

Climate Change Education – Support for teachers

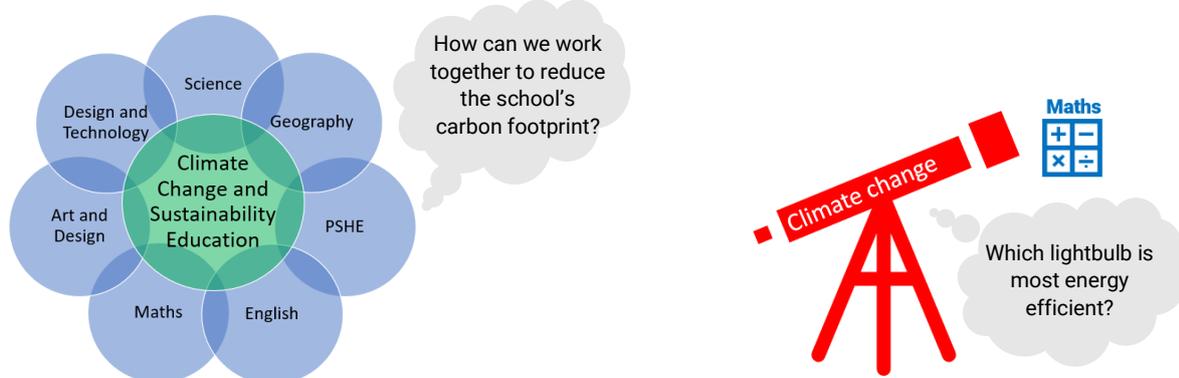


The urgency of effective Climate Change Education (CCE) in addressing the crisis, is recognised on both a global and local level: from [UNESCO's focus on CCE](#) in this decade of Education for Sustainable Development, to the recommendations of [Waltham Forest's Climate Commission](#) to embed CCE within the school curriculum.

At the 2021 Global Education Summit, Education International launched their [Teach 4 the Planet](#) manifesto, calling on nations to commit to making “[quality climate education for all, an immediate priority](#)”, when they meet at COP 26 in November. The manifesto has received huge international support you can [sign up](#) to add your voice.

In a survey by [Teach the Future](#), 90% of teachers recognised the importance of CCE but 70% felt they were not adequately trained to deliver it. This is understandable, given the complexity of the issues. For this reason, part of the Teach 4 the Planet manifesto is to provide funding, resources, training, and support for educators, to ensure their success.

Furthermore, teachers may feel the pressure and burden of ‘adding’ CCE to an already loaded schedule. Teach for the Future found that when it is taught, CCE is primarily covered in science and geography subjects. However, the climate crisis is interconnected with all aspects of our society and important factors can be missed when we take this approach. The challenge of CCE’s broad scope is also its advantage: It is a truly interdisciplinary topic and can be used as a focus to bring together multiple subjects in project-based learning or as a lens through which to cover individual subjects. Many young people care deeply about the climate crisis and by bringing it into lessons, they find newfound relevance and purpose to learning sometimes abstract concepts. CCE can be the real-world context and application for their learning and improve their motivation.



Children and young people can also be empowered to help make sustainability changes at school and at home and should not be underestimated as a source of ideas. If you're not already signed up, [Eco-Schools](#) is a great place to start.

There are many other organisations who can help you embed CCE in your curriculum, so it needn't be a case of reinventing the wheel. Here are a few resources recommended by top experts:

[Share My Lesson: Climate](#) – Climate change lesson ideas

[A Rounder Sense of Purpose](#) – Developing transdisciplinary competencies

[Education Scotland](#) – 'Learning for Sustainability' resources from an exemplary curriculum

See also:

[Climate Psychology Alliance](#) – Dealing with climate anxiety (including free therapeutic support and resources) and read about supporting children with eco-anxiety in [our blog](#).

Suntrap aims to embed climate literacy within its whole programme, covering not only knowledge and skills but fostering the values and attitudes required for sustainable behaviours (UNESCO). Natural environments (like Epping Forest) are the perfect context for interdisciplinary CCE. They also give children and young people the first-hand experience that can nurture appreciation for the natural world and our impact on it. This is an essential catalyst for change. ([Find out more here.](#))

If your setting is looking to make use of outdoor learning to deliver inspiring and motivating lessons, including CCE, Suntrap offer [training for educators](#), in your setting or at our newly refurbished centre in the heart of Epping Forest. [Ask us](#) about building a session to meet your needs.

Together, we can empower not only young people but our whole communities to live more sustainably.