

Impact on education



Department
for Education

What is the impact of climate change on education?

UK – disruption due to climate change



- Cyclone SE Africa 2019
- Mozambique 600 schools destroyed
- Risk of child labour, early marriage and trafficking

[Medicin sans frontieres - flooding in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe](#)

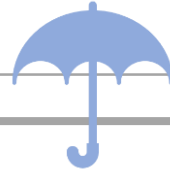
What is the risk to education?



TOO HOT

Many schools already struggle with hot temperatures

Increased temperatures impact concentration



TOO WET

More intense regular summer storms

Floods lead to school closures and disruption to education



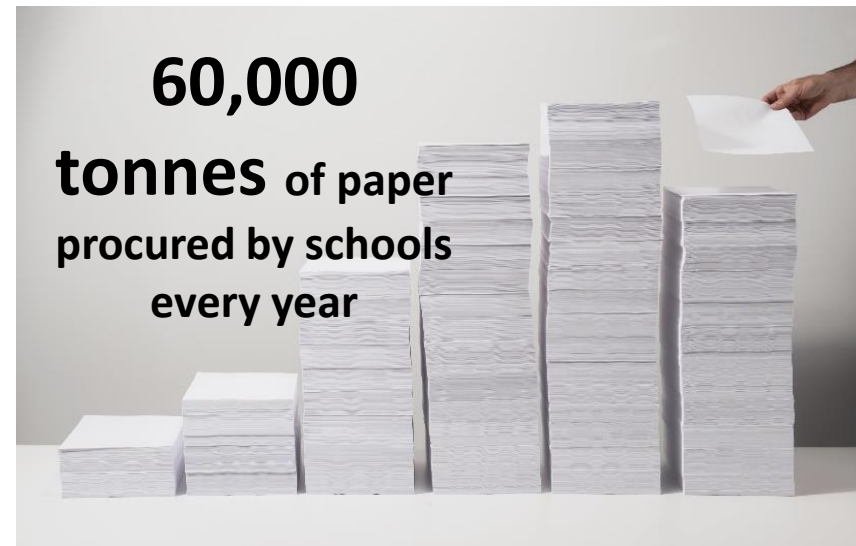
TOO DRY

By 2050 the amount of water available in England could reduce by 10 to 15%

Schools use and lose huge amounts of water.



How the education system impacts climate change



How can the education system make a positive impact?



16 million children, young people & adults in education
Climate change education will impact on choices and actions in the future



UK Net Zero Strategy lead to 440,000 new jobs in 2030
Education to ensure skilled individuals for new opportunities.



Schools cover an area 2X size of Birmingham 691km²
Increasing biodiversity of grounds will impact on the environment and nature.

So what is DfE doing about it?

April 2021

DfE
Sustainability
& Climate
Change Unit
Established

April 2022

Final Strategy
for 2022 to
2030
launched

2022 to 2030

Delivery

Nature Park
and Climate
Leaders
Award to roll
out from
Autumn 2022





Department
for Education

Aims
Key actions
Initiatives

Vision: the UK's education sector will be a world leader in sustainability and climate change by 2030

4 Strategic Aims:



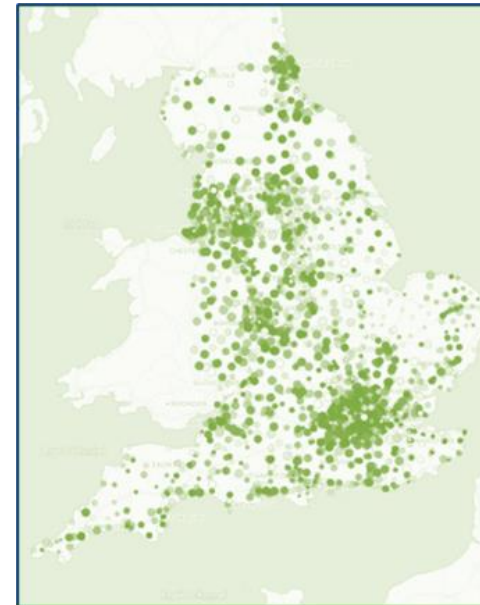
Five action areas:

1. Climate education
2. Green skills and careers
3. The education estate and digital infrastructure
4. Supply chain and operations
5. International



And three key initiatives

1. National Education Nature Park
2. Climate Leaders Award
3. Sustainability Leadership



3. Education estates & digital infrastructure

A green, sustainable education estate:

- resilient to the impacts of climate change
- inspire young people to live sustainable lives
- impact felt widely in their families and communities.
- impact positively on physical and mental wellbeing of children and young people.



innovate

pilots -energy,
metering,
resilience ...

test

in real life

invest

decarbonisation
resilience



1. New builds and new blocks

- All new school buildings will be net zero in operation. Secure children's homes
- designed for a 2oC rise and future-proofed for a 4oC,
- uplifted basic need grant-funding rates to help local authorities deliver school capital projects to these standards
- Sustainable ICT solutions will be integrated into new-build schools as standard, via sustainable procurement, design, implementation and management.



2. Existing estate

- 80 % that exist still in use in 2050
- smart meters, energy management and behaviour
- climate action plan for all schools
- funding Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund (BEIS support)

4. Heating solutions

10 pilots to test our Energy Pods as a way of providing off-site manufactured, low-carbon, heating solutions on the existing school and college estate..



3. Resilience, adaptation, access to Nature and environment conditions

The 3 highest priority risk areas identified in the Climate Change Committee Independent Assessment of UK Climate Risk were:

- increased heat risk
- flood risk
- water scarcity

5. Water strategy

In partnership with EA, water companies and local authorities we will deliver our water strategy to improve:

- flood resilience
- sustainable urban drainage
- water efficiency
- resilience to drought

6. Reporting Frameworks, Reporting Processes and Targets

- With increased legislation on net zero, environment and nature, it is inevitable that we are going to have to ensure consistent reporting on the activity of our sectors.

4. Operations and supply chains

Ensures education settings consider the environment in all they do, such as....

- Choice of suppliers and products (such as energy and food)
- Reducing use of SUP's
- Impact of school commute.

Every school will have a

- sustainability lead
- climate action plan

DfE will help schools to understand....

- Market to invest in LED's, solar panel, insulations
- Minefield of options
- How to fund

