Climate Action Plan

Contents

Building a Sustainable Future for our Students and Community 3

1. Energy Efficiency & Renewable Technology 3

2. Waste Management & Circular Economy 3

3. Sustainable Sourcing & Biodiversity 3

Building a Sustainable Future for our Students and Community

This plan outlines the strategic steps Cloughwood Academy has taken to reduce our carbon footprint and foster an environment of ecological responsibility. By integrating technology, infrastructure, and hands-on learning, we are committed to achieving a "Net Zero" future.

Our Vision: At Cloughwood Academy, we don't just teach the curriculum; we model the change we want to see in the world. Every kilowatt saved and every vegetable grown is a step toward a greener planet.

1. **Energy Efficiency & Renewable Technology**

Reducing our reliance on the national grid and optimising how we use power is our primary defence against carbon emissions.

- **Solar Energy Generation:** We have installed high-efficiency solar panels on the school roof. This allows us to generate clean, renewable electricity on-site, significantly lowering our carbon emissions and long-term energy costs.
- **LED Lighting Retrofit:** All traditional fluorescent and incandescent bulbs have been replaced with LED lighting. This transition reduces lighting energy consumption by up to 75% while providing a better learning environment for students.
- **Digital Infrastructure Optimization:** We have decommissioned high-energy physical servers in favour of cloud-based servers. This shift eliminates the need for 24/7 climate-controlled server rooms, drastically reducing our electricity usage and hardware waste.

2. **Waste Management & Circular Economy**

We aim to minimise what we send to landfills by implementing robust systems for sorting and disposal.

- **Food Waste Recycling:** We have implemented a dedicated food waste collection system. Organic waste is diverted from general bins to be composted or processed into biogas, preventing the release of methane in landfills.
- **School-Wide Recycling:** Strategic placement of recycling bins throughout the school grounds ensures that plastics, metals, and paper are captured and processed correctly, reinforcing sustainable habits for students and staff.
- **Smart Printing Solutions:** To combat paper and chemical waste, we have implemented an efficient photocopying and printing system. This includes "follow-me" printing to prevent uncollected jobs and default settings for double-sided, grayscale printing to save paper and toner.

3. **Sustainable Sourcing & Biodiversity**

We believe that sustainability should be a "hands-on" experience that connects students to the source of their food.

- **The School Allotment:** We have established a thriving school allotment where we grow our own fruit, vegetables and herbs. This provides the school kitchen with fresh, zero miles produce and reduces the carbon footprint associated with food transport.
- **Educational Integration:** The allotment serves as a living classroom, teaching students about seasonal eating, soil health, and the importance of local biodiversity.