



## New College School Climate Action Plan

This plan is informed by the Government's *Sustainability leadership and climate action plans in education* guidance, as set out [here](#).

It should be read in conjunction with the New College *Environmental Sustainability Strategy*, which can be found [here](#).

### 1. Our Values and Vision

New College School has always been involved with the welfare of the community it serves and recognises the importance of environmental issues, which affect all stakeholders in the school: governors, teaching and support staff, pupils, families and visitors.

We are committed to nurturing environmentally conscious pupils who understand the ethical, scientific, and social dimensions of climate change.

In accordance with the principles of the New College School *Wellbeing Grid*, we aim to foster in our pupils an understanding of their own contribution to, and sense of responsibility for, the development of an environmentally sustainable future that benefits the *individual*, the *community* and *wider world*.

The issues around climate change and sustainability affect the whole curriculum and provide opportunities for learning in accordance with New College School's six core skills: *Thinking and Learning, Independence, Communicating, Reviewing and Improving, Collaboration* and *Leadership*.

As part of the foundation of New College, Oxford, we share its ambition to achieve net zero carbon and biodiversity net gain by 2035, to be a Carbon Champion, and we aim to be a model of sustainability in preparatory school education.



We believe:

- ☞ Climate action is a moral imperative.
- ☞ Education must empower pupils to lead change.
- ☞ Our school community can contribute meaningfully to wider College goals.




# NCS

## Climate Action Plan 2025




### Sustainability Leadership

-  Sustainability Lead
-  Eco-Committee





### Adaptation & Resilience

-  Assessing flood risk
-  Planting trees for shade
-  Heat management and ventilation

### Climate Education & Green Careers

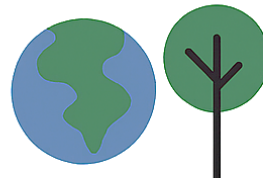
-  Embedding sustainability in the curriculum
-  Promoting green careers
-  Supporting pupil leadership

### Decarbonisation

-  Energy audits and efficiency measures
-  Upgrading to LED lighting
-  Promoting sustainable travel
-  Tracking our carbon baseline

### Environment & Biodiversity

-  Greening our school grounds
-  Identifying habitats and species
-  Reducing single-use plastics
-  Engaging with the Nature Park



## 2. Existing practice and achievements

### Culture & Communication

- ☞ Eco-Committee: a pupil-led committee, established over a decade ago, of two pupils per year group in Years 3-8 (and Year 2 from January), elected by their peers, driving initiatives. The Committee meets formally twice a term, with meetings chaired by the Sustainability Lead. Minutes are published on the Eco-Committee noticeboard. Year 8 pupils demonstrate leadership skills, e.g. by running the Eco-Shop.
- ☞ New College School is an Eco-Schools Green Flag winner and was awarded the Green Flag with Distinction in 2024 and 2025. Pupils take the lead on the Green Flag survey and choose areas for future development as part of the annual action plan.
- ☞ Eco-nomist Magazine: an annual environmental publication with contributions accepted from all pupils in the school, from Reception to Year 8, circulated to pupils, staff and families with the Headmaster's Newsletter.
- ☞ Eco Code: the code has six core aims (recycle and reuse paper; turn off lights in empty rooms; put litter in bins, compost fruit and vegetable leftovers, reduce our use of single-use plastics, encourage wildlife and biodiversity). It is displayed on the Eco-Committee noticeboard, in each classroom, the staffroom, and circulated with the Eco-nomist.
- ☞ Sustainability Club: a weekly lunchtime enrichment activity for pupils in Year 5 (Michaelmas term), Year 7 (Hilary term) and Year 8 (Trinity term), established in 2023. Taking inspiration from the seventeen United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the club works on a range of activities, which has included growing food, making bird-houses and terraria, taking surveys, improving awareness of recycling, and participating in events such as the Big Schools' Birdwatch. From 2026, Year 8 will work collaboratively on an 'NCS-shot' competition to design an innovative solution to a global sustainability-related problem.
- ☞ A number of guest speakers have spoken to pupils in Sustainability Club over the last two years, including the Oxford City Council Cabinet Member for Climate Justice, Oxfordshire County Council's Sustainable Travel Policy Officer, and representatives from Thomas Franks, the Oxford Low Carbon Hub, WESET Wind and Solar Farm and the Oxford University Climate Society.
- ☞ Participation in national termly campaigns: Switch Off Fortnight, Food Waste Action Week, Walk-to-School Week, World Environment Day, World Oceans Day, Plastic-Free July.
- ☞ Collaborating with the Charity Committee to support an environmental charity each Trinity Term, through activities which raise awareness of the cause.
- ☞ Assemblies: environmental-themed assemblies linked to Wellbeing themes, e.g. 'I show concern for the wider world but I do not worry unhealthily'.
- ☞ Sustainability Lead participates in PSB Sustainability meetings.

### Waste & Recycling

- ☞ Mixed recycling bins in each classroom, the playground, staffroom, and offices.
- ☞ Food waste bins (playground and inside) and collection of fruit waste at lunchtime enrichment.

- ☞ Food Waste is monitored daily by Thomas Franks in the kitchen; pupils are reminded to limit food waste through activities during Food Waste Action Week.
- ☞ Portable recycling bins introduced at the pavilion in 2024, with collection led by the Eco-Committee.
- ☞ Additional bins for soft plastics (playground), batteries (inside), pens (inside), broken metal/plastic items such as stationery (inside).
- ☞ Promotion of reusable bottles and provision of two water fountains.
- ☞ Pupils in Year 5 Sustainability Club learn about recycling responsibly and demonstrate creativity by reusing items, e.g. making Christmas wreaths from crisp packets.
- ☞ Single-use plastics are discouraged as part of the NCS Eco Code; awareness is raised during Plastic-Free July.
- ☞ Refillable fountain pens available from the Eco-Shop as part of our commitment to reducing single-use plastics (cartridges).

#### Energy Efficiency

- ☞ New school buildings were part of the New College Gradel Quadrangle project, which was awarded ICE Carbon Champion status.
- ☞ Over 50% of lighting upgraded to LEDs; automatic lighting throughout the 2023 building.
- ☞ Installation of thermostats, insulation, and hand dryers.
- ☞ Hot water pipe insulation installed to reduce energy loss.
- ☞ Draft strips added to doors; new doors meet high energy-saving standards; main door to 2023 building closes automatically.
- ☞ New double-glazed windows and secondary glazing installed in several classrooms over the last decade.

#### Transport

- ☞ Two dedicated school bus routes are now offered and walking/cycling is promoted; ample and safe cycle-parking facilities are available for pupils and staff; safe-cycling training is offered to pupils; staff showers and changing areas are available for staff who cycle/walk/jog to work.
- ☞ Sustainable transport is promoted during Walk to School Week.
- ☞ New College offers some electric car charging points in its parking areas for staff.
- ☞ Staff have access to the University's cycle-to-work scheme.
- ☞ Regularly updated School Travel Plan.
- ☞ Sustainability Club workshop on sustainable travel with Oxfordshire County Council.

#### Procurement

- ☞ Local and eco-friendly purchasing is encouraged for food and cleaning products.
- ☞ School exercise books are Eco Label certified, made from sustainable forests.
- ☞ The NCS Eco-shop offers sustainable stationery and gifts for pupils to purchase.
- ☞ Sustainability Club workshop on ethical products with Thomas Franks.

## Premises

- ☞ Ensuring that the NCS grounds are maintained to a high standard and are as litter free as possible. Our Eco-committee carries out litter picks of the playground and grounds.
- ☞ Monitoring gas, water and electricity and seek to reduce usage. For example, the Eco-Committee monitor readings during Switch-off Fortnight.
- ☞ Promoting biodiversity through the introduction of a bug hotel, a hedgehog tunnel, bird and bat houses on the 2012 building, repaired bird feeders and increasing the variety of plants in the school grounds, including in the school pond, and throughout the buildings.
- ☞ New toilets in the 2023 building have efficient flush.
- ☞ Pupils no longer shower at NCS after sport, which saves water.
- ☞ Eco-Committee pupils use rainwater collected in the water butt to water the plants.

## 3. Climate Action Focus Areas for 2025-2030

The government guidance sets out the following areas of focus for the Climate Action Plan:

- ☞ **decarbonisation**, for example calculating and taking actions to reduce carbon emissions, such as becoming more energy efficient
- ☞ **adaptation and resilience**, such as taking actions to reduce the risk of flooding and overheating
- ☞ **improving the environment and biodiversity**, for example engaging with the [National Education Nature Park](#)
- ☞ **climate education and green careers**, such as ensuring the education you provide gives knowledge-rich and comprehensive teaching about climate change, and that your teaching staff and lecturers feel supported to offer this.

The Eco-Committee annual action plan, which contributes towards our Green Flag status, will contribute towards these longer-term aims.

### A. Decarbonisation

- ☞ Energy audit: in the school year 2025-26, we will participate in the Eco-Schools 'Count Your Carbon' initiative. We will use the data collected to inform ongoing energy-saving measures, which includes:
  - Continued promotion of the 'switch-off' message, as part of the NCS Eco Code.
  - Continue LED lighting upgrades.
  - Investigation of feasibility of energy-saving measures in the older school buildings, e.g. smart meters, thermostats, solar panels.
- ☞ Travel: we will continue to promote walking, cycling, public transport, and carpooling through newsletters, the Eco-nomist and participation in Walk-to-School Week, and we will continue to remind families and visitors of the school's no-idling policy.

## B. Adaptation & Resilience

- ☞ Flood risk assessment: review site vulnerability and drainage.
- ☞ Heat management: continue developing planting in and around the playground to increase shade.
- ☞ Emergency planning: integrate climate risks into school risk assessments where appropriate, e.g. planning for extreme heat, lesson relocations, and risks to pupils with medical conditions.

## C. Environment & Biodiversity

- ☞ Greening the grounds: work on opportunities for growing food in the playground, e.g. through the construction of new planters and use of the new grow-house.
- ☞ Map and monitor biodiversity with pupils.
- ☞ Look for opportunities to reduce single-use plastics, e.g. in snacks, discouraging laminating.




## D. Climate Education & Green Careers




- ☞ Pupils in Pre-Prep will work towards the Eco Schools Leaf Award in 2025-26.
- ☞ Engage in programmes offered by the [National Education Nature Park](#), as recommended by the DfE.
- ☞ Continue developing cross-curricular environmental links, especially through SHTEAM Week and links between Sustainability Club and Geography.
- ☞ Develop the programme of inviting guest speakers from green industries and sustainability-related work in the University.
- ☞ Link sustainability to future career paths in assemblies and Wellbeing.




## 4. Monitoring and Reporting




- ☞ Annual review: publish progress each year on the school website.
- ☞ Add Sustainability as an agenda item at INSET meetings to promote school-wide participation and information-sharing.
- ☞ Carbon footprint tracking: use tools recommended by the DfE or Eco Schools to establish a carbon baseline. Ensure collaboration between Sustainability Lead, Eco-Committee and Maintenance Department. Put in place a method of data collection over a set period of time that can be repeated in future years to aid monitoring of progress and give accurate results.
- ☞ Pupil-led audits: empower students to assess and report on sustainability efforts.
- ☞ Engage with New College's wider sustainability governance and initiatives.
- ☞ Succession planning: establish a framework modelled on NCS curriculum planning to establish a routine and highlight opportunities for development or cross-curricular links for Eco-Committee and Sustainability Club activities, and ensure consistency and continued achievement of the aims of the action plan following any change of Sustainability Lead.

# Eco Committee Annual Action Plan for 2025-26:

<p><b>Eco-Schools Topic</b></p> <p>Marine </p> <p><b>Aim</b></p> <p>Reduce our use of single-use plastics with the goal of protecting marine life</p>	<p><b>Action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will carry out a single-use plastics audit of classrooms, catering and cleaning.</li> <li>We will work with the kitchen and maintenance teams to promote a reduction in single-use plastics where possible.</li> <li>We will discourage use of glitter and laminating within the school community and promote the use of card for notices.</li> <li>We will set a target to reduce the use of soft-plastics in break-time snacks/tuck shop sales.</li> <li>We will renew reminders near sinks to switch off taps that aren't automatic.</li> <li>We will continue to promote NCS water bottles in the eco-shop and fountain pens to reduce plastic bottle and cartridge waste.</li> <li>We will continue to promote responsible use of Lego and table-tennis balls in the playground, to avoid plastic litter.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Duration</b></p> <p>Academic year</p> <p><b>Informing &amp; Involving Plans</b></p> <p>We will use assemblies, posters, newsletters and the Eco-Nomist magazine to raise awareness. Eco-Committee and Sustainability Club will take the lead.</p>	<p><b>Monitoring Method</b></p> <p>Two Eco-Committee reps will take on the role of Marine Monitors to promote our aims. Eco-Committee will discuss progress at meetings. Sustainability Club will analyse survey results.</p> <p><b>Final Evaluation</b></p> <p>Eco-Committee will evaluate our success in Trinity term by discussing each of the aims and proposing any improvements for the next academic year. We hope to improve our score on the Eco-Schools Marine topic.</p>
<p><b>Eco-Schools Topic</b></p> <p>Energy </p> <p><b>Aim</b></p> <p>Promote greater awareness of energy usage with the goal of reducing wasteful energy usage</p>	<p><b>Action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will continue to participate in Switch Off Fortnight and think of ways to increase participation and awareness.</li> <li>We will participate in Count Your Carbon to work out the School's carbon footprint and think of ways to reduce it.</li> <li>We will renew switch off reminders around the school.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Duration</b></p> <p>Academic year</p> <p><b>Informing &amp; Involving Plans</b></p> <p>We will use assemblies, posters, newsletters and the Eco-Nomist magazine to raise awareness. Eco-Committee and Sustainability Club will take the lead.</p>	<p><b>Monitoring Method</b></p> <p>Two Eco-Committee reps will take on the role of Energy Monitors to promote our aims. We will use the Eco-Schools online facilities to analyse data collected.</p> <p><b>Final Evaluation</b></p> <p>Eco-Committee will evaluate our success in Trinity term by discussing each of the aims and proposing any improvements for the next academic year. We hope to improve our score on the Eco-Schools Energy topic.</p>
<p><b>Eco-Schools Topic</b></p> <p>School Grounds </p> <p><b>Aim</b></p> <p>Develop initiatives begun last year to grow and consume fruit and vegetables on site</p>	<p><b>Action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will continue working on a food-growing area in the school grounds and make use of the new grow house.</li> <li>We will work with the kitchen to see what would be practical for us to grow.</li> <li>We will maintain and harvest the plants ourselves.</li> <li>We will discuss other ways to develop the school grounds in Eco-Committee meetings.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Duration</b></p> <p>Academic year</p> <p><b>Informing &amp; Involving Plans</b></p> <p>We will use assemblies, posters, newsletters and the Eco-Nomist magazine to raise awareness. Eco-Committee and Sustainability Club will take the lead.</p>	<p><b>Monitoring Method</b></p> <p>Two Eco-Committee reps will take on the role of School Grounds Monitors, taking responsibility for the plants.</p> <p><b>Final Evaluation</b></p> <p>Eco-Committee will evaluate our success in Trinity term by discussing each of the aims and proposing any improvements for the next academic year. We hope to improve our score on the Eco-Schools School Grounds topic.</p>

[www.eco-schools.org.uk](http://www.eco-schools.org.uk)




## Eco Code:



NEW COLLEGE SCHOOL, OXFORD  
PRE-PREP & PREPARATORY SCHOOL



<p><b>RECYCLE &amp; REUSE PAPER</b></p> 	<p><b>TURN OFF LIGHTS IN EMPTY ROOMS</b></p> 	<p><b>PUT LITTER IN BINS</b></p> 
<p><b>COMPOST FRUIT &amp; VEGETABLE LEFTOVERS</b></p> 	<p><b>REDUCE OUR USE OF SINGLE USE PLASTICS</b></p> 	<p><b>ENCOURAGE WILDLIFE &amp; BIODIVERSITY</b></p> 