

Camden Schools Climate Charter

The School Climate Charter is a local framework to empower schools to play their part in the delivery of Camden's ambition to be a zero-carbon borough by 2030.

Signatories of this charter commit to declare a Climate and Ecological Emergency and take action to contribute to addressing it in line with the [Camden Climate Action Plan 2020-2025](#).

Commitments fall into two distinctive areas:

- As educators, we commit to teaching our young people to be environmentally literate and to develop their knowledge, skills, motivation and confidence to practice and promote sustainability at school and in their community.
- As organisations, we commit to ensuring any decisions we make around managing our premises, purchasing goods and managing resources and waste, take into account their impact on the environment, and will adopt sustainable practices wherever possible.

To achieve these aims, we agree to do the following:

1. **Sustainability and the curriculum** - Embed sustainability across the curriculum to ensure students are well informed and actively contributing to tackling the climate crisis in all aspects of their lives.
2. **Single-use plastics** - Significantly reduce the use of single-use plastic with the aim of becoming plastic-free.
3. **Waste** - Consider the waste hierarchy in the delivery of school services and activities. (Waste hierarchy: Reduce - Reuse - Recycle – Recover).
4. **Food** - Educate about the benefits of eating less meat and offer plant-based options as part of the daily menu. Raise awareness of food waste, food miles, food production methods and food from different cultures.
5. **Transport** - Promote active ways of travelling to school including cycling, walking and public transport.
6. **Energy** - raise awareness about different sources of energy, the associated carbon emissions, and how we can all contribute to reduce our energy consumption where possible and appropriate.
7. **Procurement** - Use our purchasing power to favour sustainable and ethical products and services. Examples include energy, stationery, food and cleaning products.
8. **Greening/biodiversity** - Green our outdoor spaces for the benefit of our both students and local biodiversity. This could include, depending on available space, a forest garden, an orchard, a wildlife meadow, a hedgerow or a vegetable plot.
9. **Engage school community** - Ensure activities and projects involved the whole school community (students, staff and parents/representatives) in order to facilitate delivery, reach and sustainability of the initiative.
10. **Schools partnerships** - Engage with another school (locally or nationally) on climate action and sustainability.
11. **Engage with local business** - seek to form collaborative relationships with local business to share resources and experience
12. **Climate justice** - Twinning with a school from another part of the world who are already experiencing the effects of climate crisis. Ideally a country link to the other cultures represented in the school.

Next steps

1. Declare climate emergency

This could be by sharing the news online, on your website landing page and news updates. To support your announcement, your school will be listed on the Climate Change Alliance and Camden Learning websites.

2. Join the Camden Climate Change Alliance

By joining the Alliance, you will have access to the [wealth of resources](#) and the recently launched [sustainability peer support network](#). You will also join our [CSR match service](#), which aims to match schools requiring funding and support for their sustainability initiatives with willing local businesses. It is easy and free to join: [JOIN NOW](#)

3. Set targets

Signatories will be encouraged to set targets under some of the Charter's headings that are a priority for the school. Not all areas will need to be addressed at the same time as the focus should be on the school current sustainability priorities.

If you haven't yet identified your schools sustainability priority areas, we could offer advice/support running a simple consultation/engagement exercise. Camden Think and Do has been piloting an approach to engage the school community in the identification of priorities and project ideas based on encouraging imagination to visualise the future we all want to live in. If you are interested, please get in touch to discuss (carlos.queremel@camden.gov.uk).

4. Share progress and best practice

Successful sustainability activities and projects in your school can serve as inspiration and set an example for other schools to follow. We want to create a network of schools in Camden taking action to tackle the climate crisis. There will be a number of platforms to enable you to share your stories including the peer support group and a regular schools sustainability e-newsletter.