

Carbon neutral Cornwall 2030

My world. Our planet.

 www.cornwall.gov.uk/climatechange



Charlotte Clarke - Education Project Manager

Responsibilities:

- Support schools across Cornwall with climate education initiatives
- Collaborate with organisations to enrich school climate programmes (e.g. Surfers Against Sewage and Cornwall Wildlife Trust)
- Signpost schools to council teams and external organisations to assist climate education delivery
- Promoting the work of Cornwall Council by showcasing the resources, lesson plans, and workshops teams offer to schools
- Work with Eco-Schools and Let's Go Zero to help schools calculate carbon footprint and develop climate action plans
- Focus this academic year on collecting data to support the Carbon Neutral Cornwall Team

Climate Conference

We are hosting a **free Climate Conference** to help schools calculate their carbon footprint and develop Climate Action Plans, as recommended by the Department for Education (DfE), to be implemented by the end of 2025.

Wednesday 9 July 2025
Ladock Community Centre
9.30am - 3pm

This is a fantastic opportunity for senior school leaders, sustainability leads, eco-teachers, TA's and site managers to gain practical guidance and access valuable resources.

What to expect:

- Learn how to calculate your school's carbon footprint with Eco-School managers.
- Receive expert help from Let's Go Zero Advisors to write your Climate Action Plan.
- Find out about funding and Cornwall Council support.
- Enjoy a networking lunch with organisations offering free resources.
- Time to talk to other schools to share ideas.
- Guest Speakers, Eden Project, Surfers Against Sewage, Sustainable Food Cornwall, Let's Go Zero Climate Advisors and Eco-School Managers



Climate Conference

We are hosting a **free Climate Conference** to help schools write Climate Action Plans, as recommended by the Department for Education (DfE), to be implemented by the end of 2025.



Wednesday 19 November
2025

New County Hall Truro
9.30am - 2pm

This is a fantastic opportunity for senior school leaders, sustainability leads, eco-teachers, TA's and site managers to write climate action plans.

What to expect:

- Receive in person expert help from Let's Go Zero Advisors to write your Climate Action Plan.
- Find out about funding and Cornwall Council support.
- Network with other schools - onsite café is available dietary requirements catered for.
- Education Nature Parks - hosted by Richard Urvine



Carbon Neutral Cornwall Team, Cornwall Council

The Team

- Intelligence and assurance
- Project and Programme development
- Partnerships and advocacy
- Council Climate strategy and policy

Emissions reporting

- Cornwall Council emissions
- Cornwall wide emissions

Schools' Climate Action Plans

- further understanding schools' emissions data moving from estimated to actual
- a refresh Cornwall Council Climate Action Plan



Get up to £5,000 to help Cornwall take climate action and recover nature

project meets criteria .. apply for a grant to match fund up to 50% of costs, up to £5,000 (for exceptional projects with larger impact, this could increase to up to £15,000).

- Grants are allocated once the applicant has reached 25% of their target from a minimum of 25 unique backers.
- Applications accepted from all sectors - projects that show a strong community impact and promote public access will be prioritised

Active



Cornwall Council: Cornwall Climate and Nature Fund

Get up to £5,000

Crowdfunder and Cornwall Council have come together to support projects and activities that will help Cornwall tackle and respond to climate change and promote nature recovery.



Make sure to read the terms & conditions before applying



Decarbonisation & Energy Efficiency

LET'S GO
ZERO
2030

Let's Go Zero

The national campaign for all schools, colleges and nurseries to be zero carbon by 2030. Over 7,500 educational settings are now part of the campaign.

Join us now...
www.letsgozero.org/join



Climate Action Advisors

32 Climate Action Advisors around England providing free bespoke advice and information to schools to help them to create Climate Action Plans and take climate action in their setting.



Let's Go Zero works collaboratively

Our coalition



Our partners



DfE Context

The Department for Education expects all schools to have a **Climate Action Plan** and a **Sustainability Lead** from September 2025.



Climate Action Plans need to cover **4** pillars:

- **Decarbonisation** – calculating and taking actions to reduce carbon emissions
- **Adaptation & Resilience** – taking actions to reduce the risk of flooding and overheating
- **Biodiversity** – improving biodiversity on the school site (e.g. nature projects)
- **Climate Education & Green Careers** – ensuring education provided gives comprehensive teaching about climate change, and teaching staff feel supported to offer this

“It is important that the whole education setting, or trust, is engaged so that planning becomes action.” – [Sustainability leadership and climate action plans in education](#) – [GOV.UK](#)





DECARBONISATION & ENERGY EFFICIENCY

LET'S GO
ZERO
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So what causes carbon emissions in schools?

The carbon emissions from waste are quite low - it is our over consumption that needs addressing.

Your Carbon Footprint Report

Your schools total carbon footprint is estimated to be: 263.37 tonnes CO₂e* per year

Operational area	Emissions area	t CO ₂ e*	% of footprint
Energy & Utilities	Fuel Usage	31.2	12%
	Electricity Usage	15.7	6%
	Waste Usage	0.2	0%
	Water Usage	2.5	<1%
Transport	Vehicles	0	0%
	School Trips	1.3	<1%
	Student Commutes	59	22%
	Staff Commutes	26.3	10%
Food & Drink	Meals	45.2	17%
Purchases	Spending	28.6	11%
	Uniforms	53.4	20%

*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.



School Uniform is included in the "purchases" a school community can take responsibility for. It can be a large part of

these emissions from food are calculated by how many meat meals are served. Meat tends to have a higher carbon footprint than plant-based food.

The energy a school uses is from heating and hot water (often gas powered) plus electricity use for lights and tech. Most

schools are not yet using renewable energy. The transport total includes how pupils travel to and from school. It also includes how staff travel to and from school.

Petrol/diesel cars create high carbon emissions (and pollution!) whilst active

Decarbonisation – Possible Action

All Areas



Energy



Energy Sparks



Transport



Procurement



Waste



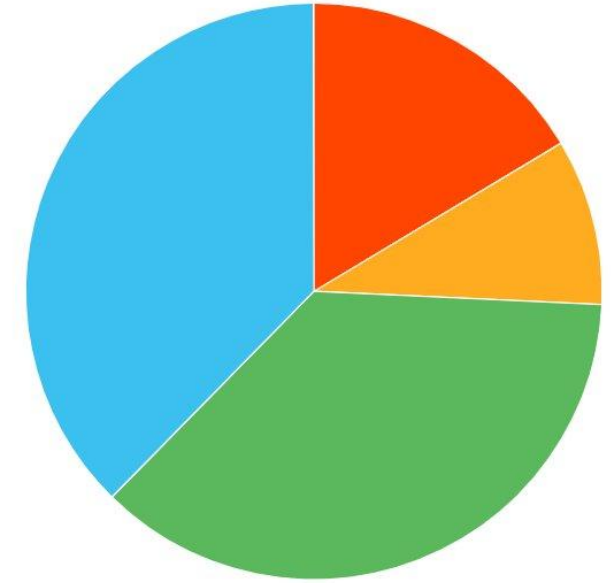
Food



Top Energy Saving Actions

- Monitor energy use on a regular basis
- Take part in a Switch Off campaign
- Implement a power down strategy for all electric devices/appliances
- All schools received controls optimization training
- All school sustainability leads receive training for behaviour change and guidance on energy saving initiatives

● Holiday ● Weekend ● School Day Open ● School Day Closed

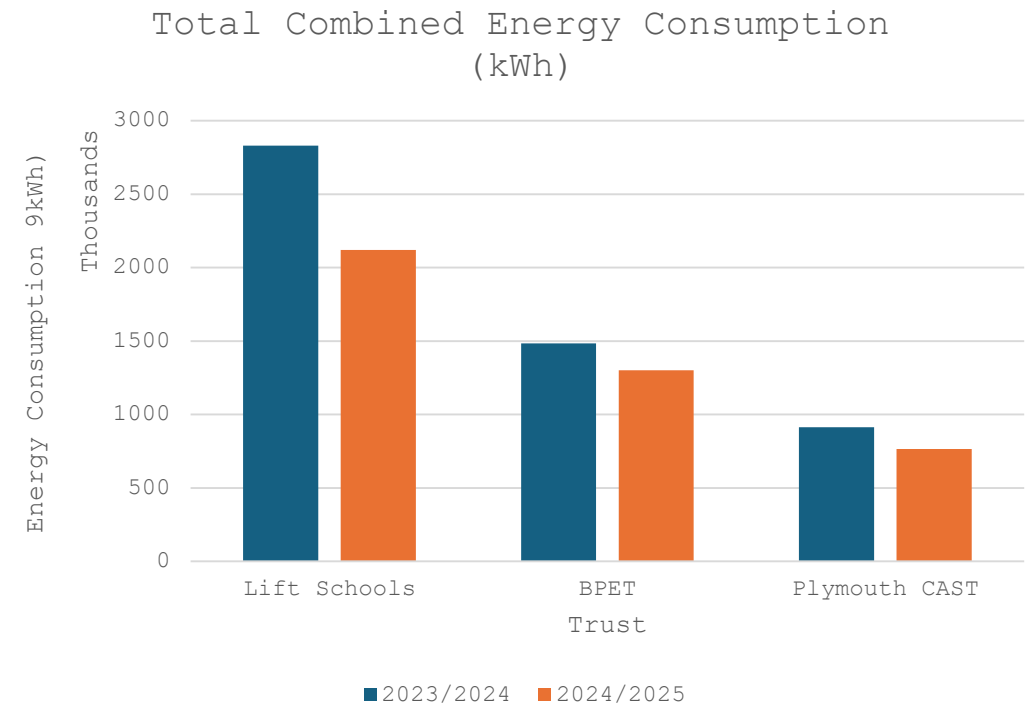


Electricity data from Energy Sparks / Winford Primary School

Key Outcomes

*energy data when comparing Nov, Dec, Jan and Feb.

- **20.5%** energy saving across all schools (through behaviour and controls optimisation)
- **1,041,185 kWh** energy saved
- Total carbon savings **222,753 kg CO2e/kWh**, due to behaviour change and controls optimisation
- Estimated yearly savings of **£244,315.93** across BPET and Lift Schools.



Co-benefits of Decarbonisation

Information Classification: CONTROLLED

Pillar Area	Example Action	Co-benefits
All areas	Understand your school's carbon footprint by completing Count Your Carbon calculation	Creating a baseline to work from and assess progress – opportunity to engage students, for example using 'The Playground' tool
Energy	Monitor energy use using a platform such as Energy Sparks and take actions such as adjusting temperatures and adjust heating schedules or running a Switch off campaign	Significant financial savings
Transport	Promote walking/cycling/public transport to school/ Park & Stride	Healthier children (mentally and physically), less local pollution
Food	Introduce a plant based/ planet friendly (meat free) day	Children eating more vegetables
Waste	Divert all food waste out of residual waste. Have separate bins for food waste in all school areas. Food waste collected for AD, or composted on site	Complying with new recycling regulations in schools (March 2025)
Procurement	Reuse school uniform through a Uniform Exchange	Inclusive policy, cost savings for parents, reducing waste

What does a Climate Action Plan look like?

- Not a wish list (but space for forward planning)
- Clear, time-limited actions (15-20)
- Realistic but ambitious!
- Who is responsible? How will you monitor progress?
- Include actions in progress or already planned to give you a record of your journey, year to year

Climate Action Plan Bude Primary Academy - Juniors 1 year plan Autumn 2025 – 2026



will.ewens@letsgozero.org

Your school's carbon baseline: 148.78t CO₂e Calculation: 16th July 2025

Your Carbon Footprint Report

Your schools total carbon footprint is estimated to be: 148.78 tonnes co₂e* per year



Operational area	Emissions area	t co ₂ e*	% of footprint
Energy & Utilities	Fuel Usage	20.2	14%
	Electricity Usage	14	9%
	Waste Usage	0.1	0%
	Water Usage	0.2	<1%
Transport	Vehicles	0	0%
	School Trips	2.2	1%
	Student Commutes	5.1	3%
	Staff Commutes	4	3%
Food & Drink	Meals	43.2	29%
Purchases	Spending	26	17%
	Uniforms	33.9	23%



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.

1. Decarbonisation and Energy Efficiency

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

ENERGY – BUILDINGS AND RETROFIT				
ACTION	TIMEFRAME	STAKEHOLDERS	NOTES	TRACKER
Install a smart meter Contact your energy and/or water supplier to get a smart meter installed. This is an important first step to get data to track consumption and is needed before you can sign up to energy usage analytics platforms, e.g. Energy Sparks .	Start: Review:			
★ Optimise your BMS/BEMS settings and ensure your heating and hot water systems have efficient timings and temperatures set 18°C is the general recommendation for classroom temperatures, whilst hot water coming out of taps should be no higher than 43°C (stored at 60°C). Experiment with your heating schedule while maintaining comfort - running it one hour less per day or reducing temperatures by 1 degree can cut annual heating costs by 5–10%, according to the DfE .	Start: Review:			
Undertake a school audit to identify areas of thermal loss Thermal loss can be identified simply as cold patches by feel, but an infrared imaging camera will provide you with insight and differences in temperature that wouldn't easily be spotted. This can be done by the site manager, with assistance from a CAA or as part of an energy audit or heat decarbonisation plan.	Start: Review:			

Climate Action Advisors Project

Supporting you to meet the DfE Expectation that all schools have a **Climate Action Plan** and **Sustainability Lead** in place by **2025**

A network of **free**, independent experts to **accelerate schools** on their journey to become **zero carbon**.



Support

1:1 support over the phone and online expertise



Site visits

Conducting site visits to school grounds



Report writing

Writing school Sustainability Reports

LET'S GO
ZERO
2030

Climate Action Plan
School Name _____
One year plan: Spring 2024 – Spring 2025

Your Carbon baseline: _____ Date: _____

Decarbonisation and Energy Efficiency:
Calculating and taking actions to reduce carbon emissions and becoming more energy efficient

Action	Cost	Ease of implementation	Timeframe	Key stakeholders	Link to School improvement plan
Carbon Calculation: This free digital tool allows you to calculate the carbon footprint for your educational setting. Useful links: Count Your carbon	Input: Low Output: High savings	Easy Moderate Intensive	Length: Year 1 Completion date: Summer 2025	Eco-Lead with support Co-Headteacher, Eco-team and Advisor X	
Energy - control Zoned thermostatic control or smart controls on each radiator. Free tune controls according to need.					

Climate Action Plans

Co-creating school Climate Action Plans

Further support from Let's Go Zero

- [Climate Action Advisor support](#)
- [Carbon Literacy training](#)
- [Webinar series](#)
- Newsletters
- And much more..!



Register for CAA support



PILLAR	EXAMPLE ACTIONS				
Energy (Behaviour)	Monitor energy use and take regular actions (e.g. <i>Energy Sparks</i>)	Introduce 'Energy Champions' in every classroom	Take part in a switch off campaign (e.g. <i>Switch Off Fortnight</i>)	Instruct all staff to follow heating efficiency practices, e.g. turn heating down vs opening windows	Ensure your BMS has efficient timings and temperatures set for the school day e.g. 6am-1pm at 18 degrees.
Energy (Infrastructure)	Install a smart meter	Investigate the potential for solar panels (e.g. <i>Solar for Schools</i>)	Investigate the potential for ground/air source heat pump	Install LED lighting	Insulate your building
Transport	Carry out a staff and student travel survey (e.g. <i>Count Your Carbon</i>)	Run an 'Active Travel' campaign (e.g. <i>Modeshift STARS, Sustrans</i>)	Provide cycle proficiency lessons in school (e.g. <i>Bikeability</i>)	Encourage lift-sharing	Install electric vehicle charge-points
Food	Offer a vegan / vegetarian option every day	Arrange a menu consultation to promote planet friendly meals (e.g. <i>ProVeg</i>)	Start a school veg patch & gardening club (e.g. <i>RHS</i>)	Measure and reduce food waste from canteen (e.g. <i>WRAP – Guardians of Grub</i>)	Food waste recycling (<i>Local Authority</i>)
Procurement	Hold regular uniform or clothes swaps	Implement a 'Sustainable Procurement Policy'	Use a School Resources Exchange site	Consider carbon footprint and environmental practices of the services/ companies you use	Replace ICT equipment that is at end of life with energy-efficient alternatives
Waste	Recycling bins in all classrooms and offices	Label bins clearly	Take part in waste-reducing initiatives (e.g. <i>Plastic Free Schools, Great Big School Clean</i>)	Ban single-use plastic bottles	Consider sustainable practices when disposing of E-waste (e.g. <i>Air Ambulance</i>)