Dunn Street Primary Climate Action Plan December 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. Dunn Street Primary 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.

This plan reflects the Tyne and Wear Learning Trust Strategic Climate action plan.

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 number of pupils walking, biking or scootering to school.

3) Current Achievements:

- The school has completed a curriculum audit of Science, Geography, and PSHE to identify existing climate change coverage and opportunities to strengthen sustainability and environmental education across subjects.
- The school has established a garden to grow its own food, supporting sustainable practices and environmental awareness.
- The school is participating in the Trees for Climate initiative and has recently planted new hedges and trees to enhance biodiversity and support carbon sequestration.
- The school has developed an outdoor habitat area with log piles, bug hotel and bird box
- The school runs multiple recycling initiatives, including paper, plastic, and battery recycling, to reduce waste and environmental impact.

4) Strategic Action Plan

Strategic Area	Actions	Timeline	Lead	Resources
Leadership and Pupil Engagement	• Appoint a Sustainability Champion	Autumn 2025	Headteacher	Time allocation. CPD
	• School Council form a Green Team Committee	Summer 2026	Sustainability Champion	Time allocation. CPD
Decarbonisation	• Conduct an Energy Audit.	Spring 2026	Sustainability Champion Site Manager	Time allocation. Cost
Biodiversity	• Continue to develop outdoor learning areas and increase biodiversity.	Summer 2026	Sustainability Champion	Cost
Adaptation and Resilience	• Ensure school has planned adaptations to build resilience	Spring 2026	Headteacher and Sustainability Champion	Time allocation.

	towards extreme weather events. • Review 'Extreme Weather' Policy regarding response and adaptations to extreme temperatures.			
Climate Education and Green Careers	• Increase our school's knowledge of resilience and adaptation by raising awareness and educating. • Review climate education in the curriculum. • Involve students and staff in resilience-building activities.	Summer 2026	Headteacher and Sustainability Champion	Time allocation. CPD

5) Monitoring and Evaluation

To ensure the Climate Action Plan remains relevant and effective, Dunn Street Primary will:

- Review the plan annually.
- Monitor progress through simple tracking of key actions.
- Gather feedback from pupils and staff through informal discussions and Green Team input.
- Update the plan regularly to reflect new opportunities, challenges, and achievements.
- Share updates with the school community via the school website.

6) Review of 2025-2026 and Priorities for 2026-2027

Good progress has been made in developing biodiversity and first-hand environmental learning. Children chose to create a pond, which Mrs Simanis developed with the Nature Park, volunteers, Canny Wild CIC and the RHS. The area is used by classes from EYFS to Year 6. Tree planting with Durham Wildlife Trust has further enhanced the grounds, building on our existing habitats and food-growing garden. Pupil voice and partnership working have been central to these achievements.

Priorities for 2026-2027

1. Maintain the pond and habitats; record seasonal wildlife observations to establish a biodiversity baseline.

2. Confirm the Sustainability Champion and Green Team, with pupil responsibilities and regular review points.

3. Develop the school allotment, involving pupils in planning, planting, caring for and harvesting produce to strengthen understanding of seasonal food, sustainability and healthy eating.