

Bidston Avenue Primary School

Climate Action Plan (2025)



1. Our Commitment to Climate and Sustainability

At Bidston Avenue Primary School, we recognise the urgency of the climate crisis and our responsibility to act. We are committed to reducing our environmental impact, preparing our pupils for a changing world, and leading by example within The People's Learning Trust.

This Climate Action Plan sets out our approach to decarbonisation, sustainability, and adaptation. It is a live document and may be reviewed annually.

2. Sustainability Lead and Governance

- **Named Sustainability Lead:** Mrs Emma Birch (SLT member and Science Subject Leader)
- Emma leads both the Eco Council and sustainability initiatives across curriculum, operations and pupil engagement
- Progress is monitored through SLT and reported to governors and the Trust's Director for Estates
- Pupil leadership is embedded through our active Eco and School Councils

3. Baseline: Decarbonisation and Infrastructure Improvements

We commissioned a Salix-funded **Heat Decarbonisation Plan (HDP)** in February 2022 and have since implemented several key energy-saving measures:

Measure	Status	Notes
Fluorescent lighting replaced with LED	✅ Fully completed	Whole-school LED retrofit, including replacement of old Thorlux units
PIR motion sensors	✅ Fully completed	Installed in low-traffic areas to cut unnecessary energy use
SavaWatt fridge/freezer controls	🟡 Partially completed	Equipment replaced with eco-efficient models; control installation delayed due to supplier issues
CircoSense hot water system	❌ Not implemented	Supply chain availability has halted installation
Air source heat pumps	🟢 Planned	Identified as a key long-term priority, dependent on funding

Roof Replacement and Solar Installation

- In 2023, we replaced our 1914 slate roof with an **eco-friendly insulated roof** across the entire site
- We now have **194 solar panels (75.5 kWp)** installed over two phases (2020 and 2023)
- Projected impact: **300 tonnes of CO2 saved** and nearly **£200,000 in energy cost savings** over 20 years (based on 21p/kWh cost)

Energy Prices (2025)

- Electricity: **27.24p/kWh**
- Gas: **5.2914p/kWh**
- These updated costs significantly increase the financial savings of all completed energy interventions

Improved our DEC rating over time.

- Our 111-year-old building has a B rating for our Display Energy Certification. This has reduced over time
- We held a C rating (63) in 2017, and this has improved to a B (36) by December 2024

<https://find-energy-certificate.service.gov.uk/energy-certificate/9022-3212-8134-3128-6034>

4. Climate Resilience and Adaptation

- Roof replacement and updated loft insulation and solar panel additions have led to **heat retention** across all areas
- We are now **exploring eco-friendly air conditioning systems**, including:
 - Zoned temperature control
 - Natural ventilation upgrades
 - Low-carbon cooling solutions
- Internal temperatures are being monitored and ventilation strategies reviewed regularly

Outdoor Play and Shade

- Two of our three playgrounds lack natural shade
- We are exploring **tree planting, shade sails, and natural structures** to ensure safe outdoor spaces during hotter months

5. Biodiversity and School Grounds

- Though green space is limited, we maintain planters and micro-gardens
- In 2018, we worked with **Mersey Forest** to children and staff to plant hedgerows around our perimeter:
 - Improves air quality
 - Reduces noise pollution
 - Increases biodiversity
- Pupils planted over **1,000 daffodils** along Tollemache Road as part of community beautification

6. Curriculum and Green Education

- Climate and sustainability are embedded in:
 - **PSHE** (One Decision Scheme)
 - **Geography and Science** topics
 - **Active travel** campaigns through Modeshift STARS / Walk to School
 - Solar panel talks through **Solar for Schools**
- We hold **Bronze and Silver Modeshift STARS awards**
- We hold the **Green Flag Award**
- CPD for staff ensures consistency and subject knowledge around environmental education

7. Community and Sustainable Travel

- New **bike and scooter racks** funded by the **Liverpool City Region**
- Exploring **EV charging points** for:
 - Staff / trust vehicles
 - Trust/school minibuses
- Ongoing partnership with **Wirral Council** on air quality and school travel plans

8. Short, Medium and Long-Term Plan

Timeframe	Actions
Short-term (2024–2026)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finalise and publish Climate Action Plan• Install bike and scooter racks• Begin feasibility study for eco-friendly cooling• Explore funding for playground shade structures
Medium-term (2026–2030)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implement cooling strategies for flat-roofed areas• Install initial EV charging infrastructure• Expand biodiversity through planting and outdoor learning• Refresh Heat Decarbonisation Plan and assess new technologies
Long-term (2030+)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Phase-in air source heat pump system• Achieve near net-zero carbon operations• Develop new climate-focused curriculum pathways

9. Capital Needs and Investment Planning

Priority	Estimated Cost	Status / Notes
Playground shading (2 playgrounds)	£20,000–£30,000	Quotes to be obtained
Eco air conditioning (3 blocks)	£50,000+	Under review
EV charger installation	£10,000–£15,000	Under review / possible Govt. funding
Biodiversity enhancements	£5,000	To be costed with local partners
Air source heat pumps	£300,000+	Long-term Trust capital planning required

We will continue to seek support via Trust capital planning, Salix funding, LCR partnerships, and DfE schemes.

10. Monitoring, Review and Reporting

- Climate Action Plan reviewed annually by SLT and governors
- Progress shared with the Trust's Director for Estates
- Regular pupil engagement and curriculum evaluation
- Adapted as needed in line with energy costs, estate changes, and DfE guidance
- Annual update of DEC (Display Energy Certificate)

Headteacher: Mr Stuart Brady

Sustainability Lead: Mrs Emma Birch

Date of CAP publication: September 2025 (Planned)