

School Council Sustainability Resource Pack

An Overview for School Staff



Empowering pupil voice for a sustainable future

Welcome to the School Council Sustainability Resource Pack!

Inspiring young minds to learn about sustainability and build better habits is one of the most meaningful steps we can take as educators. This resource pack has been carefully designed to support schools in embedding sustainability into everyday school life by empowering pupils to lead the charge.

Why pupil voice matters

Pupils are the heart of any school community, and their ideas, energy, and enthusiasm can drive meaningful change. Giving children a platform to shape sustainability initiatives not only nurtures their sense of responsibility but also fosters leadership skills, teamwork, and creativity.

Moreover, pupil-led projects help to build a culture of environmental awareness and action that extends beyond the school gates, into families and local communities.

As stated in the government guidance, [**Sustainability leadership and climate action plans in education**](#):

Involving children, young people and learners is important in climate action planning.

Doing so can:

- *inspire their enthusiasm to help drive positive change*
- *increase their practical knowledge of sustainability and climate change*
- *give young people a sense of agency where anxiety stems from climate concerns*
- *create a sense of pride in their education setting*
- *enable them to share their knowledge and enthusiasm in their local communities*
- *enable them to engage their parents, carers, and wider community in sustainability and climate change*

Supporting national strategy

This pack aligns with the Department for Education's [**Sustainability and Climate Change: A Strategy for the Education and Children's Services Systems**](#), which sets out a vision for the UK education sector to be a world leader in climate action by 2030.

Central to this vision is the role of schools in equipping young people with the knowledge, skills, and motivation to lead sustainable change. By amplifying pupil voice, schools can directly contribute to these national ambitions while enhancing their own sustainability journey.

What's inside the pack?

Eco-Audit Checklist: A practical tool for Eco Council pupils to assess current sustainability practices in school and identify areas for improvement.

Eco Action Plan: A step-by-step template to help your school's Eco Council set clear, achievable sustainability goals and track progress over time.

Eco-Action Ideas: This is a pupil-led initiatives guide that provides inspiring ideas for sustainability projects that pupils can lead, from creating wildlife habitats to reducing energy use.

Sustainability in Our School Assembly: A ready-to-use assembly presentation and supporting script for your school's Eco Council to present to other pupils, to help launch your school's sustainability journey, sparking enthusiasm and engagement.

Sustainability in Our School Display Pack: Eye-catching posters to raise awareness and promote positive everyday behaviours throughout the school.

Getting started

This pack is designed to be flexible, allowing your Eco Council to tailor activities to suit your unique school environment. Whether you're just starting out or looking to build on existing initiatives, these resources provide everything you need to make a real difference — and to ensure pupils are at the forefront of contributing to your school's sustainability goals.

We advise getting pupils started with the **Eco-Audit Checklist**. This will help pupils get a good understanding of what sustainable and environmentally responsible practices the school already has in place. The **Eco-Action Ideas** resource can then help pupils with ideas for initiatives they'd like to introduce in school. They can then start to plan their next steps and use the **Eco Action Plan** to outline actions and goals.

The **Sustainability in Our School Assembly** can be delivered by the Eco Council to the rest of the school at any time, but we'd recommend using it once the Eco Council have information to share and news to report, such as findings from the eco audit and actions they plan to take. With support, members of the Eco Council can edit and adapt the assembly presentation to include specific information, news and projects they wish to share with the school.

Let's work together to make sustainability a shared responsibility and a source of pride for your school community. The future starts here, with your pupils leading the way!