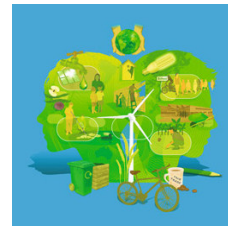


Sustainable Schools

For pupils, communities and the environment

Frequently Asked Questions



What is sustainable development?

The goal of sustainable development is to enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life, without compromising future generations. This means finding ways to improve our lives without damaging the environment, and without storing up problems for the future, or transferring them to other parts of society or the world.

What is the Sustainable Schools initiative?

The Sustainable Schools initiative aims to encourage schools to take on board the principles of sustainable development in their everyday work, achieving educational excellence alongside the goals of healthy living, environmental awareness, community participation and global citizenship.

This academic year is a Year of Action on sustainable development for schools. The Department for Education and Skills (DfES) is working with partners to provide resources and materials to help embed sustainable development into all areas of school life. The Sustainable Schools initiative is one element of the wider government programme to combat climate change and reduce carbon emissions.

What are Sustainable Schools?

Sustainable Schools consume less energy, water and materials and produce less waste. This means they are efficient schools and healthier environments in which to learn. In Sustainable Schools pupils can learn about sustainability both in the classroom and from their first-hand experience of how their schools are run. This means they encourage care through all aspects of school life:

- Care for oneself
- Care for each other
- Care for the environment.

How does the Sustainable Schools initiative work?

The Sustainable Schools initiative is designed to support schools on their journey to sustainability, introducing the principles of sustainable development and offering guidance on how to embed these principles into the heart of school life.

The national framework for Sustainable Schools focuses on social issues as much as environmental issues and comprises eight sustainability 'doorways'. Each can play a role in the major areas of school life – curriculum, campus and community:

- Food and drink
- Energy and water
- Travel and traffic
- Purchasing and waste
- Buildings and grounds
- Inclusion and participation
- Local well being
- Global dimension.

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Schools can come into sustainability via any of the eight doorways – or by other routes – based on where they are starting from and what they want to achieve. Many schools are already carrying out activities in the area of sustainability, often with exceptional results. The initiative will provide resources and tools that will equip schools to evaluate their progress more effectively and encourage them to highlight their achievements.

Why do we need Sustainable Schools?

Sustainable Schools empower children to lead sustainable lives, teaching them the skills and behaviours they need to become part of the solution to challenges such as climate change. By becoming sustainable a school can save money, for example on water and energy. At the same time sustainability can help to improve the health, fitness and emotional well-being of its pupils, and ensure their quality of life for the future. Schools are part of the community – sustainability enables schools to help the local community create a healthier, safer and greener place to live. It is difficult to envisage a sustainable community without a sustainable school at its heart.

What does the Sustainable Schools initiative mean to me and my community?

Sustainable Schools are about helping young people at a local level – they are about improving the communities and environment in which families and children live. The initiative will help the school community to contribute to meeting local goals, for example on waste minimisation, energy efficiency and sustainable travel.

What resources are available?

The DfES is working with partners to provide resources and materials to help embed sustainable development into all areas of school life. A comprehensive list of these resources is included as part of this pack.

Where can I find out more?

There are a number of websites that can help embed sustainability in schools:

Sustainable Schools area of Teachernet: www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools

Government web portal: www.sustainable-development.gov.uk

Independent advisor and watchdog: www.sd-commission.gov.uk

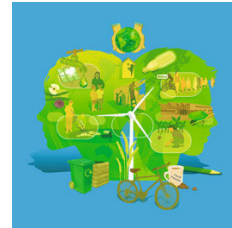
Indicators: www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/progress/national/index.htm

DfES policy and action plan: www.dfes.gov.uk/aboutus/sd

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Resources, tools and guidance



The 2006/07 academic year is a Year of Action on sustainable development for schools. The Department for Education and Skills (DfES) is working with partners to provide resources and materials to help embed sustainable development into all areas of school life. The Sustainable Schools initiative aims to promote a new way of thinking that will allow schools to achieve their existing goals effectively and efficiently. The following resources will help school leaders and teachers embed sustainability in the curriculum, the campus and community.

Resources for pupils

Carbon detectives' kit: A package of resources for Key Stage 2 and 3 pupils to help them investigate the sustainability performance of their own school and develop practical suggestions for staff and governors on moving forward.

www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools

Online pupil conference: Going live from 11 – 22 June 2007 in cooperation with WWF and Global Learning Communities, the online pupil conference will contribute to WWF's 'One Million Sustainable Lives' initiative and will enable schools and pupils to engage with the Sustainable Schools framework.

www.wflearning.org.uk/yearofaction

'Change the world' competition: Building on the popular 'Change the world for a fiver' publication from We Are What We Do®, a new and exciting version will be produced by and for young people. Pupils from all schools will be invited to come up with their own suggestions and ideas on how to 'change the world for a fiver' and submit these to a competition.

www.wearewhatwedo.org

Resources for teachers and school leaders

Assembly plans: Suggestions for head teachers and school leaders on how to profile sustainability within school assemblies, and open a dialogue about these issues with pupils and staff.

www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools

Self-evaluation tool (s3): s3 has been designed to help schools evaluate their current efforts to create a sustainable school and to inform their next steps. Because it is structured using the headings in the Ofsted self-evaluation form, it provides a clear way to demonstrate how sustainability contributes to school improvement.

www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools/tools

Resource library: This will feature schemes of work from Foundation Stage to post-16. The schemes are based on the eight sustainable school doorways and include links to National Curriculum subjects.

www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools/library

Teaching Awards: For the first time, the 2006-2007 Teaching Awards programme will include an award for sustainable development that is open to all schools. This is a great way to highlight your school's achievements in the area of sustainability.

www.teachingawards.com

Resources for bursars, caretakers, catering staff and school managers

Guidance handbook: A short handbook addressing energy, water, waste, travel and procurement issues in schools. The handbook will summarise potential measures with a quick visual indication of costs and benefits, and a page of supporting information, explanations and links.

www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools/publications

Resources for governors

Guidance handbook: Concise and practical guidance for governors to help them understand the benefits of Sustainable Schools, and provide the leadership necessary to position sustainability at the heart of school life.

www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools/tools

School suppliers and partners

Sustainable design case studies: A guide of 10 case studies describing school buildings that exhibit a high degree of sustainable design was published in December 2006. *Schools for the Future: Design of Sustainable Schools Case Studies* will act as a guide and inspiration for architects, contractors, buildings commissioners and school teams involved in new build/refurbishment projects.

<https://www.tsoshop.co.uk/education/>

Web resources

In addition to those mentioned above, there are a number of websites that can help embed sustainability in schools. These include:

- Government web portal: www.sustainable-development.gov.uk
- Independent advisor and watchdog: www.sd-commission.gov.uk
- Indicators: www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/progress/national/index.htm
- DfES Action plan: www.dfes.gov.uk/aboutus/sd