



50 Eco-Projects

50 activities, events, and ideas to help you on your journey to becoming an Eco-School.

Introduction

This directory showcases 50 of our favourite eco-projects - inspiring, hands-on activities designed for pupils and staff to raise awareness, promote sustainability, and spark meaningful climate action within your school community.

Most projects have been created by us, the Eco-Schools Team, while others come from our brilliant partners and friends across the environmental and education sectors. Each activity is a fantastic addition to your 2026-27 Eco-Schools Action Plan.

As part of the Eco-Schools programme, Eco-Committees are encouraged to deliver activities and projects relating to three or more of the Eco-Schools topics throughout the year. Therefore, projects and activities in this guide are organised under our ten Eco-Schools topics.

For 2026-27, we've refreshed and expanded our own collection of projects. You'll find these marked with a special sticker, an orange circle with 'ES' in the centre. Each one focuses on a key climate issue and includes a simple step-by-step guide to support Eco-Committees in planning and delivery. You'll also find information about Green Careers and skills, plus suggestions for turning each project into a curriculum-linked learning opportunity - perfect for Step 4 of the Eco-Schools programme, Curriculum Links.

All activities contained in this guidance also include advice on which areas of a DfE-recommended Climate Action Plan they support, plus links to delivery guide and additional resources.

We hope this directory inspires and supports your Eco-Schools journey. Let's work together to make 2026-27 a year of bold climate action and positive change!

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End
Engine Idling!



Plant a pollinator-
friendly patch



Get LOUD
on Litter!



Add water butts to
drain pipes and
recycle rain water



(Re)Love
Your Fashion!



Run a sporty
'eco-pledge'
event



Comple
'quick-w
present f
school lea



e a mural
recycled



Hold An
Eco-Anxiety
Discussion Session



Create a
'grow-zone'
through rewilding



Traffic-Light
save energy



Promote the
Waste Hierarchy

Take on the
LEAF

Using This directory

Each project listed in this directory is presented as below.

Alongside a title and description, you'll find various pieces of information to help you decide if the activity is suited to you and your pupils...

An indicator of **when** to deliver the project.

Additional **Eco-Topics** that the project connects to.

A link to **delivery guides and resources** that will help you deliver the project.

This icon shows if the project is **created by Eco-Schools**.

Plant a pollinator friendly flower bed

£-££ | 2 | All year round | Also: Healthy Living, School Grounds

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | Adaptation & Resilience | Biodiversity | [LINK](#)

The UK is one of the most nature depleted places in the world, with ~50% of it's original biodiversity lost. Without biodiversity, we do not have life. It's time to give nature a helping hand. Installing plants that attract pollinators year-round drives growth and creates natural habitats. Pupils can work with staff to create and maintain plots of land that thrive with animal and plant life.

An indicator of the **costs** involved:

- **FREE** - there are no costs involved in delivering this project.
- **£** - there are potential, or small costs involved in delivering this project.
- **££** - there are medium sized costs involved in delivering this project.
- **£££** - there are significant costs involved in delivering this project.

An indicator of the **ease of delivery** for the project:

1. Requires minimal preparation and is easy to deliver.
2. Requires some preparation and may require additional staff support to deliver.
3. Requires significant preparation and additional staff support to deliver.

Eco-Schools and Climate Action Plans

The DfE recommends that all schools in England have a **Climate Action Plan**.

A Climate Action Plan is a document that maps out your steps to becoming more sustainable and eco-friendly. It contains actions linking to 4 key pillars:

- **Adaptation and Resilience** – actions that ensure your school site and buildings are ready to manage the upcoming impacts of climate change, such as extreme heat or flooding.
- **Biodiversity** – actions that ensure your school is maintaining or developing its green space, increasing biodiversity across site.
- **Climate Education, Green Skills, and Careers** – actions that ensure your staff and pupils are developing their knowledge of climate change and the skills to work sustainably in the future.
- **Decarbonisation** – actions that ensure your school has benchmarked its carbon footprint and is working to reduce it.

Eco-Schools projects can map across multiple pillars, helping you plan more efficiently, and ensuring that young people have a role in protecting their futures.

For each project in this directory, we've noted which of the 4 Climate Action Plan pillars that it connects to, as seen on the previous page.

By delivering these actions as part of your Eco-Schools programme, you can simultaneously build a robust and impactful Climate Action Plan.

The Projects



Count Your Carbon

ES

Free | 2 | All year round | Eco-Topics: Energy, School Grounds, Transport, Waste, Watre

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | Adaptation & Resilience | Decarbonisation | [LINK](#)

Recommended by the DfE, Count Your Carbon is the nation's first free, full-scope carbon footprint calculator, built for – and in collaboration with – nurseries and schools. It supports educational settings to calculate, understand, reduce, and track their carbon emissions. Engage pupils in collecting the required data and creating a calculation, before tapping into the decarbonisation tools, and building a plan to reduce emissions. Learn more about the calculator at the link above and click [here](#) for a guide supporting pupils to collect required data.



Cut Your Carbon

ES

Free | 1 | Autumn | Eco-Topics: Energy, Global Citizenship, Healthy Living, Transport, Waste, Water

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | [LINK](#)

Cut Your Carbon is Eco-Schools' annual carbon-reduction campaign, taking place each November. The campaign spotlights various aspects of daily life that result in a carbon footprint and challenges families to take action at home, raising awareness, and promoting positive behaviours. Schools can sign up via the new Cut Your Carbon mini-site (separate to the Eco-Schools platform), input participation figures, and calculate their carbon savings across the campaign.





Biodiversity

Plant a pollinator friendly flower patch

£-££ | 1-2 | Spring | Also: Healthy Living, School Grounds

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | Adaptation & Resilience | Biodiversity | [LINK](#)

The UK is one of the most nature depleted places in the world, with ~50% of it's original biodiversity lost. Without biodiversity, we don't have life, so it's time to give nature a helping hand! This activity prompts pupils to work with staff to install plants that attract pollinators year-round, driving growth, and creating natural habitats. As well as helping nature, this activity can also have a great impact on mental wellbeing.

Green your indoor spaces and give pupils responsibility for watering

£-££ | 1 | All year round | Also: Healthy Living, School Grounds

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | Adaptation & Resilience | Biodiversity | [LINK](#)

Setting and maintaining indoor plants can carry great benefits. They absorb carbon, remove toxins, and improve air quality. They also help to moderate room temperature, and studies show they can improve mental health and wellbeing too - increasing focus. Once plants are in place, responsibility for watering and pruning can be given to a team of green-fingered pupils on a rota. The link above takes you to an article containing a selection of tips and ideas.

Install animal habitats across your site

Free - ££ | 1-2 | All year round | Also: Healthy Living, School Grounds

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | Biodiversity | Adaptation & Resilience | [LINK](#)

Since 1970, average species abundance in the UK has declined by 19%, with 1/6 species now threatened with extinction. Give nature a helping hand by creating and maintaining animal habitats on your school site. From hedgehog homes to bat boxes, bug hotels to bird houses, DIY animal habitats are a great way to make a difference. Our guide helps you to plan and set out your project, whilst linking out to guides for building homes for a variety of animals and insects.



Rewild an unused area of your site

ES

Free-£ | 1 | All year round | Also: Healthy Living, School Grounds

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | Adaptation & Resilience | Biodiversity | [LINK](#)

This activity empowers pupils to deliver a small-scale rewilding project on your site. This 'grow-zone' can provide food and shelter for roaming species whilst capturing carbon and improving soil health. The great thing about this activity? Once you've set up your space, you can sit back and let nature do the work for you! A 'grow-zone' can be created at any point but you will see the most benefit in the Spring.

Set bird feeders and then take part in the RSPB's Great Big Bird Watch

£ | 1 | All year round / Spring | Also: Healthy Living, School Grounds

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | Biodiversity | [LINK](#)

The RSPB's Big Garden and Big Schools' Birdwatch is the world's largest garden wildlife survey. Every year, thousands of people take part by counting the birds they see. The findings help inform projects that support bird populations and help them to thrive. Join the campaign at the link above, but first, why not attract birds to your site and support them by adding and maintaining feeders across your grounds?

Energy

'Traffic Light' devices and switches to save energy

ES

Free | 1 | All year round | Also: School Grounds

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | Decarbonisation | [LINK](#)

Do all the lights in every classroom need to be constantly switched on? Do whiteboards, computers, or printers need to be left on when not in use? This activity empowers pupils to create a 'traffic light' system for their school, clearly identifying which switches should be left on and which can be switched off. It raises awareness, challenges behaviours, and reduces unnecessary energy usage.

Complete an energy 'quick-wins' audit and present findings to your school leaders

ES

Free | 1-2 | All year round | Also: School Grounds

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | Decarbonisation | [LINK](#)

Based on findings from Count Your Carbon, we know that ~25% of an average school's CO2 footprint is due to their approach to energy. This activity - great for older Primary and Secondary pupils - examines the issue head-on. Our checklist features 20 energy related 'quick wins' - actions that are free or low-cost, simple to implement, and can make a real difference. How many is your school already putting into practice? Findings can be presented to school leaders to inspire quick, effective change.

Set an energy efficient window policy

ES

Free | 1 | All year round | Also: School Grounds

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | Decarbonisation | [LINK](#)

Increase sunlight in your classrooms, reduce the need for artificial lighting, and save energy by implementing a simple, three-point window policy in your school. This straightforward initiative is a great opportunity for younger pupils to work with your school's site manager on a simple yet impactful activity.



Share energy saving tips with your school community

Free | 1 | All year round | Also: Global Citizenship

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | Decarbonisation | [LINK](#)

The best Eco-Schools expand the impact of their work beyond school boundaries and into pupils' homes. Encourage your Eco-Committee to research and share energy-saving tips through assemblies, social media, school newsletters, and any other methods they can think of. Hit the link above for some tips from the Energy Saving Trust to get your research started.

Set a free, energy-efficient heating policy

ES

Free | 1-2 | All year round | Also: School Grounds

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | Decarbonisation | [LINK](#)

Heating a school can be a challenging prospect, with many buildings either old or in need of an upgrade. Most buildings still use gas boilers to heat water that is pumped through to radiators. This creates significant carbon emissions. It's expensive too - heating can account for approximately 40-60% of a school's total energy cost. So, it's important to heat efficiently! This resource outlines 5 ideas to get pupils active in setting a simple, free heating policy - easy changes to reduce radiator-use, save energy, and cut carbon emissions.

Global Citizenship

Run a sporty 'eco-pledge' event

ES

Free | 2 | All year round | Also: Healthy Living

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | [LINK](#)

Did you know it's possible to support our planet and get healthy at the same time? This guide will help you to run a sporty 'eco-pledge' event - imagine a sporty sponsorship activity, but instead of donating money, people pledge to do something good for our planet. No money, just positive climate action!

Run a swap shop and introduce a free, drop-in rail for pre-loved clothing or uniform

ES

Free | 2 | All year round | Also: Waste

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | Decarbonisation | [LINK](#)

Manufacturing clothing accounts for an astronomical amount of global CO2 emissions. It also hovers up natural resources - especially freshwater - and causes widespread pollution. Empower young people to plan, promote, and host a pop-up second-hand clothing shop. This will raise awareness, reduce consumption and divert clothing from going to landfill - both at home and abroad. Keep up momentum and follow this up by adding a free, permanently installed, drop-in uniform rail.

Add 'certified swaps' to your school's purchasing

ES

Free | 1 | All year round | Also: Healthy Living

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | Decarbonisation | [LINK](#)

From damaging our precious soils to destroying marine eco-systems, food sourcing and production can have a devastating impact on wildlife, habitats, forests, and oceans. Many organisations take a different approach, choosing processes that are eco-friendly and sustainable. You can often spot these suppliers through a food certification logo. This activity helps pupils work with their canteen staff to identify which of their products do and don't carry certifications then find certified alternatives.



Plant trees by taking part in JUST ONE Tree Day

Free - £ | 1 | All year round | Also: Biodiversity

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | [LINK](#)

JUST ONE Tree is a brilliant non-profit organisation, removing CO2 from the atmosphere through global reforestation. The charity plants one tree for every £1 raised and their annual JUST ONE Tree non-uniform day is a great way to energise your school community and increase global biodiversity. It takes place this year on 16th October, but don't worry if you can't make that date, you can join in at any time throughout the year!

Write to your local MP to ask for climate action

Free | 1 | All year round | Also: Biodiversity, Healthy Living, Litter, Marine, Transport, Waste, Water

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | [LINK](#)

Inviting your local MP to visit your school is a great way to showcase your environmental achievements, while communicating your pupils' concerns about climate change, air pollution, and a myriad of other environmental issues. This simple resource from Catholic Education's The Primary Care Respiratory Society tells you how to find the contact details of your local MP and the best days to invite them to your school. If you can't get them to visit, why not write them a passionate letter asking for action instead?

Healthy Living

Hold an eco-anxiety discussion session

ES

Free | 1 | All year round | Also: Global Citizenship

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | [LINK](#)

Millions of young people around the world feel worried about climate change - a feeling known as 'eco-anxiety'. It's real, and it's okay to talk about it. This thoughtful Eco-Schools designed activity helps pupils open up through guided conversation cards. They'll share their concerns, explore the facts behind the headlines, and discover simple, positive climate actions they can take in everyday life that can help ease their concerns.

Inspire an increase in plant-based eating in your canteen

Free | 1-3 | All year round | Also: School Grounds

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | Decarbonisation | [LINK](#)

Meat production - especially beef - has a devastating impact on our planet. It is responsible for ~15% of global greenhouse emissions, whilst prioritising land-use for cattle also drives environmental degradation and biodiversity loss. Promote plant-based in your canteens through increased options, more enticing menu descriptions, and taster sessions for pupils, encouraging positive veggie vibes! The link above takes you through to the Meat Free Monday site but we also recommend [ProVeg Schools Plates programme](#) for a more in-depth approach.

Create a sensory garden or space

£-£££ | 1-3 | All year round | Also: Biodiversity, School Grounds

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | Biodiversity | Adaptation & Resilience | [LINK](#)

Sensory gardens are very beneficial for mental health and a perfect addition to any educational setting. They can help reduce stress, improve mood, enhance mindfulness, and foster a connection with nature. The link provided from RHS is a great starting point, or you can check out [their list of plants by sense](#).



Grow your own grub

ES

Free - ££ | 1-2 | Spring | Biodiversity, School Grounds

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | Biodiversity | Adaptation & Resilience | [LINK](#)

This activity prompts young people to put their green fingers to work and grow their own grub! They'll sow, plant, and harvest a selection of vegetables of their choosing, before getting creative and turning these raw ingredients into yummy recipes. With climate change expected to impact food production and supply on a global scale, this is a vital green skill for all to learn. For this guide, we've focussed on crop in particular: the hardy potato. But we also link to other guides and include our UK seasonal growing calendar, at the end of the resource, for inspiration.

Take on the LEAF challenge!

ES

Free | 1 | All year round | Also: Biodiversity

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | [LINK](#)

LEAF stands for 'Learning about Ecosystems And Forests'. The challenge prompts young people to head outside over half-terms and holidays and complete a selection of simple mini-activities, at (or near) home. Each activity prompts families to engage with the green world around us - exploring, observing, and discussing. Designed for younger pupils, activities can take place in gardens, local parks, woodlands, or forests.



To Honour Matilda

Litter

Litter-pick!

ES

Free-1 | 1 | All year round | Also: Global Citizenship, School Grounds, Waste

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | Biodiversity | [LINK](#)

Did you know, in the UK, over two million pieces of litter are dropped every single day?! One of the quickest and easiest ways to tackle litter is to deliver a litter-pick! It's also a great activity for involving lots of people and getting everyone outdoors and active. This simple guide takes you through the basics of planning, delivering, and wrapping up a litter-pick in a safe way.

Get Loud on Litter

ES

Free | 1 | All year round | Also: Global Citizenship, School Grounds, Waste

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | Biodiversity | [LINK](#)

Empower young people to raise awareness and take action on litter in their school grounds and local community. This resource gets you started with a pupil-led litter investigation to assess the state of litter around your school. Drawing on findings, pupils then design and deliver a creative, awareness raising campaign. Finally, they can tap into the resource above and organise a school-wide litter pick.

Join the Great British Spring Clean, our nation's biggest, mass-action environmental campaign

Free-1 | 1 | March | Also: Global Citizenship, School Grounds, Waste

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | Biodiversity | [LINK](#)

Delivered by Keep Britain Tidy (who also deliver Eco-Schools), the Great British Spring Clean is our nation's biggest, mass-action environmental campaign. It takes place in March each year. Last year, thousands of Litter Heroes picked more than 450,000 bags of litter. Can you help get that total even higher this year?

Lead a litter quiz to raise awareness of it's impact

ES

Free | 1 | All year round | Also: Global Citizenship, School Grounds, Waste

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | [LINK](#)

Learn about litter in an interactive way with our litter quiz! This simple-to-use slide deck can be led by teachers or pupils and engages young people in a fun, multiple choice game. Pupils can play individually or form teams, taking on their peers, whilst understanding the sources and impact of litter.



Marine

Create an awareness raising mural with plastic waste

ES

Free | 1 | All year round | Also: Global Citizenship, Waste

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | Decarbonisation | [LINK](#)

This Eco-Project demonstrates that there are many ways to create positive change in the world. It challenges an Eco-Committee to research plastic pollution before creating an awareness-raising piece of protest art in the form of a mural made from recycled plastics. Pupils will then unveil their creation at an event designed to educate attendees about plastic pollution.



Hold a drop-in beeswax wrap make-and-take session

Free | 1-2 | All year round | Also: Global Citizenship, School Grounds, Waste

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | [LINK](#)

This lovely little activity from the Natural History Museum's 'How-To' collection outlines how to make a plastic-free alternative to cling film - a material found floating in oceans across the globe. Why not scale things up and facilitate a drop-in session for pupils, guiding them to create their own beeswax wraps? Then sit back at lunchtime and watch everyone produce sandwiches from their eye-catching creations!

Caution: Don't forget to risk assess the use of irons in advance of sessions.

Contribute to The Big Plastic Count and reflect on which plastics you can cut out

Free | 1 | March | Also: Global Citizenship, Waste

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | Decarbonisation | [LINK](#)

Take part in the nation's biggest plastic audit, as schools, households, community groups, and businesses up and down the country count their plastic waste for a whole week in spring. With your help, The Big Plastic Count can gather game changing evidence that will be used to advocate for bold action on plastic. Once you've counted your plastic waste, why not consider which items you can reduce or ban entirely? Do you need those plastic wallets? Is it vital that you have single use cutlery in your canteen? If not, get rid!

Recycle difficult-to-recycle items

Free | 1 | All year round | Also: Global Citizenship, School Grounds, Waste

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | Biodiversity | [LINK](#)

Are you dropping items like batteries, crisp packets, or old cookware into your general and recycling bins? If so, it's time for a re-think - these items need to be recycled differently, often at specific recycling points. If not, they often end up in our waterways and landfills, polluting environments. Audit what items go into waste across your site, identify the items that need extra care and set a strategy to ensure they're recycled correctly. We've linked to a terrific A-Z guide on how to recycle different items.

School Grounds

Plant tree saplings on your site

Free-££ | 2-3 | Spring / Autumn | Also: Biodiversity, Healthy Living

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | Adaptation and Resilience | Biodiversity | [LINK](#)

Trees are the lungs of our planet, absorbing carbon from the atmosphere, cleaning our air, and protecting us from the impacts of climate change. They help to prevent flooding by acting as natural sponges and creating physical barriers. They reduce temperatures through shading and 'evapotranspiration'. Trees are incredible! So find a tree-friendly spot, get your spade and set pupils to planting saplings! We've linked to the Woodland Trust who provide free trees for schools and their website has lots of tips on how to plant them.

Design a sustainable school

ES

Free | 1 | All year round | Also: Biodiversity, School Grounds, Transport, Water, Waste

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | Adaptation & Resilience | Biodiversity | Decarbonisation | [LINK](#)

This activity challenges pupils to think like sustainable architects, designing a school that is eco-friendly, from top-to-bottom. From renewable energy sources to a tasty produce garden, safe bike routes, to a permeable playground, this is a great activity for helping young people to understand how to take action against climate change and how we might adapt to the changes brought about by it.

Green a roof and take Biodiversity to the next level

££-£££ | 3 | Autumn/Spring | Also: Biodiversity, Healthy Living

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | Biodiversity | Adaptation and Resilience | [LINK](#)

Groundwork's simple guide explains how you can work with your site manager to turn a small flat roof in your school (think bin shelter, shed, or bike storage) into a beautiful, biodiversity-supporting green roof.



Deliver and celebrate No Mo May

Free | 1 | May | Biodiversity, School Grounds

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | Biodiversity | Adaptation & Resilience | [LINK](#)

No Mow May calls on people to skip cutting grass throughout May and let it grow! This allows wild plants to get a head start on the summer, provides a feast for pollinators, tackles pollution, reduces urban heat extremes, and locks away atmospheric carbon below ground. And it's easy - you don't need to do anything! You can run this as a school initiative or challenge your school community to take part at home.

Add raised planting beds to your playground

££-£££ | 3 | All year round | Also: Biodiversity

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | Biodiversity | Adaptation and Resilience | [LINK](#)

Having limited green space doesn't mean you can't increase biodiversity. Raised beds can be added to lots of spaces across your site, creating space for plants, flowers, and vegetables. They encourage pollination, clean our air and absorb water - great if you have non-permeable surfaces throughout your site, representing a risk to flooding during periods of heavy rain. We've linked to an in depth article that goes through the process of adding beds to a concrete surface.

Transport

End engine idling around your school site and improve air quality

ES

Free | 1 | All year round | Also: Healthy Living, School Grounds

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | Adaptation and Resilience | Biodiversity | [LINK](#)

Car idling releases harmful carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, a particular problem for schools during pick-up and drop-off times. It's bad for our health and bad for the planet! This Eco-Schools project encourages young people to explore the issue before creating a dynamic awareness-raising campaign. From an art exhibition to an awareness march, the project can be adapted by pupils to connect with their interests.

Add/upgrade bike storage sheds, making them secure, dry and appealing

££-£££ | 2-3 | All year round | Also: Healthy Living, School Grounds

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | Decarbonisation | [LINK](#)

Staff and student commuting is the biggest contributor to a school's carbon footprint in England. Inspiring more pupils to cycle, scoot, or wheel to school is the best and quickest way to reduce these emissions. Knowing that your bikes and scooters will be securely stored in a dry location encourages this. Work with your site manager to fix and secure your sheds, jazz them up and raise awareness about their location and usage. If you don't have any, consider investing in them. The article linked above offers practical advice and tips on making the best choice.

Begin a walking/bike bus

Free | 3 | All year round | Also: Healthy Living

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | Decarbonisation | [LINK](#)

A walking bus is where a group of children and supporting adults walk to school in a group along an approved route, stopping at set points to collect additional passengers. It's a sociable, healthy, and eco-friendly way to start the school day. This website from Travel West includes information, resources, and videos to help you create and promote your own. Alternatively, click here to download a toolkit to learn more about bike buses courtesy of the [Walk Wheel Cycle Trust](#).



Deliver a walk/wheel to school event, promoting active travel and reducing transport emissions

Free - ££ | 1-2 | All year round | Also: Healthy Living

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | Decarbonisation | [LINK](#)

Delivering a walk/wheel to school event not only reduces emissions on that day or week, it encourages active travel in the future, building a legacy. There are lots of events and organisations that you can explore to help you hit the ground running (or wheeling!). We recommend the 'Big Walk and Wheel' (free and linked to above) and 'WOW - the walk to school challenge'. If you opt for WOW, Eco-Schools can get a 20% discount on the participation fee by using the code 'ECOSCHOOLSWOW20'. This offer is available until 16th October 2026 and can be accessed [here](#).

Deliver cycling skills training to encourage active commuting to school

Free-££ | 1 | All year round | Also: Healthy Living

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | Decarbonisation | [LINK](#)

There are plenty of options to explore for this activity! Bikeability (linked above) is one example for Primary and Secondary. [Balanceability](#) is great for younger children and early years. Specialist coaching providers such as [Pedalwise](#) are ideal for new, anxious or neurodiverse learners, whilst [Access Sport \(Making Trax\)](#) supports disabled and vulnerable learners.

Waste

Re-Love your books by delivering a pop-up second-hand book swap/sale

ES

Free | 1-2 | All year round | Also: Global Citizenship

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | Decarbonisation | [LINK](#)

(Re)Love Your Books promotes literacy and planet-friendly action by empowering young people to run a pop-up, second-hand book swap or sale in their school. This project aims to reduce waste, conserve natural resources, and inspire a lifelong love of reading.

Compost food waste

Free-££ | 1-3 | All year round | Also: School Grounds

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | Decarbonisation | [LINK](#)

Composting is a natural approach to managing organic waste - such as food scraps or lawn cuttings - that results in an eco-friendly fertilizer. It reduces the amount of waste that ends up in landfill and has a positive effect on your CO2 emissions. With different methods to choose from, it's a great activity to get young people active and engaged with the concept of the circular economy. We've linked to a cost-effective, low-fi method that uses worms!

Raise awareness about the Waste Hierarchy

ES

Free | 1 | All year round | Also: Global Citizenship, Marine

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | Decarbonisation | [LINK](#)

The best way to reduce waste is to follow the 'Waste Hierarchy'. This concept provides a framework for approaching how you use, buy, and dispose of your items, prioritising the most eco-friendly option. The tools provided in this resource utilise the most up to date research from Keep Britain Tidy, allowing pupils to create an eye-catching display or presentation that presents the concept to their peers in a clear and approachable way.



Repurpose waste to make an upcycled art show

Free | 1 | All year round | Also: Marine

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | Decarbonisation | [LINK](#)

Applying the Waste Hierarchy can offset the impact that waste has on the environment. This includes soil degradation at landfill, pollution (esp. plastic) in marine eco-systems, and poor air quality. Re-using clean, safe waste in school for art projects and exhibitions (AKA 'junk modelling') is a great way to reduce, refuse, and raise awareness in a creative way. Check out the article above for an overview and ideas.

Recycle materials to create 'Trashion'!

Free-££ | 1 | All year round | Also: Healthy Living

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | Decarbonisation | [LINK](#)

Upcycling materials to create new clothing pieces is a staple of the fashion industry. Design giants, from Vivienne Westwood to Stella McCartney, have adopted this eco-conscious approach in their work, showing that style can be sustainable. Linked above is a guide from the Scouts Association, outlining the delivery steps for designing upcycled outfits and setting up your own recycled runway. This [resource from Roots and Shoots](#) also has some handy pointers.

Water

Add water butts to drain pipes and recycle rain water

ES

Free-£ | 1-2 | All year round | Also: Global Citizenship

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | Adaptation and Resilience | Decarbonisation | [LINK](#)

A water-butt is a large container that can be connected to guttering on buildings to collect rainwater from rooftops and other surfaces. Water butts enable you to harvest rain water and re-use it (ie. for watering plants). They also help to avoid drains getting overwhelmed during intense rain, reducing the likelihood of flooding. Pupils will work with the school grounds staff to identify the best places for a water butt, before supporting their installation.

Conserve water by adding mulch to plant beds

ES

Free-£ | 2 | All year round | Also: School Grounds

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | Decarbonisation | [LINK](#)

'Mulching' is the process of adding organic plant material (or 'mulch') - such as grass cuttings, bark, compost and wood chips - to plant beds. This helps to retain moisture on/in the ground, reducing the amount of watering that is required, whilst adding a layer of protection during our increasingly dry and hot summers. This activity challenges young people to collaborate with site staff to create and add mulch to plant beds, supporting plant health, biodiversity, and resilience across your site.

Set pupil water monitors, checking regularly for leaks and wasteful usage

ES

Free | 1 | All year round | Also: Global Citizenship, School Grounds

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | Adaptation and Resilience | Decarbonisation | [LINK](#)

This activity gives young people the chance to explore how water is used throughout their school and take meaningful steps to improve efficiency. Pupils will sharpen their investigative skills by carrying out a full water audit, then work closely with your site manager or caretaker to tackle any issues they uncover. To wrap up, they'll set up a routine for ongoing checks and inspire your school community to use water wisely.



Share water saving tips with your school community

Free | 1 | All year round | Also: Global Citizenship

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | Decarbonisation | [LINK](#)

The best Eco-Schools expand the impact of their work beyond school boundaries and into pupils' homes. Encourage your Eco-Committee to research and share water-saving tips through assemblies, social media, school newsletters, and any other methods they can think of. Linked above are some tips from the Wildlife Trusts to help get research started.

Promote the use of refillable bottles

Free | 1 | All year round | Also: Global Citizenship, Marine, Waste

Climate Ed., Green Skills/Careers | Decarbonisation | [LINK](#)

Making bottled water uses a lot of resources. According to the Pacific Institute, for every bottle produced, it takes three times the volume of water to create it, and nearly 2,000 times more energy than producing the same amount of tap water. Create a fact-filled assembly presentation and inspire others to use refillable bottles. The link above takes you to an article to start your research.