

Diocese of Manchester Schools Eco Award



Introduction to Eco Award for Schools

We are delighted to launch the 2025 'Planet Savers' Manchester Diocese Eco Award for Schools. This is an award designed by children and young people from our schools to help encourage and celebrate the brilliant and important eco work that is happening within our schools across the Diocese.

We know all too well that we live in a time when urgent action is required to radically reduce our carbon footprint for the sake of the future of our planet. The Board of Education supports the commitment of the Manchester Diocese to reach carbon net zero by 2030. We recognise the vital theological and practical importance of creation care, articulated by the fifth mark of mission: 'To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth'. We want to treasure the world we live in, and preserve it for others.

Please read on through this resource to see the details of the Core Criteria and Additional Criteria that schools must meet to be eligible to apply for the Planet Savers Award. Schools who are applying for the award must meet all 9 of the Core Criteria and at least 3 of the Additional Criteria, which is a deliberately challenging task!

The closing date for applications for the 2025 award is **Friday 28th March 2025** and can be sent to leonabrookshaw@manchester.anglican.org

With huge thanks to younger leaders from Canon Burrows CE, Newchurch St Nicholas CE, St Peter's CE Ashton, St James High School and Trinity High School who were key to the award's creation, design and setting the criteria. We are enormously grateful for their hard work over the initial stages of this award.

We are very grateful for the Planet Saver Award logo which was designed by Ayesha from St Thomas' CE Primary in Halliwell.

Core Criteria

All 9 of the following core criteria must be met for a school to apply for the Planet Savers Eco Award:

1. Have a pupil eco-group in school.

Are you able to demonstrate the activities and impact of the school's eco group? How can you demonstrate the whole school approach to eco issues?

Look out for an inspirational film with hints and tips from pupils on our social media platforms

2. Naming an 'Eco Governor' from your Governing Body who works with the eco-group and raises eco issues at governor meetings.

Do you have a named Governor as your link Eco Governor? How has the Eco Governor worked with the eco-group within the school? What discussions and decisions have been made at the governing board around eco issues?

3. Completion the CofE Energy Footprint Tool

The purpose of the EFT is to annually, and accurately, produce a carbon footprint for each school - so that we can chart the progress towards the target of carbon net zero by 2030. The EFT opens on 1 May and closes on 31 July each school year, and the data must be entered during this time period.

4. Register your school with an Eco Schools account and begin the process of working towards Eco-Schools Green Flag Accreditation.

Your school needs to be registered with Eco-Schools website. Eco Schools is a brilliant organisation that will help your school become more environmentally friendly in so many ways. Once you are registered with Eco Schools you will be able to begin to work towards their 'Green Flag' accreditation.

5. Recycling throughout school, and projects to encourage more recycling at home and within the community.

Do you have recycling bins inside your school building and outside? How much of your school rubbish is recycled? Have you organised any campaigns or competitions to increase recycling in school, the community or your homes?

6. Encouraging care of wildlife; planting trees, plants, vegetables etc

Examples might include log piles or insect homes; areas where you have planted wildflower seeds or troughs with bee friendly flowers or vegetables; perhaps you have a compost pile.

7. Reduce litter around school.

There always seems to be a lot of litter around doesn't there, but what if your school had a big push to reduce or even eliminate litter both inside and outside your school. Maybe have litter push where people collect litter when they see it and see how much you can clear by being a litter hero? And when we see litter does it look like something you can recycle? Does your school have a plan or policy about litter?

8. The reduction of plastic usage - especially bottles.

Alongside looking out for litter, do you have a way of making sure that you don't use as much plastic? Have you got some special bins for plastic stuff, including bottles? Are there ways you encourage people to use their own water bottles at school and not buy plastic ones? Are there other plastic things you use in school that you would like to see less of and how are you doing that?

9. Develop eco links/projects between school and church.

Examples might include shared usage of a small plot to grow wildflowers or herbs. Perhaps you have committed to finding ways to share renewable energy. How are you working together to encourage the whole community to be more eco aware?

Additional Criteria

At least 3 of the following additional criteria must be included for a school to apply for the Planet Savers Eco Award:

10. Achieve Green Flag accreditation with Eco-Schools.

Eco-Schools provide a simple, seven-step framework that guides, empowers and motivates pupils to drive change and improve environmental awareness in their school, local community and beyond. After completing the seven-step process, schools can then apply for Eco-Schools Green Flag accreditation, which recognises, rewards and celebrates the environmental achievements of young people. The Eco-Schools Green Flag application window opens on 1 May and closes on 31 July each school year.

11. Develop some water saving projects within the school and grounds.

There are a number of ways schools can save and recycle water, from the simple rain water collecting and plant watering through to the more complex Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDs), or the installation of taps that only run for a limited period amount of time.

12. Using a Green Energy Tariff for all energy usage in school.

Schools are able to buy green energy – energy that has been made by renewable resources (wind, sun, etc) rather than by burning fossil fuels. If a school is only using renewable energy then the carbon footprint of the school will be vastly reduced. If you are not on a green energy tariff try using [The Big Clean Switch](#) to see what it would cost to make the switch.

13. Installing Smart Meters.

If you have smart meters installed in your school you are able to see and keep track of all of your energy consumption. This will not only help you see where you can save energy, but also save the school some money by reducing the energy bills. It may cost a little bit of money to have smart meters installed, but it can help save energy and money in the long term.

14. Implement some of the recommendations from your school Heat Decarbonisation Plan (HDP) to reduce your carbon footprint.

Once you have your HDP for your school there will be sequenced and costed plans to make your school carbon net zero. Work with your school building consultants to implement some of the building recommendations.

15. Encourage people to save energy by switching lights off.

Is there information around school that tells everyone how much we can save when we remember to switch off lights in a room? Do you have some way of reminding people when they leave a room to switch off the lights to save energy?

16. Have zero electric days for each year groups on different days.

Is there scope at your school to have a 'zero electric day' for each year group or class? Are there ways you can use other power sources to go about your day at school that are much kinder to the environment? Could you spend the day outside for example?

17. Reduce paper usage.

Have you undertaken an audit/inventory of paper usage in school then/or adopted a school 'Paper Usage Policy'? How do you encourage reducing this in the whole school community and beyond?

18. Replace plastic packaging for school food sold in cafeteria.

Does your school use plastic packaging for some of the food it serves in the cafeteria? Is your school looking at a more environmentally friendly way to package food? Could your school cost out the impact of moving from plastic packaging to paper packaging?

19. Walking to school where possible.

In what ways do you encourage walking to school? Are you able to measure the impact of this and what does this look like? Is there a walking bus or similar and how is the whole school community encouraged in an eco-approach to transport?

20. Green spaces and greenhouses.

Have you established or cultivated a green space? Do you have a greenhouse and if so, how is this used?

21. Spread awareness/World Environment Day.

Have you got plenty of posters and displays around your school that give helpful information about how we can make a positive difference to the environment and live differently? Do you have special days where you have assemblies and lessons on environmental issues? Do you do anything special for World Environment Day?

Planet Savers Eco Award – Application Form

How will it be awarded?

Schools who have been successful in gaining the award will be notified in the second half of the summer term. Awards will be presented shortly after the announcements.

Who can apply?

Any Manchester Diocesan Church School able to fulfil the core criteria required and at least three additional criteria.

Who will decide?

A panel of primary and secondary school pupils will make the final decision on which schools receive the award.

What do you need to do?

Please fill in the application form and submit to leonabrookshaw@manchester.anglican.org by **Friday 28 March 2025**. If you wish to submit any additional evidence in support of your application, for example, photographs, copies of scrap books etc, please feel free to do so.

School Details

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Phone number:

Email address:

Website page:

Twitter/X account:

Name and role of applicant/s

<p>Name:</p> <p>Role:</p> <p>Contact details:</p>
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Please demonstrate how you meet each of the core criteria.

<p>1.</p>

<p>2.</p>

3.

4.

5.

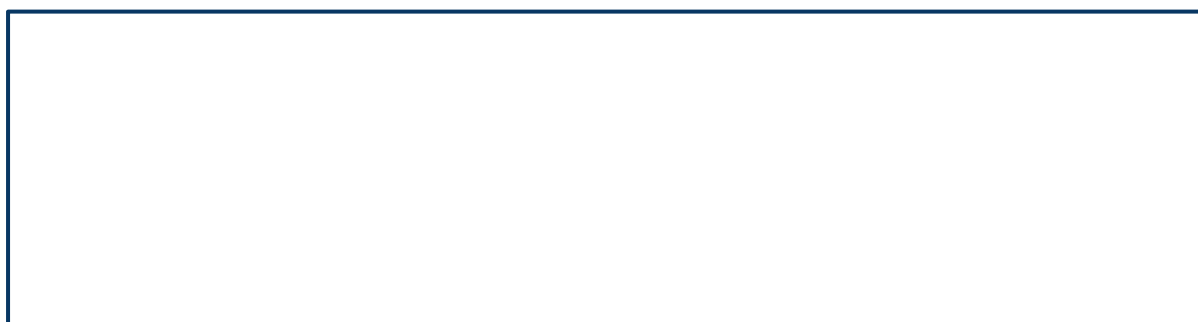
6.

7.

8.

9.

Please demonstrate how you meet three additional criteria you have chosen.



**Is there anything else you wish to add or submit in support of your application?
Please list if so.**

Please explain the impact your approach to eco issues has on your school and if applicable, wider community.

Signed:

Date:

This application form should be returned to;

leonabrookshaw@manchester.anglican.org by Friday 28 March 2025

Thank you very much