



Thirsk School and Sixth Form College Climate Action Plan

Publication Date: September 2025

Vision and Commitment

“At Thirsk School we believe that tackling climate change is the responsibility of every individual and department. Our Climate Action Plan sets out how we will reduce our environmental impact, educate our community, and prepare students for a sustainable future.”

Current position:

Thirsk School and Sixth Form College has already established some strong foundations for climate action and sustainability. Energy use has reduced, LED lighting upgrades are complete, and boiler replacements are underway, with further renewable options such as solar panels and electric car charging points being under consideration. Waste reduction initiatives, including food waste collection and reuse schemes, are well established. The curriculum and enrichment already incorporate environmental themes, with the potential to expand this further. Biodiversity projects and community partnerships are developing, particularly through the enrichment programme.

Action Areas for 2025-25

Area	Actions	Who	Notes	RAG
Leadership and Governance	• Appoint a member of SLT to act as climate action lead	SLT	GHO (Assistant Headteacher- Personal Development) has been appointed to take this role	
	• Access local networks for ideas about sustainable actions	GHO	GHO has attended local authority conference on climate action.	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include sustainability as a standing item in Senior Leadership Team and Governor meetings. • Appoint a minister for environment in the school council 	SLT GP	This is long established, and a new Year 13 was appointed in July 2025	
Curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a part of the current curriculum review by Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum), check sustainability topics across all key stages, including a particular focus on Science, Geography, and PSHCE. • Incorporate climate literacy and green careers into wider careers programme. • Build increasing links between enrichment activities and climate action • Continue to consider the option of OCR Natural History GCSE 	JD KF GH/GP JD	Enrichment has already had several links to climate, the environment and waste disposal, with numerous activities linked explicitly to this in recent years.	
Energy & Buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore funding opportunities for renewable energy installations, such as solar panels. • Explore options for more efficient boilers and pipe work 	NW NW	<p>We have flat roofs that could be used for solar panels, but we need to look at accessing funding routes. Have explored options of renting the roofs.</p> <p>Heating and water systems are old and problematic. Continued negotiations with Local Authority about next steps. However, a phased improvement plan is in place with two new combi boilers installed in April 2025.</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring options for increasing amount of double glazing. • Explore options for other energy efficient systems • Systematically respond to regular energy usage checks. 	<p>NW</p> <p>NW</p> <p>NW</p>	<p>Much of the school is now double glazed. We will continue to regularly review the single paned areas of the school, but currently lack funding to act on these.</p> <p>Strategic transition to LED lighting has recently been completed</p> <p>Energy use is checked and monitored every month by site team using internal meters. Numbers currently indicate that we are using less gas and electricity now than three years ago.</p>	
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote walking and cycling to school through initiatives and infrastructure improvements. • Install electric charge points in school carpark • Collaborate with North Yorkshire County Council to explore low-carbon school transport options. 	<p>SLT</p> <p>NW</p> <p>NW</p>	<p>Secure bicycle storage facilities are in place, and many students and staff already cycle and walk to school.</p> <p>We have looked at possibility for electric car charging points and applied for government funding.</p>	
Food & Procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce single-use plastics in the canteen- possibly looking at drink dispensing to students with reusable bottles • Look at weekly menus to consider food that promotes sustainable eating habits. 	<p>GH/MS</p> <p>SM</p>	<p>Yourwaste has worked with the canteen and recycling/food waste systems are in place. There are systems used to deal with single use plastic at other schools in the areas. We will look at researching this option further</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasingly source food from local and sustainable suppliers. 	SM	The canteen already sometimes uses produce from the school allotment	
Waste & Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement colour-coded recycling bins across the school. 	NW	We have blue bins for general, green for recycling (tin, plastic, paper and cardboard). Recycling bins not in general circulation due to danger of contamination. Three food bins emptied weekly	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a payment drinks system that involves bringing in reusable bottles 	MS	At the moment there is a financial impact to this, but options being used in other local schools are to be explored further.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with local charities to repurpose IT equipment and uniforms. 	AW		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin composting food waste from the canteen and science labs. 	GHO/ NW		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to develop and publicise our well-established pre-loved uniform 	MS		
Procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proactively look to purchase items such as stationary from companies that have clear environmental priorities. 	MS	Some historic decisions about purchasing items such as stationary have been made with companies that focus on recycling. This is to become a strong focus again, where it is financially viable.	
Nature & Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a plan for the further development of the green spaces within the school 	GHO	-Enrichment 2025 had a large focus on developing these outdoor spaces, which has been considerably improved since 2022. The new climate club, along with students from the Perch and Nest will look to continue developing this.	
Student Voice & Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with local environmental groups, such as Thirsk Community Woodlands. 	GP	The new climate club is being introduced in September 2025.	
		SLT		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver workshops to parents and carers on sustainability practices • Continue to have assemblies that focus on climate action 	GHO		
Monitoring and Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish annual progress reports on the school website. • Employ carbon calculators (e.g., Let's Go Zero, WWF) to track progress. • Conduct student-led "green audits" every term. 	GHO NW GHO		