hot days. Shade the UK has a helpful guide for mitigating overheating in residential buildings that are also applicable in schools.	Start: Review:			
Install heat reflective measures in classrooms (focus on south, east and west facing) Assess the need for solar shading on south/west/east-facing classrooms. Look at the most effective measures based on the amount of sunlight, e.g. external blinds/awnings. Solar reflective film blocks a significant amount of heat by reflecting sunlight away before it can enter the classroom.	Start: Review:		Shade the UK has a helpful guide for mitigating overheating in residential buildings that are also applicable in schools.	
Ensure staff understand how to cool their rooms through cross ventilation and other context specific measures Communicate to staff how best to cool their rooms through cross ventilating and maximising air flow.	Start: Review:			

WATER				
ACTION	TIMEFRAME	STAKEHOLDERS	NOTES	TRACKER
Install systems to reduce water wastage e.g. controlled flow measures in bathrooms and leak	Start: Review:			

detection (taps and toilets with half-flush settings) As and when your existing taps and toilet flushes approach their end of life, ensure that the replacements include flow reduction measures to save as much water as possible, e.g. smaller cisterns or install water hippos to reduce water capacity in normal cisterns. At end of life ensure that taps are replaced by push press mechanisms to reduce water wastage.				
Arrange for a water audit from your local water provider Register for a free water audit from Severn Trent . Schools can save up to 18% and receive water saving kit as needed.	Start: Review:			
Raise awareness around water consumption and efficiency through workshops and displays that may be offered by your water provider Consider engaging with your local water company who may have an education team or free resources on their websites, from assembly sessions and visits to primary schools for your pupils to webinars, downloadable tools and guides and more.	Start: Review:			

3. Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure

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

NATURE				
ACTION	TIMEFRAME	STAKEHOLDERS	NOTES	TRACKER
Enrol with The Nature Park (NENP) ★ The NENP aims to embed nature-based learning in the curriculum and encourage children and young people all over the country to take action to improve their site for people and wildlife. The programme provides the support	Start: Review:			

and guidance needed to make this happen, with five key steps in the journey and the actions needed to reach your goals.				
Increase biodiversity to support local wildlife e.g. planting pollinator-friendly plants, putting up birdfeeders, bat boxes and 'bug hotels' Develop your outdoor spaces (forest school or planting areas for trees or wildflowers) to enhance biodiversity. Funding for this could come from several grants e.g. Finding funding Education Nature Park and your CAA can send updates on funding as it comes available.	Start: Review:			
Create outdoor learning spaces with seating, shade and suitable accessibility Identify areas in your school grounds which could accommodate outdoor learning, ideally spaces with natural shade, space for seating and suitable access. Consider sourcing seating or other resources from recycle or swap sites.	Start: Review:			
Have pupils carry out wildlife surveys Conduct wildlife surveys and habitat mapping using the NENP resources or take part in activities such as the Big Birdwatch with the RSPB.	Start: Review:			

4. Climate Education, Green Skills 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

CULTURE				
ACTION	TIMEFRAME	STAKEHOLDERS	NOTES	TRACKER

Set up a sustainability working group including PTA Assemble a Sustainability Working Group featuring different stakeholders across the school to collaborate and effect change including SLT, site manager, teachers, and PTA. Ensure one person has oversight, taking the title of 'Sustainability Lead'.	Start: Review:			
Set up an eco-club for pupils to take leadership on issues Establish a student Eco Club. Consider inclusivity and longevity of projects so that as many students as possible can take part throughout their time at school.	Start: Review:			
Appoint a sustainability focused Governor Appoint a link governor who will work directly with the Sustainability Lead and working group to deliver the Climate Action Plan.	Start: Review:			
Develop a communications strategy that shares sustainability goals more widely Develop a communications strategy to share the great work you are doing with the community, e.g. photo diary of plants grown in gardening club or pond, wildflower or no-mow zones. Communicate your sustainability efforts and success via your newsletters, website, local press and social media channels and get your wider community involved.	Start: Review:			

CURRICULUM				
ACTION	TIMEFRAME	STAKEHOLDERS	NOTES	TRACKER
Complete a curriculum audit & incorporate sustainability	Start: Review:			

Teach the Future have amazing resources on how to link the curriculum to sustainability! MoEE also has very helpful resources on this. The Royal Meteorological Society has released A Curriculum for Climate Literacy that covers all subjects at all key stages and the key information they believe				
Share best practice and ideas internally Ensure sharing sustainable practices is on the agenda at curriculum meetings and is something explicitly part of the role of curriculum leads.	Start: Review:			

GREEN SKILLS AND CAREERS

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	STAKEHOLDERS	NOTES	TRACKER
Access the Climate Ambassadors scheme Connect with Climate Ambassadors in your region and invite them to do a school assembly on a topic of interest to your school.	Start: Review:			
Provide opportunities within & outside for all students to take leadership on sustainability Provide students with more opportunities for engagement and leadership on sustainability projects, e.g. gardening, tree planting, wildlife surveys etc.	Start: Review:			



www.letszero.org

Ashden is registered in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee.
Registered number: 05062574/ Charity number: 1104153
The Peak, 3rd Floor 5 Wilton Road, London, SW1V 1AP