

Environmental action plan

Ryelands Primary School

Created: May 2022

Last Reviewed: N/A

Next Review: August 2022

Renewal date: May 2023



Introduction

This action plan should be treated as a 'live' document, with actions adjusted and added to as necessary and progress updates added on a regular basis. We suggest the action plan be reviewed on a quarterly basis as a minimum.

Responsibility for each action should be assigned to the most relevant person.

For this to have an impact, it will be critical to introduce an effective mechanism for this review process. You mentioned the plans to form an eco-committee, involving pupils, staff, governors and parents. Perhaps they could be assigned responsibility for overseeing the action plan. It could also be used to inform and guide eco-club activity, and vice versa.

Activity / Environmental impact	Action	Advice	Priority	Responsibility	Timescales / targets	Progress
Teaching						
Potential positive impacts on environmental awareness of pupils	Continue development of Morecambe Bay curriculum	This sounds exciting, and a great opportunity to embed environmental issues into your teaching	High	Linda Pye	Ongoing with staff meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued development of MBC – website available School involved in many MBC related projects (Eden Bear; Lost Sounds; WTWA!) MBC links with community and organisations, eg Friends of Ryelands Park (Y1 tree planting) Projects and units of work embedded into curriculum – curriculum mapping ECO Club and Pupil Parliament for pupils
	Provide staff training on environmental issues	<p>You mentioned that you are working on this already, using the SDGs as a framework. There are a few opportunities that I can point you to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are running a 2-day L2 course specifically for teachers/school leaders at Lancaster & Morecambe College on 7 & 14 June. Contact Maggie Cawthorn (M.Cawthorn@lmc.ac.uk) for further details and to book. Other courses available at https://www.lmc.ac.uk/part-time/environmental-training-courses 	High	Linda Pye	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Next training 16th March</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bev Jenkins and Linda Pye Completed level 2 Sustainable Training at L&M college Staff training from Where the Wildings are (composting; forest gardening; climate change) Donna Barker completed level 3 outdoor learning Linda Pye, David Grist attended Active Learning Outdoors Conference

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Foundation for Environmental Education has an Academy, with an array of free, online courses and resources. 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Donna Barker ran 2 staff meetings on learning outdoors
Heating, lighting & powering the school buildings						
Energy use for light, heat & power	Develop long-term programme for improving the efficiency of the building	As discussed in the call, the first step for this needs to be a comprehensive survey by a specialist in energy efficiency & renewables. I will provide an introduction by email to Al Muir, a specialist commercial surveyor with a background working with public sector buildings	High	Bev Jenkins	April 2023 May 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To arrange for LCC – Andrew Flintoff to visit site for a comprehensive survey of school. Send copy of survey to Al Muir LCC heating and building survey completed Spring term 23 re new heating system
	Ensure all unnecessary lights and IT equipment are switched off overnight	You need some sort of system for this, e.g. last person in each part of the building is responsible for checking.	High		Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eco council target re lights and IT Eco club designed light switch surrounds and delivered them around school to remind everyone to turn lights off when not needed. Arranged for IT to automatically switch off all computers and smart boards at 6pm each evening Meter readings for gas/electric are taken every month and monitored by Bev Jenkins and graphs produced in £'s and quantities.

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	Raise the issue of green energy tariffs with the county council	You are tied to this scheme so you cannot just switch to a green provider, but you could raise the issue with the council and seek to ensure that they consider environmental sustainability when selecting their provider. Simply switching to a tariff labelled 'green' or '100% renewable' is not sufficient unfortunately, due to the complexities of markets and tariffs. To understand some of the issues involved here, see the Ethical Consumer Guide to Gas and Electricity Tariffs , which recommends Good Energy, Ecotricity and GEUK as 'best buys'.	Medium	Bev Jenkins	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are with LCC for energy costs to obtain the best tariff. To review this when renewing the annual contract with LCC.
Water & energy used in taps, showers & toilets	Ensure taps are fitted with aerators wherever possible	Aerators can reduce flow by as much as 50% without significantly impacting the 'feel' of the flow. This could make a significant difference to energy and water bills. For an idea of the range of tap aerators possible, see this site . We discussed the idea of getting the eco-club involved in checking the taps around the school.	Medium	Bev Jenkins	March 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contacted Jason O'Keefe at LCC to ensure there is no impact on the legionella testing before Aerators to be installed in school. Water readings are taken every month and graphs produced in £s and quantities
	Experiment with toilet cistern volume reducers	We also talked about reducing the volume of some of your toilet cisterns. See this Hippo device as an example. Note, this action is not necessary if you have dual flush toilets.	Medium	Bev Jenkins	May 2023	Awaiting advice
	Install water butts		Medium	Bev Jenkins	End March 2023	2 installed on KS1 yard (Jan 23) 1 installed LKS2 yard (March 23) 1 installed in compost area (April 23)

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Energy & raw materials associated with paper production	Explore ways of reducing paper use	<p>We often encourage clients to consult with staff about this to identify opportunities such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stopping printing particular items, e.g. financial records are now 100% digital in some organisations Adjusting templates to make most efficient use of paper Ensuring double-sided printing Keeping stores of scrap paper for note taking etc <p>Perhaps you could also review and consider these top 5 tips for reducing paper use in schools</p>	Medium	Bev Jenkins	<p>Completed</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>July 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New printers installed and paper usage being monitored School app used for correspondence to parents – no letters printed, we try and aim to be a paperless school. Poster providing monthly paper usage for staff to see approx. how many trees used per month to encourage less printing School finance now using a paperless system Teaching resources in school books to be reviewed later this year
	Aim for 100% Post Consumer Waste Content (PCW) paper.	<p>Recycled paper can be a bit of a minefield. You should aim for 100% Post-Consumer Waste (PCW) recycled paper.</p> <p>Steinbeis No. 2 is a good, affordable example of 100% post-consumer waste recycled.</p> <p>Almost all Eco-Craft paper and paper products are 100% PCW too. This includes envelopes and packaging.</p> <p>I would advise trialling any paper change before purchasing a large quantity as the look and feel of 100% PCW paper is a little different to the paper you may be used to.</p>	Medium	Bev Jenkins	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have moved to 70% of our paper being recycled paper, but still keep white for office printing etc due to the cost of the recycling paper and budget constraints. Once paper prices are reduced we will look to moving to 100% recycling.
Waste management						
General waste	Conduct a mini-audit of your general waste	This is another action which you could involve the eco-club in. The idea is to audit the contents of your general waste bins to get an idea of how	Medium	Eco Club	31st March 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eco club and Donna Barker to complete a school food waste audit

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		<p>much waste is going in them that could be recycled.</p> <p>This obviously needs to be managed carefully, e.g. visual inspection only!</p> <p>Once you have an understanding of the practice within the school, you can then decide if and what action you might then take, e.g. education/awareness-raising efforts, provision of more recycling bins, clearer recycling signage etc.</p>			<p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Ridan composter now installed in school and all food waste is now going in the Ridan • School reduced collection of waste bins from 3 down to 2 now due to the composter, saving school £500 per year
Printer consumables waste	Recycle all printer cartridges	Bethany advised that you use a Lexmark printer. Their consumables (and the printer itself at the end of its life) can be recycled directly with Lexmark. Sign up here .	Medium	Bev Jenkins	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moved to another local printing company who supply a recycling box for all used cartridges
Plastic waste	Continue separating pens and glue sticks for recycling		Medium	Bev Jenkins	<p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>31st March 2023</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moved to eco friendly glue sticks in school, no packaging goes to land fill now, all gets reused in school or returned to supplier • Eco club have set up in each class a recycling box for pens etc • Eco club setting up a designated eco station in school for all pens and any other items that can be recycled. • School office to continue looking at products that could be changed to recycling/eco friendly
Food waste	Re-introduce composting of food waste	Food waste should not be entering general waste.	High	Linda Pye	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All food waste is being weighed in the kitchen and monitored.

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		Through your planned Composting University, I presume you will have ample opportunity to avoid this in future!				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Ridan composter now installed in school and all cooked food waste is now going in the composter machine • Children's fruit waste (and garden) in darlek composter on LKS2 yard
Cleaning Products	Look at using environmentally friendly products in school for cleaning products		Medium	Bev Jenkins	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changed most of the cleaning products to eco-friendly products https://www.jangro.net/ntr/ where possible after comparing costs
Grounds management						
Potential positive impacts on biodiversity and carbon sequestration	Continue plans for rewilding parts of the school grounds		High	Eco Club Linda Pye Donna Barker	Completed Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive plans of school ground development (WTWA! Project) • Trees, plants bushes planted on KS1 • Rewilded areas, wild flower areas and mowing regime on school field • Each class now has a large plant pot to attract bees and most have a growing area linked to curriculum • Eco club designed a bug hotel
Provision of food and drink						

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Environmental impacts of food supply chain	Discuss environmental impacts with supplier	<p>You indicated in the call that this provision is largely outside of your control and governed by a number of constraints. Nevertheless, it would be good to use the influence you have. Key issues to raise would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing plant-based ingredients and reducing meat and dairy items Avoiding air-freighted ingredients Sourcing any fish using the Marine Stewardship Council sustainability guidelines Increasing local sourcing 	High	Linda Pye	<p>May 2023</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with LCC Catering to reduce food waste and use where possible local suppliers to reduce the impact on the environment Growing vegetables in school that can be used in own school kitchen
Pupils travelling to school						
Emissions from vehicles	Increase provision of cycle storage facilities		High	Linda Pye	<p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cleared out current bike shed to allow extra storage for bikes Moved recycling bins from the secured wood area to allow more bikes to be stored in there when extra space is needed.
Staff travelling to school						
Emissions from vehicles	Ensure availability of shower/changing facilities for cyclists		High	Linda Pye	<p>Completed</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shower area available in staff toilets To look at the staff shower room to see if we could install shelving and other facilities to support cyclists
	Get your first EV charger(s) installed	<p>There are a few potential options here:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may be able to get a free charger via Pod Point (depends on eligibility) 	High	Bev Jenkins	31st March 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 x 22kw charges approved for installation towards the end of March 2023

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may be able to get a community-funded charger via Charge My Street Government grants are currently available for the installation of workplace charging points. 				

Issues for future consideration:

- Purchasing of other goods and services