



RA Butler Academy

Climate Action Plan September 2025

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1. Introduction

Climate change is one of the most pressing challenges of our time, and schools play a pivotal role in shaping the next generation of environmentally conscious citizens. By integrating sustainability into school operations and education, we not only reduce our environmental footprint but also empower pupils with the knowledge and skills to make a difference. This plan is a living document that will evolve as new opportunities, technologies, and partnerships emerge.

RA Butler Academy recognises the urgent need to address climate change and environmental sustainability. This Climate Action Plan (CAP) outlines our commitment to reducing our environmental impact, enhancing biodiversity, and embedding sustainability into our curriculum and school culture. It aligns with the UK Government's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy for Education, the DfE's Climate Action Plan Guidance, and Essex County Council's Schools Climate Advice Pack.

2. Vision and Objectives

Our vision is rooted in the belief that every child has the right to learn in a healthy, sustainable environment. We aim to foster a culture of environmental stewardship by embedding sustainability into our ethos, policies, and daily practices. This includes promoting active travel, reducing single-use plastics, encouraging recycling, ensuring climate change features strongly within our curriculum and encouraging responsible consumption among staff and pupils alike.

Vision:

To empower our pupils, staff, and community to become environmentally responsible citizens through education, action, and leadership.

Strategic Objectives:

- Appoint a Sustainability Lead by September 2025.
- Develop and implement a whole-school Climate Action Plan.
- Reduce carbon emissions and energy use.
- Increase biodiversity within our footprint.
- Embed climate education across the curriculum.
- Engage pupils in hands-on sustainability projects.
- Increase the number of pupils walking, biking or scootering to school.

3. Current Achievements

Verified Sustainability Projects completed at RA Butler Academy – Climate Action Summary

- **Eco Refill Shop**

RA Butler Academy runs an eco-friendly refill shop through its Eco Club, encouraging families to reuse containers for products like hand soap and bubble bath. This initiative promotes sustainability and reduces single-use plastic waste.

- **Energy Audit and Quick Fixes**

The school has completed an energy audit through the Saffron Academy Trust and implemented quick wins such as timers on hot water heaters and special sockets on freezers. These actions help reduce baseline energy consumption.

- **Roof Insulation Upgrade**

RA Butler installed thicker insulation during a recent roof project. This improves energy efficiency and reduces heat loss.

- **LED Lighting Upgrade**

The school has upgraded to LED lighting throughout the premises. LED lighting is more energy-efficient and has a longer lifespan than traditional lighting.

Staff and Student Energy Saving Actions

RA Butler promotes energy-saving behaviours such as turning off lights and computers when not in use. These actions contribute to a culture of sustainability.

- **Food Waste Collection**

RA Butler has demonstrated strong community engagement through food donation drives, such as collecting over 585kg for Uttlesford Foodbank. This supports waste reduction and community support.

- **Gardening Club**

The school runs a gardening club that grows vegetables. This initiative supports hands-on learning, environmental awareness, and healthy eating.

- **Sustainability Conference Attendance**

Staff and governors from RA Butler attended the Essex Sustainability Conference. This demonstrates leadership and commitment to sustainability.

- **Dry Recycling Program**

RA Butler recycles all dry materials, supporting waste reduction and environmental responsibility.

4. Strategic Action Areas

Each action area is designed to be measurable and achievable, with clear timelines and responsibilities. For example, the energy audit will not only identify areas for improvement but also serve as a baseline for tracking progress. The biodiversity initiatives will be supported by local wildlife trusts, and the curriculum integration will be guided by the National Education Nature Park framework. We will also explore funding opportunities through government grants and local partnerships to support infrastructure upgrades.

Theme	Actions	Timeline	Lead	Resources Needed
Leadership & Governance	Appoint a Sustainability Lead and form a Green Team	Autumn 2025	Headteacher	Time allocation, training
Energy & Carbon	Conduct an energy audit Count the carbon website use	Spring 2026	Site/Estates Manager	Audit tools, funding
Waste & Recycling	Expand recycling to include paper, plastics, and batteries	Ongoing	Site Manager	Bins, signage
Water Use	Install water-saving devices in toilets and taps	Summer 2026	Site Manager	Plumbing support
Biodiversity	Continue to develop outdoor learning areas and increase biodiversity – sensory garden	Spring 2026	Site manager and outdoor learning lead	Seeds, tools, volunteers
Curriculum Integration	Embed sustainability in science, geography, and PSHE. Develop Fragile Earth topic.	Ongoing	Curriculum Leads	CPD, lesson plans
Pupil Engagement	Launch student-led projects Continued focus by School Council on Eco Projects	Autumn 2025	Headteacher	Club time, materials

Litter picking and awareness strategy

Travel

Continued work on travel plan to gain good accreditation level

Ongoing

Headteacher

PE lead

Installation of council funded scooter park

Walk to swimming and local events

Walk to school weeks

Engagement in WOW campaign to walk to school

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

To ensure the Climate Action Plan remains relevant and effective, RA Butler Academy will:

- Review the plan termly, led by the Sustainability Lead and site staff.
- Monitor progress through simple tracking of key actions (e.g. energy use, recycling initiatives, pupil engagement).
- Gather feedback from pupils and staff through informal discussions and school council input.
- Update the plan regularly to reflect new opportunities, challenges, and achievements.
- Share updates with the school community via newsletters and the school website.

6. Future Achievements Log This section will serve as a dynamic record of our journey towards sustainability. It will capture both small wins and major milestones, providing inspiration and motivation for continued progress. Examples of future achievements may include achieving Eco-Schools Green Flag status, installing solar panels, or launching a school-wide composting program.

Date	Achievement	Impact	Next Steps
Sept 25	Sustainability lead appointed	Lead person in place to keep climate action plan high profile.	
Sept 25	Started to recycle food waste – 4 new bins collected weekly	Less waste in general rubbish	Monitor waste in different bins.
Oct 25	Fan heaters cleaned to make more efficient	More efficient heaters and	Build into maintenance plan.

		servicing extends lifetime of heaters.	
Nov 25	Travel Plan work almost completed to achieve 'good' status – completed travel surveys	Various initiatives being worked on to achieve Travel Plan status.	Complete travel surveys to achieve 'good' status
Nov 25	Tighter controls over heating timings and thermostat levels	Reduced energy usage and bills.	Continue to monitor energy usage
Nov 25	DEC rating improved.	Reward for more efficient energy usage.	Continue to look at energy saving to further reduce DEC rating.
Nov 25	Water saving visit from Affinity water – see water saving report 18/11/25	Reduced water usage and bills.	Continue to monitor water usage. Build water saving devices into new premises projects e.g. toilet refurb.
Dec 25	Completed travel survey, children and staff	Necessary for Travel Plan. Goal is to reducing cars as means of travel to school.	Build into future Travel Plan initiatives.
Feb 26	Achieved 'Good' Travel Plan status	Recognition of all actions achieved in working towards Travel plan status	Work towards maintaining status, requires new initiatives.
Feb 26	Plans for new Y6 block to include better energy efficiencies.	Energy efficiencies	Completion of new block due Aug 26
Mar 26	20s Plenty banner installed on South Road	Reduction in pollution around school. Road safety	Continue to campaign for 20mph on South Road
June 26	Whole school take part in Walk to School week	Reduction in pollution around school.	Continue to raise profile / encouragement of walking to school

7. Support and Resources In addition to the resources listed, schools can access support from organisations such as the Carbon Trust, Energy Saving Trust, and the Woodland Trust and even Sustainable leads at other schools to share idea/best practice. These organisations offer free tools, case studies, and funding opportunities tailored to the education sector. Networking with other schools through sustainability forums and conferences can also provide valuable insights and collaboration opportunities.

National Guidance and Useful Resources:

- DfE Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sustainability-and-climate-change-strategy/sustainability-and-climate-change-a-strategy-for-the-education-and-childrens-services-systems>

- DfE Climate Action Plan Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sustainability-leadership-and-climate-action-plans-in-education>

- Let's Go Zero Campaign: <https://www.letsgozero.org/>

- National Education Nature Park: <https://www.educationnaturepark.org.uk/>

Local Support (Essex):- Essex Schools Climate and Sustainability Hub:
<https://schools.essex.gov.uk/climate-and-sustainability>

- Essex Schools' Advice Pack: <https://www.essexclimate.org.uk/schools-advice-pack>

- Essex Climate Action Commission: <https://www.essexclimate.org.uk/>

Tools and Networks:

Climate Ambassador Programme

Volunteer experts help schools develop and implement Climate Action Plans for free. The programme is funded by the Department for Education and led by the University of Reading and EAUC.

[!\[\]\(666e09182d4cd268646ea700ea60dcdf_img.jpg\) Visit the Climate Ambassadors Programme](#)

2. Sustainability Support for Education

The Department for Education provides curated resources, training, and guidance to help schools integrate sustainability into teaching and operations. This includes support from COP26 initiatives, water resilience strategies, and climate literacy campaigns.

[!\[\]\(e3f8612927870f2e0f9f5989e6dd3064_img.jpg\) Explore DfE Sustainability Resources](#)

3. Eco-Schools Programme

An international award scheme that empowers pupils to lead environmental projects through a seven-step framework. Schools can earn the prestigious Green Flag accreditation.

[!\[\]\(faf942dc3e59ce8eb64b4ac481eca7e0_img.jpg\) Learn More About Eco-Schools](#)

8. Conclusion By taking a proactive approach to climate action, RA Butler Academy is not only fulfilling its moral and legal responsibilities but also setting a powerful example for others to follow. This plan represents a collective commitment to a better future—one where education and sustainability go hand in hand. We invite all members of our school community to join us on this journey and contribute their ideas, energy, and passion.

Beckers Green Primary School is committed to being a beacon of sustainability in Essex. Through this Climate Action Plan, we aim to inspire our pupils, staff, and wider community to take meaningful action for the planet. By embedding sustainability into every aspect of school life, we prepare our children not only for academic success but for a future where they can thrive as responsible global citizens.

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