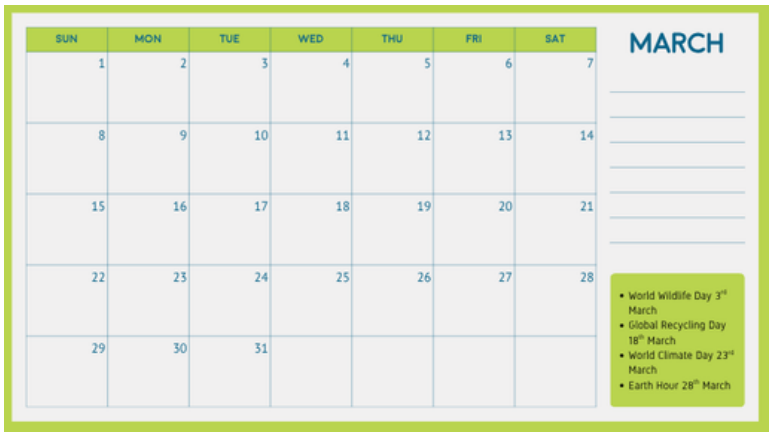
SCHOOL COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION

Green Schools Project offers an opportunity for the whole school community to take positive action for the climate. By involving families, school staff, local organisations, and decision-makers, pupils can see themselves as change-makers. This leads to empowered young people and more resilient, sustainable communities.

This guide shares practical tips and examples from schools to help you embed community climate action into the school year. Some ideas are quick and easy to introduce, while others involve longer term planning and partnerships.

If you would like extra support, please get in touch with our Programme Manager, Bethany for a one-to-one chat - bethany@greenschoolsproject.org.uk

1. PLAN AHEAD: USING YOUR SCHOOL CALENDAR



LOOK AT THE SCHOOL CALENDAR, MAPPING OUT OPPORTUNITIES TO INTEGRATE COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION INTO EXISTING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES.

Use the calendar linked to start planning community engagement throughout the school year. We have added some suggestions to get you started!

SEASONAL MOMENTS: CHRISTMAS, SUMMER TERM, BACK-TO-SCHOOL

Could your pupils...

- Run a "sustainable gift ideas" stall at the Christmas fair?
-Organise a gift exchange in January/February?
-Add a "swap shop" stall to a parent information evening?
-Create a leaflet about climate change to give out at parents'evening?

FAIRS, PERFORMANCES, AND CELEBRATION DAYS

PARENT EVENINGS AND INFORMATION SESSIONS

CURRICULUM LINKS AND ENRICHMENT WEEKS

2. GAIN INSIGHT WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

Effective climate action reflects the needs and interests of the people who live and work in your community.

One simple way to gather insight is through a short survey for parents and carers. This can explore:

- Issues that matter most locally.
- Interests around food, energy, transport, and nature.
- Willingness to get involved in pupil-led action.

Pupils can help design and write the survey as part of their Green Schools Project sessions.

Click here for an example community survey to adapt for your school

2. What challenges are you concerned about in your local community? *

Check all that apply.

- [ ] Energy (e.g. fuel poverty, bills)
- [ ] Housing
- [ ] Cost of Living Crisis
- [ ] Water
- [ ] Green space & nature
- [ ] Food (e.g. access, nutrition)
- [ ] Waste & recycling
- [ ] Air pollution
- [ ] Transport & active travel
- [ ] Development & Planning
- [ ] Health issues

3. SHARING YOUR IMPACT

You could:

- Encourage pupils to talk to parents and families about what they have been learning in sessions.
- Support pupils to deliver an assembly to the rest of the school.
- Share photos or stories from Green Schools Project sessions on social media (tag your MP or a local business to extend reach)
- Add a monthly pupil-led climate top tip to your website or newsletter.
- Include a regular pupil-written update explaining what's been achieved.
- Create an interactive zine to send home to families.

Examples to explore:

- A pupil-written Zero Carbon newsletter from Stroud Green Primary.
- St Vincent RC Primary's blog post about their pupil-led summer book exchange.
- Heron Hall's eco-team assembly using drama to raise awareness.
- Grey Court Year 9 pupils' waste-material sculptures exhibited at a community heritage event.

4. COLLABORATION AND BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

Working with local groups and organisations brings climate action to life and helps pupils connect learning to the real world.

You could:

- Invite local experts to run workshops.
- Co-host events with community groups.
- Organise visits linked to food, energy, nature or transport.
- Build a shared contact list or spreadsheet of local partners.

Local climate action groups (e.g. food growing, energy advice, cycling or biodiversity) are a great place to start. If you'd like help identifying partners, contact Bethany for personalised support: bethany@greenschoolsproject.org.uk

PARTNERSHIP EXAMPLES

- Benthal Primary School worked with Home Energy Action Lab (HEAL) to deliver an interactive energy workshop for Year 5 pupils, responding directly to parent survey feedback. Pupils shared their learning in a whole-school assembly.
- St Joachim's Primary School partnered with local food provider Jackie's Love Kitchen. Pupils created a plant-based recipe book which was shared with families at the summer fair.
- Whitehall Primary School explored biodiversity and wellbeing through a creative Hip Hop Garden workshop led by Bristol artist KMT. Pupils'spoken word performances were later broadcast on BCFM Radio.

5. INSPIRATION: COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION (2024-25)

BRISTOL

Compost workshop:

Local organisation, Generation Soil, delivered hands-on composting workshops to pupils at May Park and Evergreen Primary School.

Bristol bike bus:

Year 6 pupils at May Park launched Bristol's first bike bus, cycling to school together with parents in one large group to make active travel safer and more fun.

The project was featured on ITV News and Bristol 24/7.

Teachers can hear practical tips and access the free FRideDays toolkit here.

LONDON

Youth-led swap shop

Essex Primary School hosted a sustainable summer bazaar where pupils organised a uniform swap shop – the first in their area. Pupils collected, sorted and wrapped donated uniforms, designing handmade pouches from recycled fabrics.

Online petition for climate education:

Year 5 pupils at St Mary Magdalene and St Stephens CE Primary took their learning directly to decision makers. After learning how influence works during the Green Schools Project sessions, pupils launched an online petition calling for climate education in every year group and gained an impressive 20,000+ signatures.

6. LET US KNOW HOW IT GOES

Don't underestimate your ripple effect. As well as pupils feeling proud of what they achieve, each collective action can help turn your school into a climate action hub for your community, strengthening local cohesion and resilience.

Please share with us on Instagram (@greenschoolsproject) and LinkedIn

so we can spread the joy further!

GREEN SCHOOLS PROJECT