



Climate Friendly Action Plan

for

Vigo Primary School

Our school is concerned about climate change and wishes to be part of the climate solution. We realise that we need to constantly look for new ways of improving our climate performance, in order to minimise the amount of greenhouse gases that our school releases into the atmosphere. To help us to take positive climate action we have formed a Climate Action Team who have worked with the whole school community to write the following Climate Friendly Action Plan.

Climate Friendly Audit Results

Our Climate Friendly Schools Audit was carried out by:

Rachel Dance

On: Tuesday 5th November 2024

We have used our audit results to:

- Establish how climate friendly our school is currently.
- Identify at least **10 new actions** that we can take to become more climate friendly in the next year.
- Plan for future climate action.

We will use this document to track and record our progress and as evidence when applying for Climate Friendly School status.





Buildings



ACTION 1:

Description	Who	Associated Costs	When
Place lots of plants inside your school buildings - start by putting a plant in each classroom. Get the children involved in choosing and caring for their plant. Then look to increase the number of plants as space allows. Plants absorb the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide, so the more we have the better. Having plants in the classroom will encourage children to learn about plants and appreciate their importance. They also make the indoor environment more pleasant and increases the oxygen in the atmosphere. Studies show that indoor plants help to reduce stress, increase productivity and creativity.	Forest School Lead, Site Manager and HT	Associated costs of purchasing plants	
Share what you are trying to achieve with your building with your whole community. Informing your community about the climate friendly changes you are making to the school buildings will show that you are committed to playing a part in combatting climate change, help them learn about the risks of climate change, and what they can do in their own homes to help.	Forest School Lead and HT	N/A	

We hope to achieve all of the actions that we have highlighted within this year's Climate Friendly Action Plan but we are constantly looking for our next big climate challenge. In the future we aspire to take the following actions:



Theme & Action Area <small>VIGO PRIMARY SCHOOL</small>	Description	Timescale	Person to Action	Actions	Results
Install energy efficient built in / wall mounted appliances (e.g. low energy use hand dryers) .	Reduce the amount of electricity used and therefore reduce energy bills and greenhouse gas emissions.	2024-25 2025-26	HT and Climate Action Team		
Look into options for sustainable materials on new builds, not only the type of material, but how and where it has been produced.	Using materials that have been sustainably produced means that they are likely to have had less of an impact on the climate.	2024-25 2025-26	HT and Climate Action Team		
When buying cleaning products choose those that are plant based.	This reduces the amount of toxic chemicals that are produced. The chemical industry is a major greenhouse gas contributor.	2024-25 2025-26	HT and Climate Action Team		
Hold and / or host regular climate friendly events like 'bring, share and swap' days in your school hall.	Events like these will educate your community about the need for climate action and may bring new families to your school.	2024-25 2025-26	HT and Climate Action Team		
Have roofs checked by a specialist to ascertain the current level of insulation and if additional insulation is required.	This reduces the amount of heat escaping through the roof of the building, thereby reducing energy usage and bills and the associated greenhouse gas emissions.	2024-25 2025-26	HT and Climate Action Team		
Ask your local university / local businesses to come and talk to your students about how buildings are currently heated and insulated and how the industry is evolving.	young people will then understand the different career options that will be available to them in the future and it will ensure that there are sufficient employees in these industries to	2024-25 2025-26	HT and Climate Action Team		



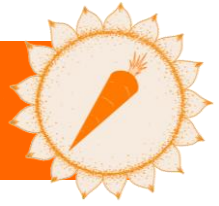
satisfy demand, as we transition to a more sustainable way of living.



CLIMATE FRIENDLY SCHOOLS



Food



ACTION 1:

Description	Who	Associated Costs	When
Identify areas where you can grow vegetables within your school grounds.	Forest School Lead	Cost of preparing school grounds	
Grow some fruit bushes in green areas of your school, or even in large pots.	Forest School Lead	Cost of plants	
Purchase a compost bin and / or wormery and start to compost all of your garden and food waste.	Forest School Lead	Cost of compost bin	
Avoid food products that have been transported over long distances where you can.	HT and Climate Action Team	N/A	
Palm oil is contained within a lot of foods, including snacks like biscuits that are often bought for the school staff room. Try to find alternatives to ingredients that contain palm oil.	HT and Climate Action Team	N/A	

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VIGO PRIMARY SCHOOL

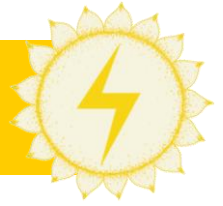


CLIMATE FRIENDLY SCHOOLS

Theme & Action Area	Description	Timescale	Person to Action	Actions	Results
Incorporate learning about food waste into the curriculum	Linking with healthy eating topics, or environmental topics.	2024-25 2025-26	HT and Climate Action Team		
Incorporate learning about food miles into the curriculum	Linking with healthy eating topics, or environmental topics.	2024-25 2025-26	HT and Climate Action Team		
Incorporate teaching about the benefits of growing your own into the curriculum, combining it with healthy eating and healthy food choices.	Use growing areas within the school grounds to teach this.	2024-25 2025-26	HT and Climate Action Team		
Research or invite experts into your school.	Teach pupils about the facts around food and what our sustainable food choices will probably look like in the future.	2024-25 2025-26	HT and Climate Action Team		



Energy



ACTION 1:

Description	Who	Associated Costs	When
Use ECO-modes and ECO-options if available on electrical items such as dishwashers and washing machines. Using ECO modes or options will use less energy and reduce energy costs.	HT and Climate Action Team	Costings at point of procurement	
Put reminder signs on all electrical switches (especially light switches) to remind users to switch off when not in use.	HT and Climate Action Team	Cost of signage	
Create an information programme so that staff know how to heat and cool their rooms most efficiently, e.g. close windows to keep warmth in on cold days, open windows to reduce the need for fans or air conditioning in warm weather, check windows are not blocked so solar radiation can enter the classroom.	HT and Climate Action Team	N/A	
Incorporate lessons on climate change, types of energy sources and energy saving into the curriculum. Include learning about renewable and future energy sources in your curriculum.	Curriculum Leads in history and science Forest School Lead	N/A	
Plan ways in which you can share information on reducing energy usage with your wider community. Get your pupils involved and find creative ways to share, such as posters or artwork, performances or concerts.	HT and Climate Action Team	N/A	



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Theme & Action Area	Description	Timescale	Person to Action	Actions	Results
Install a wind turbine to generate electricity, choosing the most suitable for our school.	Generating renewable electricity on site will reduce your reliance on electricity produced by burning fossil fuels and potentially save the school money on electricity costs in the long term.	As and when required	Site manager and HT		
Ensure any new boilers installed are energy efficient boilers use much less energy than old boilers but it costs a lot of money and greenhouse gas emissions to make a new boiler.	Consider whether replacing your boiler would be worthwhile, and / or plan at what point in the future you will replace the boiler with the most energy efficient available.	As and when required	Site manager and HT		
When a light bulb breaks, replace it with a new, energy efficient LED one, until all of your light bulbs are LED ones.	Work with HCC supplier to replace all light to LED. LED light bulbs reduce the amount of electricity used for lighting the school and will reduce energy bills.	As and when required	Site manager and HT		



Grounds



ACTION 1:

Description	Who	Associated Costs	When
Grow more plants!	Forest School Lead	Plant costing	
Teach the children that there are many different types of soils and that, as a living thing, a soil can be unhealthy.	Forest School Lead	N/A	

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Theme & Action Area	Description	Timescale	Person to Action	Actions	Results
Look at sustainable drainage options for your grounds, especially if they regularly experience flooding, or you are in an area of high flood risk. Sustainable Urban Drainage Schemes (SUDS) include things like ponds, ditches and hollows to collect rainwater.	Natural landscape features are important to prevent flooding. They have an added bonus of providing water and habitats for wildlife that may be at risk because of climate change.	As and when required	Site manager and HT		
Install an electric car charging point in your staff car park (or even more than one!).	Providing electric car charging points for your staff shows both a commitment to the environment and to your staff. It will also future proof your grounds, as combustion engine vehicles are slowly being phased out and will no longer be available to buy as new in 2030 in the UK.	As and when required	Site manager and HT		



Water

ACTION 1:

Description	Who	Associated Costs	When
Install water butts for collecting rainwater.	Forest school lead	Cost of water butts	
Implement a water saving strategy and inform your staff, students and community.	Rachel Dance	N/A	
Include water saving advice and information in school newsletters or organise an event to highlight your water saving strategies and why you are doing them.	Rachel Dance	N/A	

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Theme 8
VIGO PRIMARY SCHOOL

Action Area

Action Area	Description	Timescale	Person to Action	Actions	Results
<p>When it is time to consider installing new toilets, chose ones with a multi-flush, so that only enough water is used every time.</p>	<p>Every time a toilet is flushed a vast amount of water is used. Saving water will reduce your climate footprint and save you money.</p>	<p>As and when required</p>	<p>Site manager and HT</p>		
<p>Develop the use of the water meter to encourage everyone to use less and so that you only pay for what you use.</p>	<p>Water meters allow water usage to be examined to see where additional water is being used unnecessarily or if there are any unidentified leaks on the site. If you have a water meter then the additional advantage of saving water is that you will reduce costs.</p>	<p>As and when required</p>	<p>Site manager and HT</p>		



Transport



ACTION 1:

Description	Who	Associated Costs	When
Work with the local council to make pathways near school safer and more pleasant for pedestrians. Work with the local council to provide cycle paths in the local area around school so that children can cycle to school safely.	Rachel Dance with Travel Planner from HCC		
Provide school crossing patrol staff at all nearby roads that children are likely to need to cross on the way to and from school.	Rachel Dance with Travel Planner from HCC		
Work with the local council to provide cycle paths in the local area around school so that children can cycle to school safely.	Rachel Dance with Travel Planner from HCC		
Complete a survey of how staff and students currently travel to school and the distance they travel (to assess if walking or cycling is a possibility).	Rachel Dance with Travel Planner from HCC		

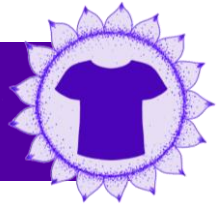
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Consider the climate impact of all school trips.	Can the same learning experience be had more locally?	2024-25 2025-26	HT LA		
Find a way to improve walking or cycling routes in your community.	Improved walking and cycling routes will benefit your staff and students as well as the local community; and will demonstrate your commitment to reducing climate change.	2024-25 2025-26	HT LA		
Create a 'no idling' policy around the school gates and remind people that it is an offence to leave their engine running idle.	Burning petrol and diesel not only releases greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, it also releases other harmful gases and particulates which cause local pollution and may lead to breathing problems in young children. Reducing idling around your school is beneficial to both children and the planet!	2024-25 2025-26	HT LA		



Consumption



ACTION 1:

Description	Who	Associated Costs	When
Reduce purchasing of single use items to an absolute minimum.	HT and Climate Action Team	N/A	
Encourage everyone in your school to recycle plastic, metal and glass products.	HT and Climate Action Team	N/A	
Develop a school waste policy that incorporates the six principles of sustainability: rethink, refuse, reduce, reuse, repair and recycle.	HT and Climate Action Team	N/A	
Encourage everyone to actively recycle paper rather than throw it into the general waste. Provide sufficient recycling facilities throughout the school: 1) Ensure every room has recycle bins; 2) Undertake an education campaign around recycling and / or clear signage to ensure bins are used correctly; 3) Track recycling to see if amounts are as expected.	HT and Climate Action Team	N/A	

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Theme & Action Area	Description	Timescale	Person to Action	Actions	Results
<p>Produce and keep updated a list of sustainable producers and retailers:</p>	<p>1) Identify items that are bought regularly and/or are currently non-sustainable. 2) Identify items that could be bought second hand and identify suitable places to purchase from; 3) Identify producers/sellers to try and when done so, decide if the quality of the item(s) is suitable and costs are not prohibitive. If so, add the supplier to the list. This can be actioned over a longer time period as items are required. Having a policy in place for sustainable procurement will show your commitment to lowering your consumption and making a positive impact on the climate.</p>	<p>2024-25 2025-26</p>	<p><i>HT and Eco team</i></p>		
<p>Support our families to help them to reduce the amount of items they need to purchase, especially for school related items.</p>	<p>1) Set up a uniform swap shop 2) Organise a toy, game and book swap 3) Organise a pre-loved sports kit sale 4) Simplify school uniform to reduce amount purchased, and as an added bonus choose iron-free materials to reduce electricity use. As well as helping families purchase less items for environmental reasons, this is very helpful for families in reducing costs for uniform, especially low-income families. Sale events could also be used to raise funds for the school. Think about discouraging practices that lead to waste e.g. the purchasing of 'plastic tat', teacher gifts that will not be used / consumed.</p>	<p>2024-25 2025-26</p>	<p><i>HT and Eco team</i></p>		



The above Climate Action Plan has been formulated by the Climate Action Team and agreed by:

Head Teacher: Rachel Dance

Date: November 2024

Chair of Governors: Marty Johnson

Date: November 2024



We recognise that, in order to be truly climate friendly and limit our collective impact upon the planet, we will need to constantly strive to improve our performance and check that we are maintaining momentum. We consequently commit to completing an annual review to establish our progress and set new targets.

The Climate Action Team will review our Climate Action Plan and achievements annually.

Date: November 2025

When completing our annual review, we will complete the Climate Friendly School's online Audit again (just in case the Climate Team have placed some new ideas and inspiration online) and use this information, and our current plan, to inform our new Climate Action Plan and to decide our next 10 steps to action.

