



St Thomas More Catholic Primary School, Saffron Walden

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

No. STM-027

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Climate Action Plan

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School, Saffron Walden,
Essex



2025–2030

1. Our Mission

As a Catholic school, we are called to be stewards of God's creation. Guided by **Laudato Si'**, the teachings of Pope Francis on caring for our common home, and in alignment with local and national sustainability goals, we commit to taking meaningful climate action as a school community.

2. Objectives (2025–2030)

1. **Reduce school carbon emissions by 50% by 2030 (government target).**
2. **Educate and inspire all pupils to become climate-conscious citizens.**
3. **Embed sustainability into school operations, curriculum, and community life.**
4. **Develop partnerships to support environmental justice and community sustainability.**

3. Key Areas of Action

a) Curriculum & Catholic Ethos

- Embed **creation care** and **climate change education** across the curriculum, especially in science, geography, and RE.
- Use the teachings of **Laudato Si'** to discuss moral responsibility toward the environment.
- Run **eco-themed assemblies** each term to reflect on scripture and environmental stewardship.
- Celebrate the **season of creation (Sept–Oct)** with themed activities, prayer, and actions, especially in light of RED Branch 1 and on a wider-school basis (autumn, harvest, thanksgiving).
- Develop the **Prayer Garden** as a place of worship and celebration of God's creation.

b) Energy Use & Buildings

- Conduct an annual **energy audit** of the school.
- Work with the Diocese to explore further innovative ways to save energy e.g. **solar panel installation** on school buildings.
- Install **LED lighting, automatic light sensors**, and improve **insulation**, alongside building improvements.
- Promote "Switch Off Fortnight" (in November) to reduce unnecessary energy usage.
- Monitor and reduce **heating use**; set thermostats to eco-friendly levels.

c) Waste & Recycling

- Continue to promote a **reduced-waste lunch** campaign to reduce single-use plastics.
- Ensure proper **recycling stations** are available in the hall and playground especially to support the recycling of single-use plastics.
- Continue the **composting project** for food waste and garden materials.
- Continue to ban an disposable cutlery and packaging in the canteen.
- Introduce "Waste-Free Wednesdays" to promote mindful consumption.

d) Outdoor Learning & Biodiversity

- Continue to enhance a **school garden or allotment** for hands-on eco-learning.
- Continue regular **outdoor lessons** to connect with nature.
- Continue to plant **native trees and wildflowers** to support biodiversity.
- Maintain the **Eco-Schools programme, Green Flag status and Platinum Woodland Trust Award.**
- Involve pupils in monitoring local wildlife with organisations like Essex Wildlife Trust.

e) Travel & Transport

- Promote **Walk to School Week** (May).
- Work with parents and council to reduce idling cars at pickup times.
- Continue to offer secure **bike and scooter storage.**
- Continue to encourage staff carpooling.

f) Food & Water

- Work with school kitchen to include **more plant-based meals.**
- Use **Fairtrade and local produce** wherever possible.
- Reduce food waste through monitoring and redistribution where feasible.
- Install **water-saving devices** in toilets and taps.

g) Community Engagement & Partnerships

- Involve the **parish, parents,** and local community in green initiatives.
- Hold stalls, workshops, and prayer with a focus on climate change/stewardship.
- Collaborate with **Diocese of Brentwood** and local **eco-church groups.**
- Support global campaigns like **CAFOD's "LiveSimply Award," "Water Aid" and "Twinning Toilets."**

h) Pupil Involvement

- Continue to develop the role of the **Eco-Team** with pupil representatives from Year 3-5.
- Continue to elect **Eco-Ambassadors** to lead projects and speak in assemblies.
- Encourage participation in the **Young Climate Warriors** programme.
- Use **Eco-Team meetings** to monitor environmental initiatives.

4. Monitoring & Evaluation

- **Climate Action Lead ('Sustainability Lead')** among staff.
- Use a **RAG system** to monitor progress termly.
- Report annually to governors on progress.
- Conduct a full plan review every 2 years with pupil and staff input.

5. Catholic Social Teaching Links

- **Stewardship:** Care for God's creation as a sacred duty.
- **Solidarity:** Stand with vulnerable communities already affected by climate change.
- **Option for the Poor:** Make choices that protect the planet and support climate justice.

6. Timeline Overview

Year Key Milestones

2025 Launch plan, Eco-Team promoted, initial audits, curriculum updates, prayer garden developed

2027 Laudato Si' Week celebration, Food sustainability improvements

2028 Inter-school partnerships

2029 Report on emissions reduction, consider solar panel and heat pump feasibility

2030 Final review, goal evaluation, climate action, Mass of Thanksgiving

7. Final Commitment

We commit to prayer, action, and reflection as we work together to protect our common home — inspired by faith, guided by science, and driven by hope.

2025-2026

Key area	End of Advent Term	End of Lent Term	End of Pentecost Term
A			
B			
C			
D			
E			
F			
G			
H			