



Thornton College Climate Action Plan

Introduction

This Climate Action plan outlines Thornton College's strategic approach to sustainability and climate compliance, in line with the UK Department for Education's 2025 requirements

Thornton College is committed to sustainability through a wide range of impactful initiatives. The school has earned the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award with Distinction, recognising its outstanding environmental education and action. Students effectively lead Prep and Senior Eco Committees, engaging in projects that include litter picking, recycling, rainwater harvesting, and food waste reduction. Younger students are empowered to build bee homes, monitor wildlife and complete biodiversity challenges such as the RSPB Wild Challenge, for which they earned Gold Awards. The school's outdoor areas and Forest School programme provide immersive outdoor learning experiences for a range of year groups. These achievements form a strong foundation for Thornton's Climate Action Plan, which outlines our next steps towards sustainability and compliance with national climate education goals.

Compliance Requirements

By 2025, all schools must:

- Appoint a sustainability lead
- Develop and publish a Climate Action Plan

Leadership and Governance

The Sustainability Lead at Thornton College will be a joint responsibility held by the Senior Leadership Team and members of the Estates and Maintenance teams

- Continue empowering student-led Prep and Senior Eco-Committees
- Ensure sustainability is a standard agenda item in Full Governor and Trustee Meetings and at least once every half term on SLT agendas.

Education and Engagement

- Embed climate education across subjects
- Promote climate literacy through assemblies and Eco Clubs
- Use a range of webinars and resources for staff training.

Decarbonisation and Energy Efficiency

- Continue student energy monitoring and switch off campaigns
- Encourage paperless practices and unplugging devices
- Track energy and water usage

Adaption and Resilience

- Use outside areas, including woodland walk, dipping pond etc to teach about climate hazards
- Incorporate teaching of climate hazards into Forest School
- Review critical incident plans and policy to include climate related risks

Biodiversity and Environment

- Continue using outdoor areas, such as woodland walk and dipping pond, for biodiversity education
- Support student projects such as bee homes and bird boxes
- Maintain engagement with biodiversity challenges and awards

Waste, Consumption and Recycling

- Maintain and ensure good use of recycling bins
- Continue lunch monitoring initiatives
- Explore composting initiatives
- Continue to promote events such as Christmas Jumper recycling

Travel and Air Quality

- Encourage carpooling
- Educate visitors on reducing vehicle idling

Estates and Maintenance

- Exploring opportunities to replace older systems such as boilers and lighting with more energy-efficient alternatives as part of routine upgrades.
- Considering environmental impact when selecting materials and contractors for maintenance and refurbishment
- Reviewing room usage and heating schedules to optimise energy consumption across the site
- Ensuring that landscaping and grounds maintenance support biodiversity and minimise chemical use
- any longer-term building project plans will consider adopting sustainable construction methods essential for minimising environmental impact and promoting resource efficiency, to reduce our carbon footprint

Monitoring and Reporting

- Share the Climate Action Plan on the school website
- Student Eco Committees and SLT to review progress annually
- Celebrate achievements through assemblies and weekly letters.