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# **Powerstock CE VA Primary School**

## **Climate Action Plan (CAP) 2025–2031**

Version 1.0 – Updated for Academic Year 2025/26

Date: 09 September 2025

**Sustainability Lead:** Nick Harris

**Governor Link:** [Name TBC]

**Eco-Pupil Council:** Establish Autumn Term 2025

### **Executive Summary (for Governors and Parents)**

This Climate Action Plan (CAP) sets out our long-term approach to reducing energy use and carbon emissions, building climate resilience, enhancing nature on site, and empowering pupils with sustainability knowledge and skills. As a small rural primary housed in a Grade II listed building, we will focus on reversible, heritage-sensitive measures such as professional draught-proofing, internal secondary glazing (subject to consent), heating control upgrades, and seasonal shading. We will use the National Education Nature Park to drive curriculum-linked nature projects and pupil agency. The plan runs to 2031 with annual reviews aligned to the Department for Education's strategy to 2030.

### **1) Vision & Commitment**

We will reduce emissions, improve comfort and resilience, enhance biodiversity, and equip pupils to lead change. Our CAP meets DfE expectations for a named Sustainability Lead and a published plan, and adopts a whole-setting approach with pupil leadership and governor oversight.



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## 2) Timeframe & Targets

Time horizon: 2025–2031 (aligned with sector aims to 2030–2037).

| Area                | Targets (vs 2024/25 baseline)                                                                                        |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Energy & carbon     | –15% by 2027; –30% by 2028; –40% by 2030; long-term alignment with –75% public-sector reduction by 2037.             |
| Water               | –10% by 2027; –20% by 2028.                                                                                          |
| Waste to landfill   | –50% by 2028; zero to landfill by 2030.                                                                              |
| Biodiversity        | Map habitats in Spring 2026; deliver at least one Nature Park project each year; pursue micro-grants where eligible. |
| Curriculum & agency | Sustainability themes across KS1–2 by 2026; annual pupil-led reporting and citizen-science participation.            |

## 3) Governance, Roles & Partnerships

**SLT & Governors:** Sustainability is a standing agenda item; estate decisions reference the CAP and DfE estate guidance.

**Pupil leadership:** Eco-Council co-designs actions and reviews energy/water dashboards.

**External support:** Let’s Go Zero Climate Action Advisors; Local Net Zero Hub technical support; National Education Nature Park resources and small-grants.

## 4) Baseline & Monitoring (2025/26 baseline year)

**Energy:** Collate 24 months of bills; install/activate smart metering; weekly dashboard visible to pupils.

**Water:** Monthly meter readings; fix leaks; audit high-use fixtures.

**Waste:** Monthly estimates by stream; target reduction and composting.

**Travel:** Annual staff/parent/pupil survey; update School Travel Plan.

**Biodiversity:** Map habitats on the Nature Park platform by Spring 2026.



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## **5) Action Plan by Pillar**

### **A) Decarbonisation (Energy & Emissions)**

Constraints: Grade II listing prevents PV installation and window replacement; focus on reversible, fabric-first, and controls-led measures.

#### **Short term (AY 2025/26):**

- Complete LED relamp using heritage-appropriate fittings.
- Install smart thermostats, improved time controls, weather compensation, zoning/TRVs; insulate primary pipework.
- Professional draught-proofing of original sashes/doors; repairs to improve airtightness while retaining fabric.
- Internal secondary glazing (removable/lift-out) in priority rooms, subject to consent; pair with thermal blinds/shutters.
- Loft/roof insulation top-ups where feasible; consider breathable internal wall insulation in select rooms after moisture assessment.
- ICT and appliance power-management; procurement includes sustainability criteria.

#### **Medium term (AY 2026/27–2027/28):**

- Commission a Heat Decarbonisation Plan (strategy stage) with support from the Local Net Zero Hub; prepare PSDS-ready documentation.
- Low-carbon heating feasibility (e.g., air-source heat pump/hybrid) with conservation officer pre-app discussions.
- Sub-metering for boiler/lighting/IT; weekly Eco-Council data reviews.

#### **Longer term (to 2030):**

- Replace end-of-life heating plant with low-carbon solution (subject to consents/funding); explore off-site renewable electricity options (green PPAs).



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## **B) Adaptation & Resilience (Heat, Flood, Extreme Weather)**

### **Short term (AY 2025/26):**

- Implement a BB101-aligned overheating plan (summer venting, night purge where safe, decant plan).
- Install internal blinds/thermal curtains; trial external shade sails for play areas; plant shade-giving trees/hedges.
- Clear gutters/downpipes; address ponding; install water butts.

### **Medium term (AY 2026/27–2027/28):**

- Design and deliver SuDS features (rain gardens, planters, tree pits, swales) to reduce surface-water flood risk; seek DfE SuDS grant match-funding.
- Fit thermal shutters/blinds to reduce summer gains and winter losses in key rooms (heritage-sensitive).
- Update Business Continuity for heat/flood events.

### **Longer term (to 2030):**

- Increase permeable surfacing in refurbishments; micro-regrading to divert overland flow; integrate SuDS into outdoor learning.

## **C) Biodiversity & Environment (Grounds & Materials)**

### **Short term (AY 2025/26):**

- Register with the National Education Nature Park; complete site habitat mapping.
- Establish no-mow/low-mow zones, wildflower margins, bug hotels, hedgehog corridors; eliminate pesticides.
- Start food/green-waste composting.

### **Medium term (AY 2026/27–2027/28):**

- Deliver annual Nature Park projects (pond, hedge restoration, micro-orchard); pursue RHS-administered micro-grants if eligible.

### **Longer term (to 2030):**

- Implement a five-year habitat plan tied to curriculum topics (pollinators, water cycles).



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#### **D) Climate Education & Green Skills**

- Use Nature Park resources to link science, geography, art, DT and writing to live campus projects and citizen science.
- Staff CPD via Let's Go Zero/Carbon Literacy; pupil Eco-Council to publish annual recommendations; KS2 "green jobs" awareness.

#### **6) Cross-Cutting: Water, Waste, Travel, Catering/Procurement**

- Water: aerators/push-taps, leak fixes, water butts; tie SuDS to learning.
- Waste: prevention first, on-site composting, uniform swaps, furniture/stationery re-use.
- Travel: active travel days, scooter/cycle storage, no-idling pledge, staff car-share.
- Catering/Procurement: seasonal menus, low-carbon choices, supplier asks on waste/packaging; embed sustainability criteria in buying decisions.

#### **7) Funding & Support Pipeline**

- Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS): grants for heat decarbonisation/efficiency – monitor next windows.
- Public Sector Low Carbon Skills Fund (LCSF): previously supported Heat Decarbonisation Plans; 2025/26 paused – use Local Net Zero Hub templates/support.
- DfE SuDS in Schools Grant: match-fund SuDS features (call open Jul–Oct 2025).
- National Education Nature Park: free resources, mapping tools and small-grant allocations.
- Let's Go Zero Climate Action Advisors: free tailored support.

#### **8) Heritage-Sensitive Retrofit Guide (What is feasible here)**

- Draught-proofing original windows/doors (low-intrusion) can cut window air-leakage by a third to a half.
- Internal secondary glazing (removable) improves thermal performance and noise while preserving external appearance (consent likely required).
- Internal wall insulation only with breathable systems and careful detailing to avoid damp/thermal bridges; seek consent.
- Heat pumps may be feasible with proper heat-loss assessment, emitter upgrades and careful siting; engage Conservation Officer early.
- Always follow "maintenance first, fabric first, services next", documenting significance, risks and reversibility.



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### 9) Monitoring, Reporting & Review

- Termly dashboard to SLT/Governors (energy, water, waste, adaptation, curriculum).
- Annual CAP update published each July.
- Share progress with Nature Park and via Let's Go Zero networks.

### 10) Risks & Mitigations (summary)

| Risk                                  | Likelihood | Impact | Mitigation                                                     | Owner |
|---------------------------------------|------------|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Consent for secondary glazing delayed | Med        | Med    | Early pre-app; reversible systems; clear heritage statement    | Lead  |
| Missed PSDS funding window            | Med        | High   | Maintain "bid-pack"; Net Zero Hub review; monitor Salix alerts | Lead  |
| Summer overheating impacting learning | Med        | High   | BB101 protocol; shading; thermal blinds; hot-weather timetable | Lead  |

### 11) Implementation Timeline

#### Autumn Term 2025 (Sep–Dec)

- Confirm Governor link and staff Green Team; establish Eco-Council.
- Register with National Education Nature Park.
- Baseline: energy, water, waste; set up smart meter dashboard visible to pupils.
- Commission draught-proofing survey; prepare consent documents for internal secondary glazing (priority spaces).
- Book Let's Go Zero Advisor session; plan quick wins and funding pipeline.



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### **Spring Term 2026 (Jan–Mar)**

- Complete LED relamp and heating control upgrades; insulate primary pipework.
- Complete habitat mapping for National Education Nature Park.
- Submit DfE SuDS grant bid (if partnering) and develop simple rain-garden design with curriculum links.
- Publish CAP on school website and share with community.

### **Summer Term 2026 (Apr–Jul)**

- Install internal blinds/thermal curtains; pilot external shade sails; run BB101 overheating plan.
- Deliver Year 1 Nature Park project (e.g., wildflower areas/hedge).
- Start draught-proofing works and, if consented, install internal secondary glazing in pilot room(s).

### **Academic Year 2026/27**

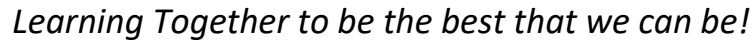
- Extend secondary glazing to additional rooms (subject to consent); top up loft/roof insulation where appropriate.
- Commission Heat Decarbonisation Plan (strategy stage) with Net Zero Hub support; prepare PSDS-ready info.
- Implement SuDS works if funded; expand biodiversity habitats and outdoor learning.

### **Academic Year 2027/28**

- Decide on low-carbon heating pathway and funding route; develop detailed design if proceeding.
- Deepen curriculum integration and publish annual impact report.

### **2028–2030 Milestones**

- Replace end-of-life heating system with low-carbon solution (subject to consent/funding).
- Achieve  $\geq 40\%$  energy/carbon reduction vs 2024/25 baseline by 2030; maintain annual reviews to 2031.



A) Action Tracker (rows added as needed)

B) Risk Register (rows added as needed)

[illegible]



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### **13) References & Key Guidance**

**DfE guidance: Sustainability leadership and climate action plans in education:**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sustainability-leadership-and-climate-action-plans-in-education>

**DfE policy: Sustainability and climate change strategy (to 2030):**

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

**Good estate management for schools – Sustainability of your estate:**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/good-estate-management-for-schools/sustainability-of-your-estate>

**Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) overview:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/public-sector-decarbonisation-scheme>

**Salix PSDS eligibility:** <https://www.salixfinance.co.uk/schemes/phase-4-public-sector-decarbonisation-scheme/eligibility>

**Low Carbon Skills Fund update & strategy-stage planning (Salix):**

<https://www.salixfinance.co.uk/news/low-carbon-skills-fund-working-organisations-plan-their-net-zero-future>

**LCSF 2025/26 pause (sector update):** <https://www.barker-associates.co.uk/insights/key-update-lcsf-funding-cancelled-for-2025-26/>

**BB101: Ventilation, thermal comfort and indoor air quality in schools:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/building-bulletin-101-ventilation-for-school-buildings>

**DfE SuDS in Schools Grant (2025 call):** <https://find-government-grants.service.gov.uk/grants/sustainable-drainage-systems-suds-in-schools-202627-1>

**National Education Nature Park:** <https://www.educationnaturepark.org.uk/>

**Nature Park funding overview (DfE/RHS):**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nature-park-and-climate-action-awards-funding-allocations/national-education-nature-park-funding-guide>

**Historic England – Draught-proofing windows and doors:**

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/eehb-draught-proofing-windows-doors/heag084-draughtproofing/>



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**Historic England – Secondary glazing for windows:** <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/eehb-secondary-glazing-windows/heag085-secondary-glazing/>

**Historic England – Insulating walls in historic buildings:**

<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/technical-advice/retrofit-and-energy-efficiency-in-historic-buildings/upgrading-thermal-elements-installing-insulation/insulating-walls-in-historic-buildings/>

**Historic England – Installing heat pumps in historic buildings:**

<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/technical-advice/building-services-engineering/installing-heat-pumps-in-historic-buildings/>

**Let's Go Zero – Climate Action Advisors:** <https://letsgozero.org/climate-action-advisors/>