

CLIMATE AMBASSADORS

In association with EAUC, STEM Learning and the University of Reading

CLIMATE AMBASSADORS

Supporting the education sector to reduce its climate impact and become more resilient

Prof Amanda Maycock (she/her)
Yorkshire and Humber Regional Hub Lead
University of Leeds

Funded by



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In partnership with

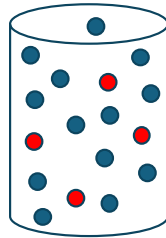


The thin blue line

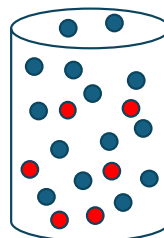
Earth's
atmosphere



A can of air in year 1850



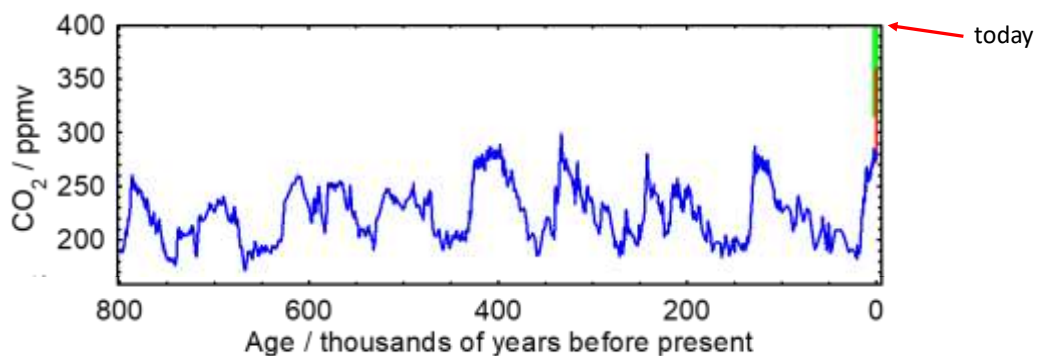
A can of air in year 2024



Air contains nitrogen (70%), oxygen (20%), water vapour (4%), carbon dioxide (0.04%) and methane (0.00019%).

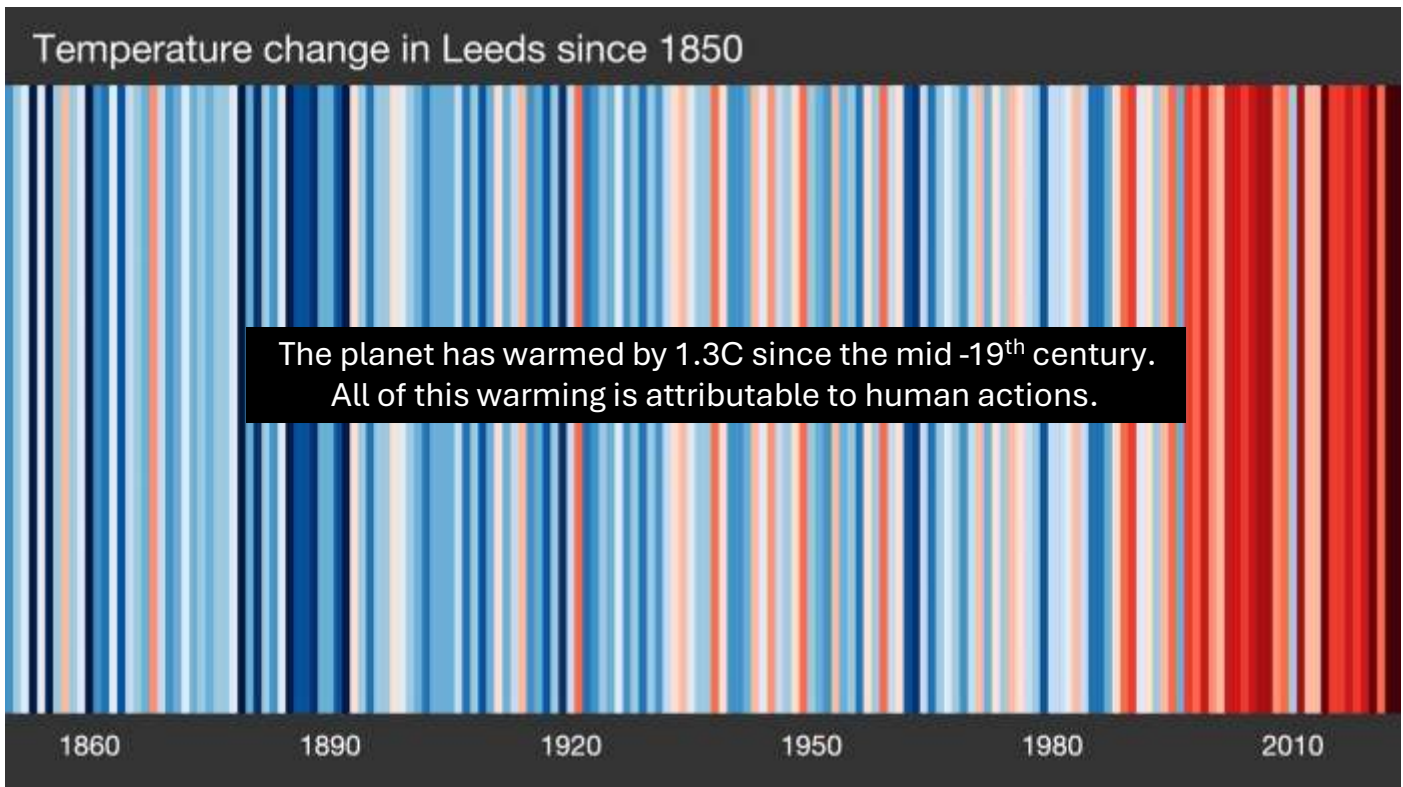
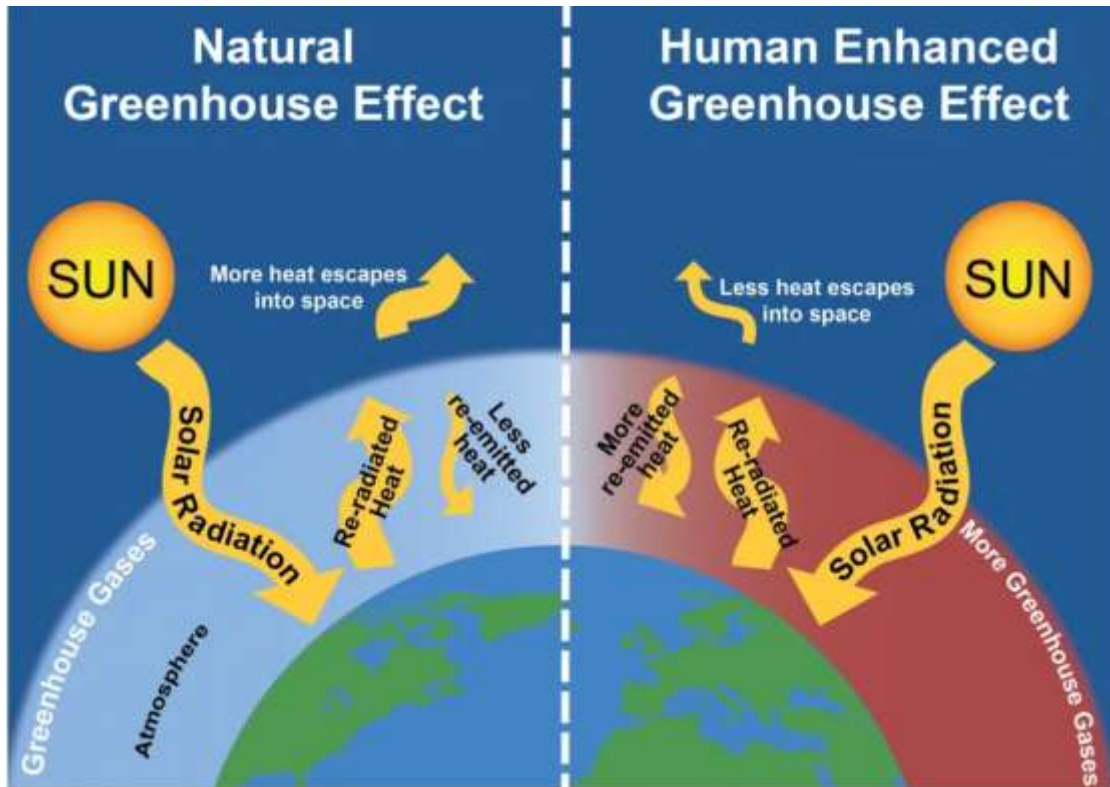
There is 51% more carbon dioxide in the air today than there was before the Industrial Revolution. Methane levels today are 2.6 times higher.

4

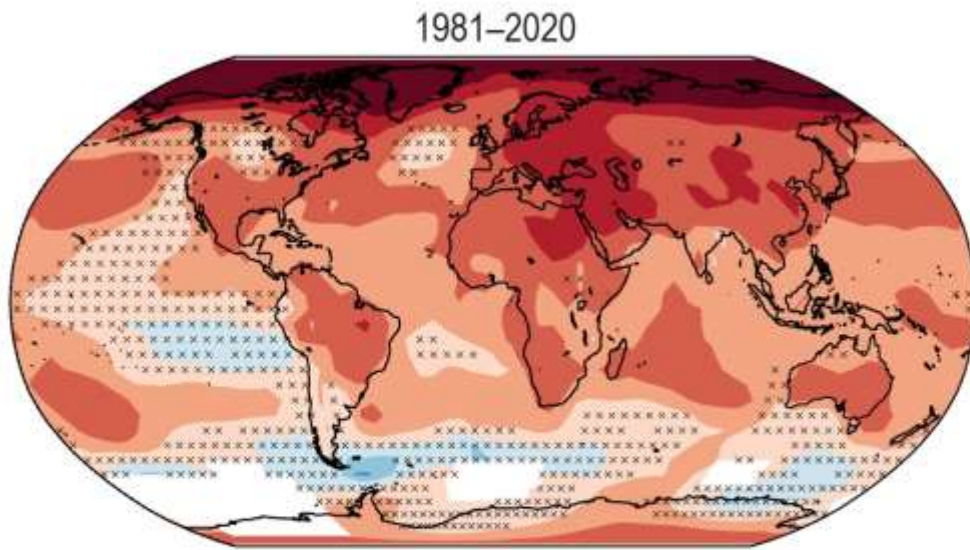


The last time there was so much carbon dioxide in the air was at least 3 million years ago.

5



The Earth is not warming at the same rate everywhere



We are seeing record shattering events



July 2022 UK summer heatwave: 40 degrees Celsius measured for first time in UK



July 2021 Pacific Northwest heatwave: previous record smashed by 5 degrees Celsius.



“A severe heatwave your great grandparents would have experienced once in their lifetime now occurs every decade.”

NEWS

Home Cost of Living War in Ukraine Climate UK World Business Politics Culture Tech

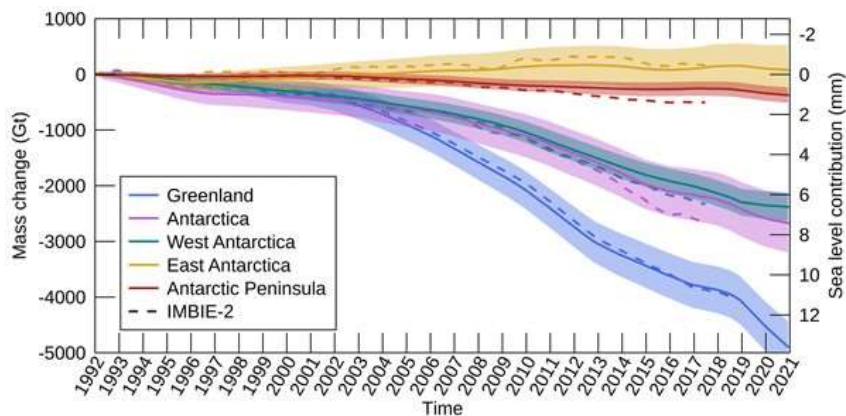
Science & Environment

Accelerating melt of ice sheets now 'unmistakable'

2 days ago Comments

Climate change

Ice melt measured by satellites



Otosaka et al., 2023



Since Victorian times global sea level has risen by about 25 cm



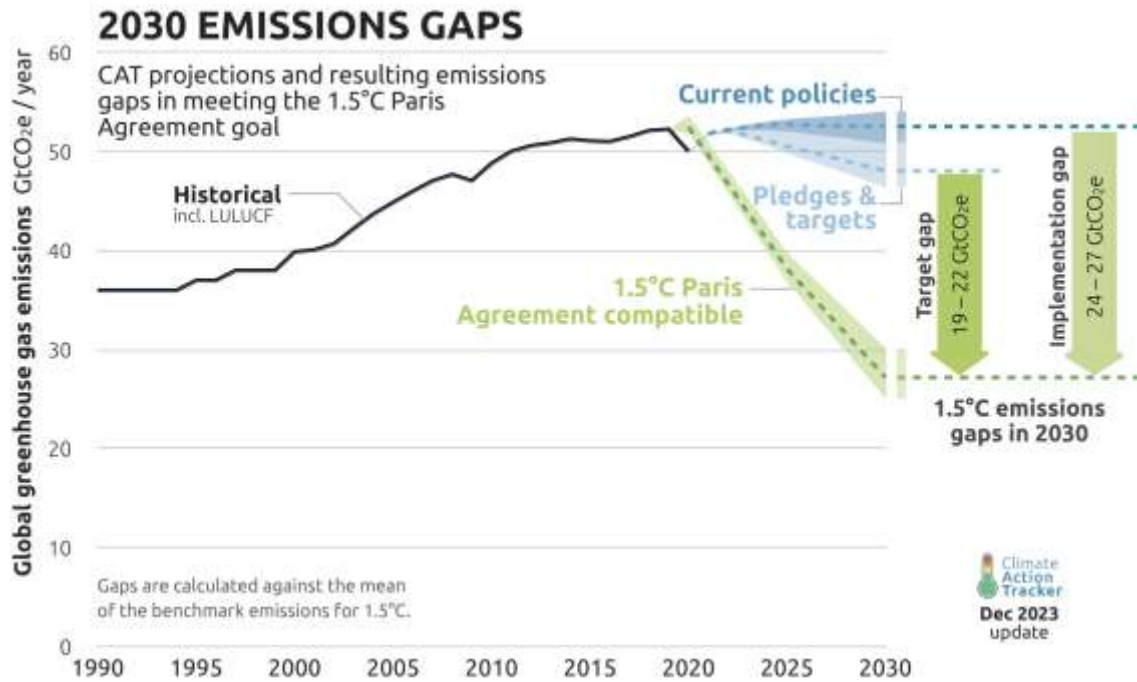
The climate change that has already occurred will not go away

The 'best case' scenario is that climate warms by another 0.3-0.4 Celsius
The 'worst case' scenario is that climate warms by an additional 2-3 Celsius.

Climate change will get worse before it gets better.

We have to **adapt** to the climate change that we are committed to: buildings, cities, infrastructure, flood defenses, farming practices, early warning systems.





Youth Voice





COP28: Climate change - only a quarter (26%) of the UK feel optimistic about the world young people will inherit



News • Press Releases

New research out today from The National Lottery Community Fund shows that people in the UK are worried about the impact climate change could have on their local community and particularly on young people. Two in three people (65%) believe climate change will reduce quality of life for future generations, and many say they are already factoring it in when making their own big life stage decisions:

- Nearly 6 in 10 people (56%) across the UK are concerned about the impact climate change might have on their local community
- Over four in ten (42%) of 16–34 year olds say climate change will affect whether they have children, while more than half (56%) say it will impact where they decide to live
- Many believe quality of life will suffer (65%) while a majority (57%) agree that climate change will deepen existing health inequalities
- Despite the lack of climate optimism, a majority (64%) still believe in the power of individual action to make a positive difference.

About this press release

Date published: 8 December, 2023

Region: [UK-wide](#)

[Notes to Editors](#)

Contacts

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TEACH THE FUTURE

4% of students feel they know a lot about climate change

68% of students want to learn more about the environment

51% of secondary teachers say climate change, the ecological crisis and the challenges posed by these issues are not embedded in their school's curriculum, in their subject, in a meaningful and relevant way

4 in 10 school leavers say they don't know how much the climate has warmed

Those who do know tend to significantly overestimate the amount of warming

Almost a quarter incorrectly attribute transport as the biggest contributor to global warming



<https://www.reading.ac.uk/planet/climateeducation>

National Climate Education Action Plan

1. Everyone involved in the education of children in school and college settings should be encouraged and supported to access accredited continuing professional development (CPD) to improve their personal understanding of up-to-date data and science of our changing climate and the impacts of these changes.
2. All teacher trainers and initial teacher training should be able to access training that empowers them to effectively incorporate climate education within their teaching across all levels and subjects.
3. Teachers and school leaders should be encouraged and empowered, both at a national and local level, to ensure time and space within and beyond the learning day is included for climate education.
4. Every school and college should identify a senior staff member to lead on climate education and provide them with support and funding.
5. A structured programme of climate award for schools, colleges and youth organisations should be developed, providing a national focus to a range of extra-curricular activities and supporting resources to aid delivery.
6. A national scheme of quality assurance of teaching resources for climate education should be developed.
7. A regular national meeting of the dynamic, well-supported national networks of educators, scientists and young people should be held, to share ideas and promote collaboration among representatives of these groups.
8. Professionals working in climate research and policy, from science and non-science disciplines, should pledge a proportion of their working time to providing help to teacher-led climate education initiatives.
9. A national, guiding framework for all educational providers that outlines compulsory climate education for all young people in schools and colleges should be developed and implemented.

Policy paper

Sustainability and climate change: a strategy for the education and children's services systems

Published 21 April 2022

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sustainability-and-climate-change-strategy/sustainability-and-climate-change-a-strategy-for-the-education-and-childrens-services-systems>



The Department for Education has set a goal in their Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy for all education settings to develop a Climate Action Plan by 2025.

DfE Vision: the UK is the world -leading education sector in sustainability and climate change by 2030.

This will be achieved through these strategic aims:

1. Excellence in education and skills for a changing world
2. Net zero
3. Resilience to climate change
4. A better environment for future generations

Find out more : [DfE Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy](#)



WHAT IS A CLIMATE ACTION PLAN?

A climate action plan is a detailed plan to enable an education setting, or trust, to commence or progress sustainability initiatives.

Climate Action Plans...

- ... are structured and strategic
- ... follow a whole setting approach
- ... look different for each education setting
- ... progress a sustainability journey rather than repeating previous action

A climate action plan should cover the following **four areas**, to align with DfE's sustainability and climate change strategy:



Decarbonisation



Biodiversity



Adaptation and resilience



Climate education and green careers

Decarbonisation

Calculating and taking actions to reduce carbon emissions.

Example actions:

- 'Switch-off' behaviour change campaign
- Draft proof buildings to reduce heat loss
- Encourage active travel by students and staff
- Reduce food waste by composting

Biodiversity

Increasing biodiversity can mitigate against climate change and has huge benefits to personal health and wellbeing.

Example actions:

- Sign up to the National Education Nature Park
- Plant new trees and hedgerows
- Repurpose an unused area of land into a wildflower meadow or vegetable patch and bug hotel

Adaptation and Resilience

Adaptation means changing our behaviours and infrastructures to cope with a changing climate.

Examples actions:

- Planting trees to increase shaded areas on your school site
- Add solar control film to windows that receive the most sunlight
- Install sustainable drainage system planters to reduce the risk of flooding

Climate Education and Green Careers

We need to prepare young people with the right skills to support a more sustainable future.

Example actions:

- Provide staff with CPD on climate change and sustainability
- Embed climate change across a range of subject by making small tweaks to the existing curriculum
- Hold a careers event dedicated to Green Careers

Reality check

- Many Schools have limited resources and face significant pressures to deliver on current targets/expectations.
- There is no 'spare capacity' to take on something new.
- Engagement often relies on an individual in School (e.g., a passionate teacher) who may not have buy-in from senior leadership.
- Funding mechanisms for 'big things' not always clear or available to all.



Climate Ambassadors

Supporting the education sector to reduce its climate impact and become more resilient

Funded by Department for Education from January 2024-2026

Our vision

The UK has so much world-leading climate expertise with experienced professionals who know a great deal about all aspects of making a climate action plan.

We are the matchmakers – we help get the right expert to you at the right point in your journey



<https://climateambassadors.org.uk/>
<https://www.stem.org.uk/climate-ambassadors>

WHO IS INVOLVED?



CLIMATE AMBASSADORS

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Funded by



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Digital Infrastructure



Training and Mentoring



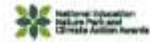
Engagement



Regional Hubs



'Sister' Projects



Yorkshire and the Humber hub



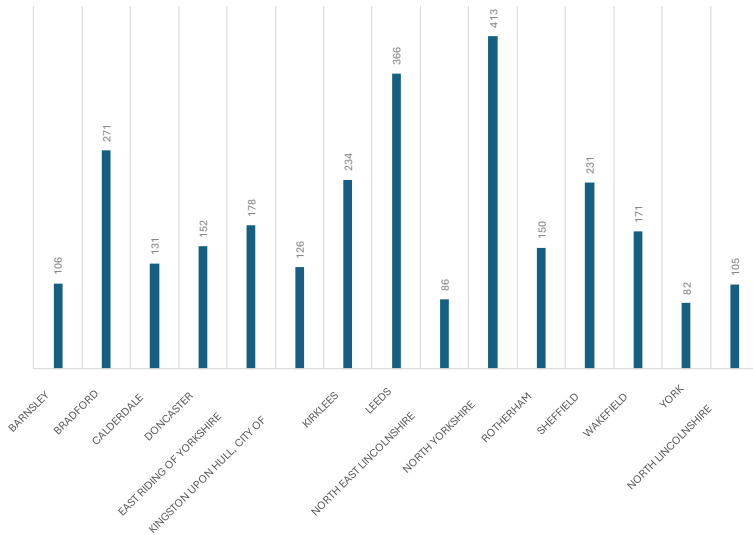
Zoe Gilbank: Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Hub Manager



Ruth Green: Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Hub Project Officer

Educational Setting by Local Authority

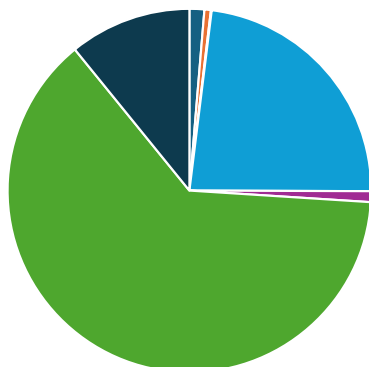
EDUCATIONAL SETTING BY LOCAL AUTHORITY (COUNT)



Barnsley	106
Bradford	271
Calderdale	131
Doncaster	152
East Riding of Yorkshire	178
Kingston upon Hull, City of	126
Kirklees	234
Leeds	366
North East Lincolnshire	86
North Yorkshire	413
Rotherham	150
Sheffield	231
Wakefield	171
York	82
North Lincolnshire	105
Grand Total	2802

Phase of Education

Phase of Education (Count)



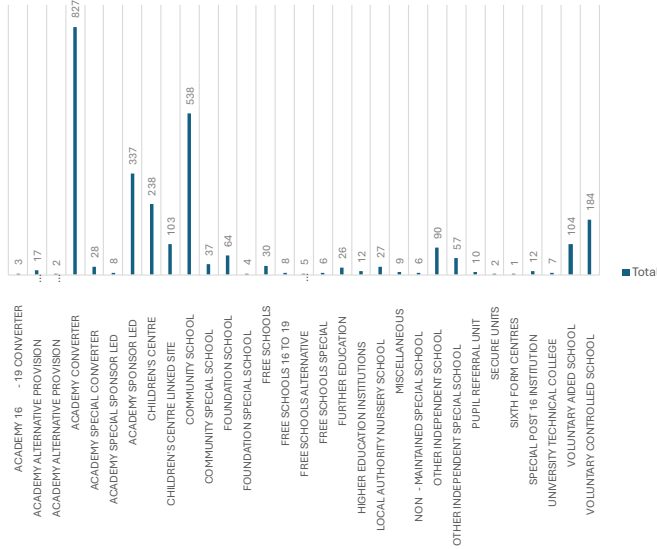
16 plus
All-through
Middle deemed secondary
Not applicable
Nursery
Primary
Secondary

16 plus	37
All-through	16
Middle deemed secondary	2
Not applicable	647
Nursery	27
Primary	1769
Secondary	304
Grand Total	2802

Type of educational setting



TYPE OF EDUCATIONAL SETTING

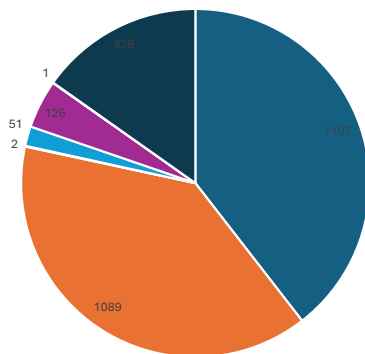


Academy 16-19 converter	3
Academy alternative provision converter	17
Academy alternative provision sponsor led	2
Academy converter	827
Academy special converter	28
Academy special sponsor led	8
Academy sponsor led	337
Children's centre	238
Children's centre linked site	103
Community school	538
Community special school	37
Foundation school	64
Foundation special school	4
Free schools	30
Free schools 16 to 19	8
Free schools alternative provision	5
Free schools special	6
Further education	26
Higher education institutions	12
Local authority nursery school	27
Miscellaneous	9
Non-maintained special school	6
Other independent school	90
Other independent special school	57
Pupil referral unit	10
Secure units	2
Sixth form centres	1
Special post 16 institution	12
University technical college	7
Voluntary aided school	104
Voluntary controlled school	184
Grand Total	2802

Trust / Federation / Sponsor



Educational settings linked to a Trust, Federation or Sponsor?



- Trust / Federation
- Multi-Academy Trust / Sponsor
- Trust
- Single-Academy Trust
- Multi-Academy Trust
- Single-Academy Trust / Sponsor
- Not applicable

Row Labels	Count of Trust / Federation / Sponsor
Trust / Federation	1107
Multi-Academy Trust / Sponsor	1089
Trust	2
Single-Academy Trust	51
Multi-Academy Trust	126
Single-Academy Trust / Sponsor	1
Not applicable	426
Grand Total	2802



CLIMATE AMBASSADORS

Programme objective: provide education settings across England with access to free support from volunteer Climate Ambassadors, who will help them develop and deliver impactful Climate Action Plans.

- Advice and support for leaders and governors on developing a Climate Action Plan for the whole organisation.
- Help for business managers understand their options on reducing carbon emissions and costs.
- Upskilling support for educators, helping them develop sustainability and climate skills within the curriculum.
- Ideas and tools to boost connections to nature and support biodiversity within an education settings' grounds.
- Help with understanding any climate risks posed to an education setting and how to prepare for them.
- Support pupils to develop the skills they will need to address the changing climate and biodiversity crisis.

Education settings including early years, primary schools, secondary schools, specialist schools and further education settings can join the Climate Ambassadors programme.



Sister Projects



[Digital hub](#) (commissioned by the Department for Education) to help each education setting determine the next steps on their sustainability journey, understand what resources are available, and what actions will make the biggest impact for their setting.

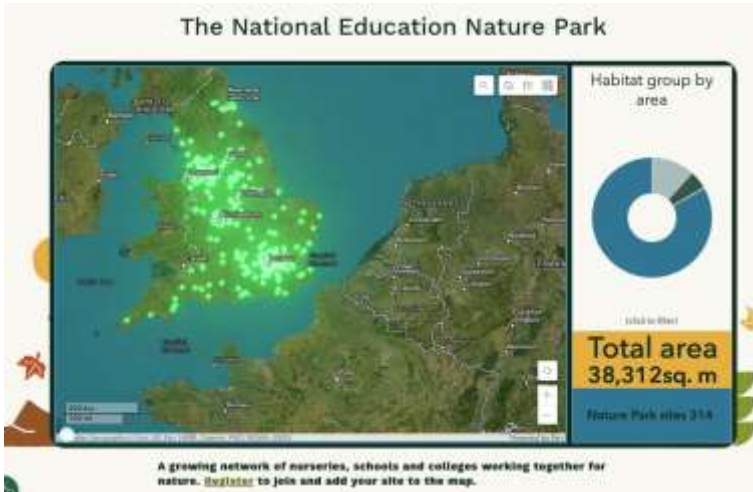


The [National Education Nature Park](#) (and [Climate Action Awards](#)) empower children and young people to make a positive difference to their education setting's outdoor space. The free programme provides all educators with the resources, support and guidance to embed climate and nature into learning in a way that suits their setting and learners.



[Let's Go Zero](#) is a national campaign uniting teachers, pupils, parents and their schools as they all work together to be zero carbon by 2030. LGZ are harnessing the power of schools and young people to drive change and spark climate action in communities across the country.

National Education Nature Park



Climate Action Awards to launch soon – recognising schools and colleges who have brought about change.

Nature Park website has lots of teaching resources and ideas for content – quality assured.

<https://www.educationnaturepark.org.uk>

Get involved...

Get involved... as an education setting

Education settings including early years, primary schools, secondary schools, specialist schools and further education settings can join the Climate Ambassadors programme.

Education settings can request tailored support such as:

- Guidance on developing a Climate Action Plan
- Specialist advice across one or more of the four key CAP areas
- Activities for the classroom to support climate education in the curriculum
- CPD opportunities for educators to embed sustainability into their teaching
- Signposting to relevant support and resources

No matter where a setting is on their sustainability journey, a Climate Ambassador can support in finding the right next steps for action.



Get involved... as a Climate Ambassador

We are looking for Ambassadors from across the **private, public, charity and education sectors** who want to make a genuine difference and inspire future generations with positive solutions to environmental challenges.

The scheme takes a cross-disciplinary approach and aims to connect volunteers of all backgrounds and expertise with education settings, educators and learners.

Climate Ambassadors are expected to;

- Volunteer a minimum of **one day a year**, spread over multiple activities.
- Have a willingness to make a lasting connection with the education setting and wider community.

Climate Ambassadors do not need to be an expert in the four areas covered in a Climate Action Plan!

Climate Ambassadors will...

- Register with the STEM Learning Ambassador platform and complete a safeguarding induction and a full DBS check
- Receive core Climate Ambassador training and access further upskilling modules on climate essentials
 - e.g. Carbon Literacy, Sustainability Leadership and STEM Learning's CPD training opportunities
- Access a network of Climate Ambassadors through the Regional Hub and STEM Learning Ambassador community

Please complete the [expression of interest form](#) to get involved.



Get involved... as a partner

Climate Ambassadors has collaboration at its heart and we're privileged to work with a range of inspiring partners. We always welcome exploring new partnerships with organisations who have put sustainability at the heart of their operations and mission.


Local Authorities, employers and organisations can support the programme by:

- Including Climate Ambassadors as part of existing volunteering schemes
- Providing a variety of skills and expertise to education settings.
- Align with existing outreach with nurseries, schools and colleges.
- Share the Climate Ambassadors programme with your existing networks and linked organisations.

Climate Ambassador partners will...

- Support and enhance community engagement with environmental and sustainability challenges.
- Allow employees to 'give back' to their local community.
- Progress strategic sustainability and social value goals

If your work aligns with the Climate Ambassadors programme and you think you can support our programme, please [contact the YH Regional Hub Team](#) or the national consortium using [the online form](#).



Contact the Regional Hub

Each Regional Hub is there to help you with any questions you have and to support educational settings, Climate Ambassadors and partners engaging with the programme.

The hub for Yorkshire and Humber is hosted by the University of Leeds.

- Regional Hub Lead: Amanda Maycock
- Regional Hub Manager: Zoe Gilbank
- Project Officer: Ruth Green

Email the team on climateambassadors_yh@leeds.ac.uk

Find the other regional hub team emails on the [Climate Ambassadors website](#).

CLIMATE AMBASSADORS

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THANK YOU

Contact: Amanda Maycock, Yorkshire and Humber Regional Hub Lead, University of Leeds

Email: climateambassadors_yh@leeds.ac.uk

Website: www.climateambassadors.org.uk

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