

BE CARBON FREE

About this session

Find a day (or more) in the school calendar to encourage low carbon lifestyle. Share tips, calculate a carbon footprint, avoid carbon-emitting transport and practice energy-saving measures.

Every country needs to permanently reduce the amount of Carbon (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases released into the air, because high levels of CO₂ are warming up our world. We all suffer from extreme weather.

World leaders will be discussing this at COP26, taking place in Glasgow in early November. Clean energy such as solar panels and electric cars are starting to make a big difference, but what else can we do?

This classroom activity encourages children to consider what they can do and possible changes to make at home and in school to reduce our individual carbon footprints.

- **Download the accompanying card for pupils to fill in and monitor their progress**
- **Share pictures of the children's classroom activities**
- **Share lesson plans to inspire other schools on our ideas bank.**

Session outcome

- Audit modes of transport.
- Encourage travel to school by foot, bike, scooter, bus rather than driving.
- Explore potential walking bus routes, if you don't have one already.
- Encourage families to complete their carbon footprint at home and choose an area to act on to lower it. Children could share what their family has decided to do to inspire one another.
- Discuss one thing each of us can do to lower our carbon footprint.

Lesson plans and sources of information

Audit modes of transport used by pupils and discuss the changes each of us can make using the classroom worksheet on page 3.

There are many different resources and ideas to prompt classroom discussion. Choose one or two to work with and encourage children to complete their pupil cards.

- Walk to school – tips and resources livingstreets.org.uk/walk-to-school
- How to start a walking school bus walkingschoolbus.org
- Use traveline.info to map pupil journeys by public transport. Visit ourworldindata.org/travel-carbon-footprint to prompt a classroom discussion about different modes of transport.

- Practice using a carbon footprint calculator for pupils to try out at home. You could even calculate the carbon footprint of your school. Try footprint.wwf.org.uk (simple) or climatestewards.org/offset/

For additional teacher-curated COP26 classroom resources, try twinkl.co.uk/cop26

Go deeper... check out letsgozero.org and greenschoolsproject.org.uk

What worked well?

Share your lesson plans and pictures of classroom activities to inspire others.

oxford.anglican.org/environment

BETHECHANGE

Saving carbon at home

In November, the UK will host an event that many believe is the world's best chance to get runaway climate change under control. The children will be learning about the UN climate talks this term and thinking about how they can make a difference to the planet

- This month we're looking at reducing our carbon footprint as individuals, as families, and as a school. We're asking the children to share their ideas with each other.
- In October, we'll be sharing the messages we want to send to world leaders and, in particular, the President of COP26, Alok Sharma, MP.
- In November, we'll be looking at all the ways we can reduce our plastic use at home and in school.
- And in December, we'll be planning a glitter-free Christmas. If you're a family that plans ahead, do try to purchase only recyclable wrapping paper and recyclable cards this year!

Talking with children about climate change can feel overwhelming for them and their grown-ups, but even the smallest child can understand that there's something powerful about the actions we can take without them feeling that all the world's problems being all on their shoulders. Here are five things you can do at home:

- Switch to renewable energy, here's how: **oxford.anglican.org/big-clean-switch**
- Turn off lights and appliances when not needed and switch to LED bulbs
- Consider opportunities to use active travel or public transport in place of a car journey.
- Minimise food waste and reduce the amount of meat eaten in a week
- Avoid fast fashion - textiles are very carbon and water hungry.



Download classroom posters and pupil resources at **oxford.anglican.org/environment**

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Classroom worksheet

Calculate a score for a class from the travel modes to school

Mode of Transport	Number of pupils	Score
Petrol/Diesel Cars used (minus 1 point each)		
Motorcycles or Mopeds used (minus 0.5 points each)		
Electric Vehicles used (0 points each)		
Walking, Biking, Public Transport (1 point for each person travelling this way)		
	Sum of scores	A
	Class size	B

(The sum (A) ÷ number in class (B)) × 10 = Your class transport score (C)

Our class transport score is _____

Your class transport score will be between minus ten and plus ten.

What change(s) would make the biggest difference to the classroom score next week?

How does our class compare to others?

BE THE CHANGE