

Signhills Academy Climate Action Plan

At Signhills Academy, we are committed to protecting our planet for future generations. We are proud of the sustainability steps we have already taken and will continue to embed climate responsibility across our school, guided by the Department for Education's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy. This CAP is designed to support the academy to save money, reduce waste, improve biodiversity and reduce carbon emissions.

Our plan is structured around four key areas: Decarbonisation, Adaptation & Resilience, Biodiversity, and Climate Education & Green Careers.

1. Decarbonisation

Current Actions

140 solar panels installed (53.4 MWh generated in 2024).

Air Source Heat Pump and biomass boiler reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

Upgraded roof insulation, new windows, and LED lighting improve energy efficiency.

Recycling systems in place (paper recycling, compostable cups)
All pupils are issued with an academy reusable water bottle.

Next Steps

1. Introduce "Switch Off" campaigns (lights, screens, equipment) led by pupils to cut daily energy waste.
2. Move towards a paper-lite school office by increasing digital communication and online systems.
3. Increase parental use of the academy's Uniform Exchange to reduce waste.
4. Explore available funding streams (e.g., Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, Let's Go Zero) to support larger future projects.

2. Adaptation & Resilience

Current Actions

Energy-efficient building measures already reduce overheating risk.

Next Steps

1. Establish an extreme weather response plan (heatwaves, storms, floods) with clear routines for staff and pupils.
2. Install Heat Rejection Window Film to reduce classroom temperatures during the summer months.
3. Ensure all future building works consider climate resilience as standard.

3. Biodiversity

Current Actions

Recycling and composting initiatives support reduced waste.

Next Steps

1. Create a wildflower meadow strip on school grounds to attract pollinators.
2. Run an annual “Big Schools Birdwatch” and biodiversity count, linking with national citizen science projects and the academy’s science curriculum.
3. Join the National Education Nature Park and record biodiversity improvements.
4. Create wildlife habitats: bird boxes, insect hotels, planters, and wildflower patches.

4. Climate Education & Green Careers

Current Actions

Pupils already take part in eco-initiatives through recycling and energy awareness.

Next Steps

1. Build partnerships with local green employers (renewable energy firms, conservation projects) for trips and talks.
2. Develop the role of the school council to include eco campaigns.
3. Use school renewable systems (solar, heat pump) as real-world learning tools for pupils.

Implementation & Monitoring

A Sustainability Lead will be appointed to oversee this plan. Support, advice and guidance will be sought from our local Let's Go Zero Climate Action Advisor.

Progress will be reviewed annually and published on our website.

Pupils, staff, parents, and governors will be kept updated and invited to contribute.