

# Sustainability and Ecology Action Plan for Milton Road Primary School



*"We want our children to be happy and healthy today, fulfilled in the future and able to make their world an even better place."*

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**Vision Statement:** Milton Road Primary School is committed to fostering environmental stewardship within our school community. Our goal is to promote sustainable practices, reduce our ecological footprint, and inspire the next generation to care for the planet.

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### **Key Objectives:**

1. **Reduce Energy Consumption:** Decrease energy use through conservation measures and renewable energy integration.
  2. **Minimize Waste:** Implement waste reduction strategies, focusing on the 3Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. (And the Landfill directive Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover, Safe Disposal. Duty to apply the waste hierarchy as required by Regulation 12 of the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011)
  3. **Promote Biodiversity:** Create and maintain green spaces that support local wildlife and foster outdoor learning. Add Milton Road Primary School to the Education Nature Park database.
  4. **Sustainable Transportation:** Encourage walking, cycling, and other low-impact transport methods, including through partnerships with e.g. Living Streets and walk to School Week.
  5. **Environmental Education:** Embed sustainability into the curriculum to empower students to take environmental action through science, geography, PHSE and citizenship education and Forest School lessons.
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### **Action Plan:**

#### **1. Reduce Energy Consumption**

- **Action:** Conduct energy audits to identify areas for improvement.
- **Implementation:**
  - Encourage students and staff to switch off lights, computers, and other electrical devices when not in use
  - Install LED lighting where possible
  - Ensure the solar panels are well maintained and explore other renewable energy sources.
  - Commitment by teachers and children to have at least one smartboard free lesson per week as well as try one whole school computer free day per month, and participate in Earth Hour.
- **Targets:**
  - Reduce energy consumption by 20% within three years.
  - Achieve certification in energy efficiency standards and improve ratings.

## 2. Minimize Waste

- **Action:** Introduce a comprehensive waste management program.
- **Implementation:**
  - Place labelled recycling bins across the school for paper, plastics, and other recyclables. “Simpler Recycling” reforms require businesses to separate recycling, food and general waste collections by March 2025. This is to reduce the volume of general waste which is subject to landfill taxes.
  - Encourage children to eat healthily and not waste vegetables and fruit by scrapping into the food bin.
  - Put in systems for Creating Waste from Food Waste. Food waste from businesses is no longer to be composted instead it is being used to generate electricity.
  - Partner with local organizations for responsible disposal of electronic waste.
  - Children are given ownership over emptying the recycling bins / sorting anything in the incorrect bin to maintain green flag status
  - Invite speaker in from Greater Cambridge Commercial Waste Service to talk with the children and colleagues to increase understanding and knowledge of recycling processes, sustainability and climate change.
- **Targets:**
  - Achieve a 50% reduction in landfill waste within two years.
  - Reduce food waste in the school.
  - Recover 100% of organic waste generated by the school.

## 3. Promote Biodiversity

- **Action:** Transform unused areas into biodiverse green spaces.
- **Implementation:**
  - Create wild meadow with native plants, flowers
  - Use the pods and the courtyard to grow flowers and vegetables.
  - Install birdhouses, bug hotels, and other wildlife-friendly structures.
  - Organize tree-planting days with the City Council, pupils and families.
  - Use the field, school grounds, orchard and Forest School for outdoor lessons.
  - Create Woodland / School Grounds Ecology Management Plan – no tread areas and set aside areas
  - Create a raised pond with plants and flowers
- **Targets:**
  - Increase plants and wild life by 25% within two years.
  - Host annual biodiversity workshops and events.

## 4. Sustainable Transportation

- **Action:** Reduce the number of car journeys to and from school.
- **Implementation:**
  - Promote walking, cycling, and scooting through regular campaigns and incentives.
  - Participate in Walk to School Week

- Collaborate with local authorities to improve safe cycling routes.
- Encouragement for families to create or join a walking bus
- **Targets:**
  - Increase the number of students walking or cycling to school by 20% within three years.
  - Reduce car-related emissions by 10%.

## 5. Environmental Education

- **Action:** Embed sustainability into the school curriculum and extracurricular activities.
- **Implementation:**
  - Include lessons on climate change, recycling, and renewable energy in science and geography and other curriculum areas.
  - Support Eco-Council and Youth Citizens to lead on green initiatives and campaigns. (See Appendix 1)
  - Host workshops, assemblies, and guest speaker events focused on sustainability.
  - Participate in local and national environmental competitions and campaigns such as the RSPBs Bird Watch
- **Targets:**
  - 100% of students engaged in at least one sustainability project annually.
  - Eco-Council and Youth Citizens to participate in events with the City and County Council.

## Monitoring and Evaluation:

To track progress, Milton Road Primary School will:

1. Continue to support the work of the Eco-Council and Youth Citizens
2. Work with parents and others in the community to increase our knowledge of activities we can engage in
3. Through the newsletter publish ongoing reports of sustainable actions the school has been doing.
4. Share action plans through the newsletter and invite parents and families to participate in activities at home and in the community
5. Collect data on energy use, waste output, and transportation habits to measure progress against targets.
6. Conduct surveys to gauge awareness and involvement among students and staff.

## Community Engagement:

Milton Road Primary School will actively involve the local community by:

- Holding Expert Showcases in classrooms and in the school grounds to showcase the school's sustainability efforts through the planned curriculum.
- Partnering with local businesses, councils, and environmental organizations for resources and expertise.
- Encouraging children and colleagues to adopt sustainable practices at home through workshops and resources.
- Encouraging families to adopt sustainable practices at home through workshops and resources.

## Appendix 1

### Eco-Council and Youth Citizens Whole School Plan – December 2024

Action	Who	What	When
1. <b>Create Wildlife-Friendly Spaces</b> – Such as wild flower meadows where native species grow freely. Invite Steve Coghill, Senior Horticulturist at King's College to talk to pupils & sow meadow together	Eco-Council Youth Citizens Class CREW	Put plants including vegetables and flowers in pod areas, and in the courtyard. <a href="https://cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/steve-coghill/">https://cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/steve-coghill/</a>	December 2024
2. <b>Surveys</b> – Join or create biodiversity surveys, counting local wildlife, such as birds, insects, butterflies and take part in the RSPBs Big Bird Watch.	Eco-Council Youth Citizens Whole School	Big Bird Watch – Share information via the newsletter encourage families to take part <a href="https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch">https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch</a>	January 2024
3. <b>Encourage "No Mow" Areas</b> - Instead of mowing the grass designate them as "no mow" areas. Families can also participate in "No Mow May" or create wildflower patches, to attract pollinators.	Eco-Council Youth Citizens Whole School	No Mo May - Send out information in the newsletter encourage families to take part <a href="https://www.plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay/">https://www.plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay/</a>	February to June 2024
4. <b>Plant Trees and Native Plants</b> – Work with local organisations to plant more trees, native wildflowers and shrubs to provide food and habitats for local wildlife, promoting a balanced ecosystem.	Eco-Council Youth Citizens Whole School	Free packs of trees <a href="https://woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/tree-pack-application/">https://woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/tree-pack-application/</a>	November to December 2024
5. <b>Build Wildlife Habitats and Shelters</b> – Build birdhouses, bee hotels, insect "apartments" and hedgehog houses to support different species. Create small habitats by piling rocks and logs, providing safe spaces for small mammals, insects, and amphibians to shelter and forage e.g. in the school pond.	Eco-Council Youth Citizens Whole School	National Trust <a href="https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/50-things/no-36-make-a-home-for-wildlife">https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/50-things/no-36-make-a-home-for-wildlife</a> Wildlife Trust – Take Action <a href="https://www.wildlifebcn.org/take-action">https://www.wildlifebcn.org/take-action</a>	November to December 2024
6. <b>Improve our Sustainable Practices</b> - Recycling, Reusing resources, Save water and limit pesticides. Switch off lights. Reduce Food Waste.	Eco-Council Youth Citizens Whole School	Cambridge Carbon Footprint <a href="https://cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/">https://cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/</a> Water Sensitive Cambridge <a href="https://www.watersencam.co.uk/">https://www.watersencam.co.uk/</a>	November to December 2024
7. <b>Forest School Lessons and Educational Visits</b> - help children and	Eco-Council	E.g. Natural Cambridgeshire	November 2024

**Conclusion:** This Sustainability and Environmental Action Plan is a roadmap for making Milton Road Primary School a leader in environmental responsibility. Together, we can build a greener future for our students, our community and our planet.