

## North Yorkshire Rural School Federation Climate Action Plan 25-26

### Decarbonisation

**Our Vision** (how can you reduce emissions and support students to be part of the transition to net zero?):

Our four rural schools will reduce emissions and guide students to become active participants in the transition to net zero. We will do this by making our schools models of low-carbon living—cutting energy use, embracing renewable solutions, reducing waste, and encouraging sustainable travel. At the same time, we will give students the skills, knowledge, and opportunities to lead this transition, through eco-projects, climate education, and community partnerships.

Together, we will nurture environmentally responsible young people who understand both the urgency of reaching net zero and their power to shape a fairer, more sustainable future.

Action	Link to Improvement Plan	Responsibility and Key Stakeholders	Timescale	Information and/or resources required	Target/ Measure	Progress (Update at regular review points)
Explore and implement energy-saving lighting (switch to LED).		School leadership, maintenance staff, PTA	Year 1 – S & T Year 2 F Year 3 – L	Local authority grants Eco-Schools guides	New lighting installed	
Student-led 'Switch Off' campaigns for lights, devices, heating.		Students, teachers	Year 1	Eco-Schools UK, SEAI resources	Electrical equipment turned off at the end of each day Energy bill reduces	
Promote low-carbon transport: walking buses, cycle-to-school days.		Parents, students, Student council	Year 1 and ongoing	Sustrans Modeshift STARS	Share days/awareness in bulletin	

### Adaptation and Resilience

**Our Vision** (how can you adapt your buildings and systems to prepare for the effects of climate change?):

Our four rural schools will adapt our buildings and systems to be safe, resilient, and sustainable in the face of climate change. We will strengthen our schools against risks like heat, storms, and flooding by improving insulation, ventilation, and drainage, while also using energy and water more efficiently. These changes will not only protect our pupils and staff but also create healthier, more comfortable learning environments.

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By involving students in planning and monitoring these adaptations, we will teach them the value of resilience and innovation, ensuring they grow up ready to live and lead in a changing climate. Together, our schools will stand as practical examples of how small communities can prepare for the future while caring for the present.

Action	Link to Improvement Plan	Responsibility and Key Stakeholders	Timescale	Information and/or resources required	Target/ Measure	Progress (Update at regular review points)
To work with an organisation to explore improve building resilience.		SLT and Eco pupil committee	On going Review September 26	Let's go Zero <a href="https://padlet.com/climateambassadors_yh/north-yorkshire-climate-action-planning-uweyju0yayiyhpth">https://padlet.com/climateambassadors_yh/north-yorkshire-climate-action-planning-uweyju0yayiyhpth</a>	Explore and inform next years Action plan	

### Biodiversity

**Our Vision** (*how can you enhance biodiversity, improve air quality and increase access to, and connection with, nature?*):

Our four rural schools will enhance biodiversity, improve air quality, and deepen students' connection with nature by making our school grounds living classrooms. We will create spaces where trees, hedgerows, wildflowers, and wildlife can thrive, while reducing pollution through greener practices. By involving pupils in hands-on projects—planting, habitat creation, outdoor learning, and community conservation—we will foster curiosity, responsibility, and respect for the natural world.

Together, we will grow healthier environments where children not only learn about nature but also become caretakers of it, ensuring cleaner air, richer biodiversity, and a lasting bond between our students, their communities, and the landscapes that sustain them.

Action	Link to Improvement Plan	Responsibility and Key Stakeholders	Timescale	Information and/or resources required	Target/ Measure	Progress (Update at regular review points)
School garden/food forest: growing fruit & veg, composting food waste.		Teachers, pupils, School garden	Ongoing	Permaculture Association, RHS Campaign for School Gardening	Food grown (kg), compost diverted (kg)	

### Climate Education and Green Skills

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**Our Vision** (how can you prepare students for a world impacted by climate change through education & practice?):

Our four rural schools will prepare students to thrive in a world shaped by climate change by embedding sustainability into both learning and daily practice. Through education, we will empower pupils with the knowledge, critical thinking, and creativity to understand global climate challenges and develop local solutions. Through practice, we will give them hands-on experiences—conservation, energy saving, recycling, and community action—that nurture resilience, stewardship, and care for the environment.

Action	Link to Improvement Plan	Responsibility and Key Stakeholders	Timescale	Information and/or resources required	Target/ Measure	Progress (Update at regular review points)
Integrate climate topics across the curriculum.	Developing curriculum in line with national curriculum changes.  26-27 priority	Teachers, curriculum coordinators	Ongoing	UNESCO Climate Education guidelines	Updated curriculum map	
Establish student eco-committees to lead projects i.e Create a Recycling Club for pupils (paper, plastics, compost).	Developing pupils global citizenship	Pupils, staff champions(TA) & local waste team	Year 1  Review: July 26	Eco-Schools programme  Local council recycling guides, WRAP resources	Pupil Voice  Recycling bins in classrooms	
Organise inter-school climate action days (tree planting, energy challenges).	Developing pupils cultural capital	All four schools, local council	Annually	Global Action Days,  Earth Day	Books  Pupil Voice  Diary Dates	

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