



Essex County Council
Environment and Climate Action



CLIMATE ACTION PLAN CHECKLIST

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN CHECKLIST

This checklist is intended to inspire thoughtful ideas and actions for the development of your climate action plan. While it is not exhaustive, it serves as a starting point.

Please feel free to add additional measures that you have identified within your specific setting to further reduce your carbon footprint and mitigate our collective impact on the environment.

The checklist has been created using the Early years advice pack. This advice pack is a collection of key guidance, tips, and information to help providers cut carbon, reduce their impact on the environment, raise awareness and help improve long-term sustainability across Essex.





Waste

How many black bags (general waste) do you throw out each week?

Do you have a limit or target for black bags?

Yes

No

Have you got a separate bin for:

Paper and cards

Yes

No

Hard plastic

Yes

No

Soft plastic

Yes

No

Food

Yes

No

Cans

Yes

No

Glass

Yes

No

Specialist recycling e.g. batteries, ink cartridges, wires etc.

Yes

No

Do you promote the use of reusable nappies?

Yes

No

Do you limit single-use tissues and wipes?

Yes

No

Do you limit microplastics such as glitter in your setting?

Yes

No

Do you have a 'repair shop' area or a fix it shelf in your setting?

This could be on a table top where you could have glue or Sellotape to stick books back together or a place where broken toys are left until they can get fixed again?

Yes

No

Do you offer clothes swaps or clothes recycling?

Yes

No

Is your uniform policy sustainable? E.g. is your uniform made from recycled or eco-friendly fabrics?

Yes

No

Do you use wet bags to send wet/dirty clothes home in, rather than plastic bags?

Yes

No

Do you have a policy for buying sustainable resources e.g. not made from plastic or not single use?

Yes

No

Do you buy second-hand goods when possible?

Yes

No

Do you buy recycled or eco-friendly brands to use in your setting, e.g. bamboo toilet paper.

Yes

No



Waste

When planning activities or crafts are you considering how they can be disposed of sustainably?

Yes

No

Do you limit how much you laminate?

Yes

No

Are all staff confident about recycling? Do they model good practices for the children?

Yes

No

Use the space below to add any additional comments

Blank space for additional comments.





Energy

Do you have a smart meter? Yes No

Is your building properly insulated? Yes No

Are your doors and windows properly insulated? Yes No

Have you got LED lights? Yes No

Do you turn off all lights? Yes No

How do you remember to do this?

Do you turn off all electrical items at the plug and not leave them on standby? Yes No

Have you got solar panels? Yes No

Have you got an energy efficient heating system? Yes No

Have you got a green energy supplier? Yes No

Is your building properly ventilated to allow air to free-flow and for polluted air to be extracted? Yes No

Do you have trees or shrubbery outside to provide natural shade in the summer? Yes No

Do you have blinds or heat reflective glass on your windows? Yes No

Do you teach your children about electricity and why it is important to save it? Yes No

Use the space below to add any additional comments



Transport

Have you conducted a parent travel survey – do you know the total miles all the parents and staff travel to get to and from your setting in a year?

Yes

No

Have you adequate places to leave buggies or bikes to encourage walking to or from the setting?

Yes

No

Can your parents or staff carpool?
Do you encourage parents to travel together?

Yes

No

Do you ask parents to stop idling – have you signage to encourage parents to turn off engines while waiting at settings?

Yes

No

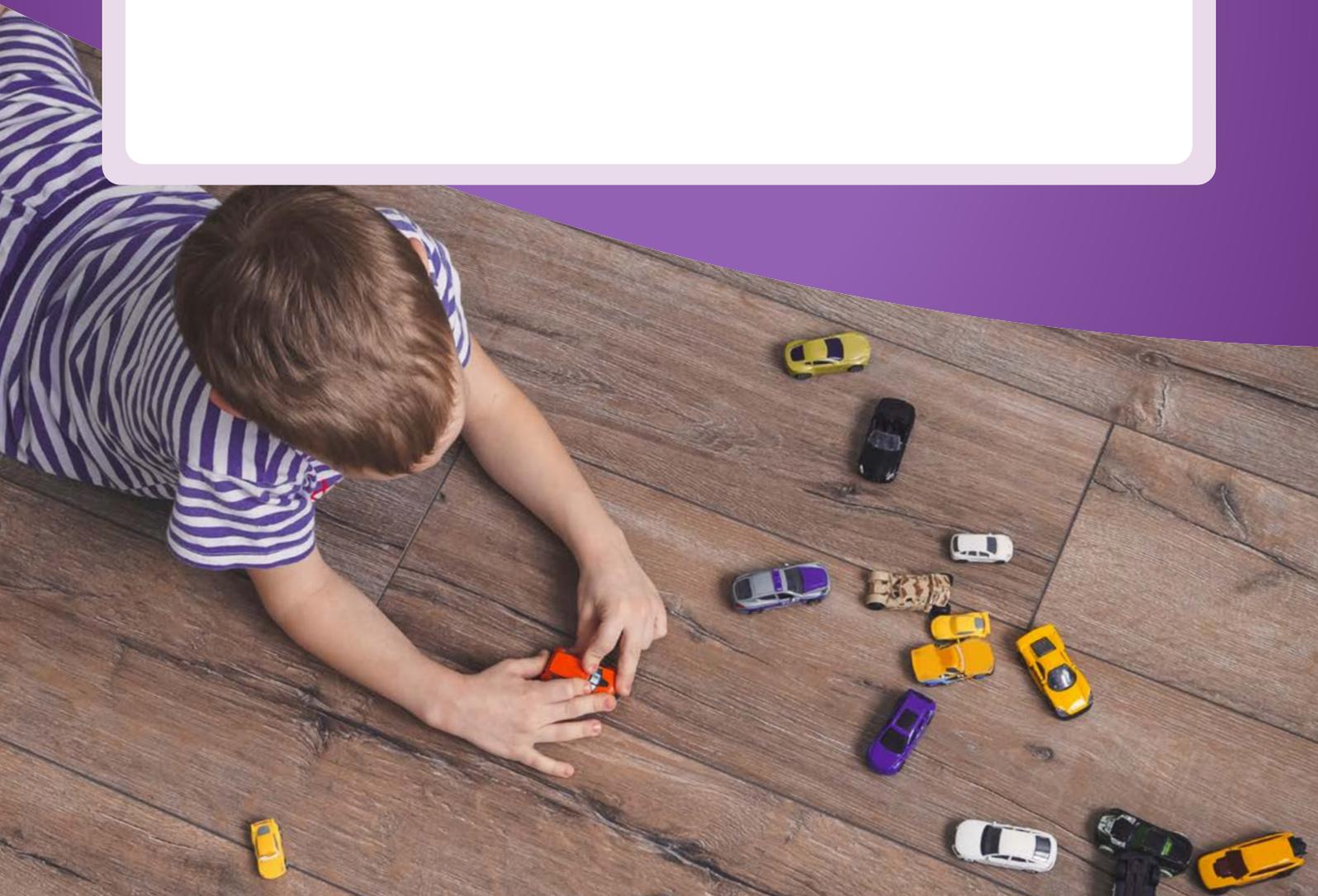
Do you have initiatives to encourage adults to use their cars less? Even just parking a quarter of a mile further away and walking that extra bit make an impact and the miles soon add up over a year.

Yes

No

Use the space below to add any additional comments

Blank space for additional comments.





Food

Have you conducted a full food evaluation – what food do you serve in your setting?	Yes	No
---	-----	----

Do you buy seasonal food?	Yes	No
---------------------------	-----	----

Do you know what food miles are?	Yes	No
----------------------------------	-----	----

Do you buy locally sourced food?	Yes	No
----------------------------------	-----	----

Do you have meat free days?	Yes	No
-----------------------------	-----	----

Do you grow your own food?	Yes	No
----------------------------	-----	----

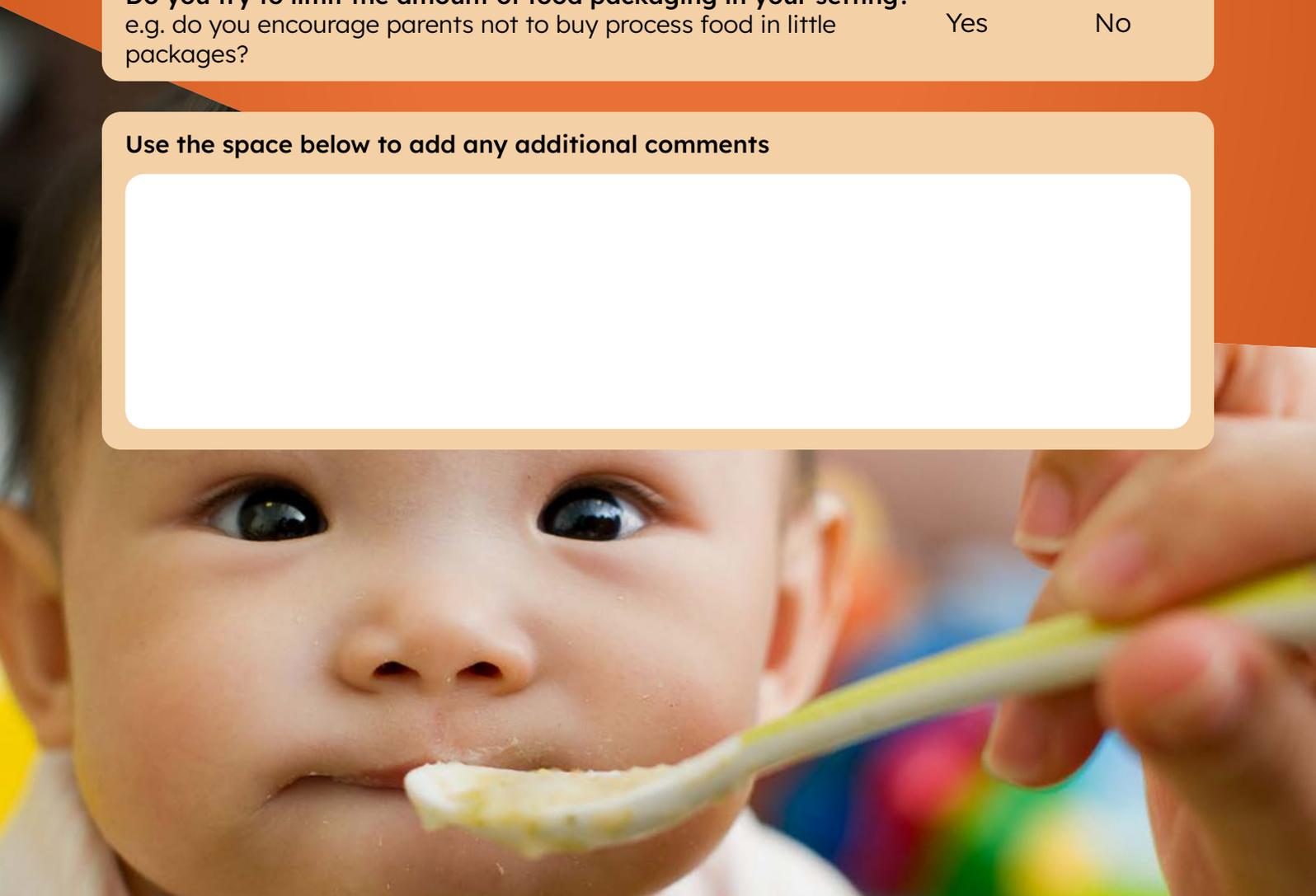
Do you batch cook?	Yes	No
--------------------	-----	----

Do you have a method of gathering the food waste in the room during meal times, e.g. small pots on each table to collect their food waste?	Yes	No
--	-----	----

Do you ensure food waste is collected properly, have you got a green food waste collection bin?	Yes	No
---	-----	----

Do you try to limit the amount of food packaging in your setting? e.g. do you encourage parents not to buy process food in little packages?	Yes	No
--	-----	----

Use the space below to add any additional comments





Water

Is your building at risk of flooding? (do you have a flood plan?) Yes No

Do you have automatic taps – ones that will turn off automatically? Yes No

Do you have water flow restrictors on taps? Yes No

Do you have a water butt to capture rain to water your garden? Yes No

Do you have a limit on how much water the children can play with each day? Yes No

Is water preservation part of your teaching and learning?
Do you teach the children we must share our water with all the plants and animals and not waste it. Yes No

Do settings use bamboo tooth brushes for cleaning the children's teeth? And encourage the children to turn off taps during brushing? Yes No

Do you teach children about the water system in the building, show them the pipes on the radiators, tapes and behind/ under the sink? Yes No

Use the space below to add any additional comments





Outdoor and nature

Do you have plants, flowers and grass in your outdoor area to encourage wildlife into your garden? Yes No

Do you have an area of your garden left wild for nature? (ideally a place where the children don't disturb too often) Yes No

Do you have trees in your garden? Yes No

Do you have a water butt to collect rain-water to feed the plants? Yes No

Do you have a composter for your green waste in your garden? Yes No

Do you have a vegetable patch or pots to grow fruits and vegetables? Yes No

Is there a bird feeder to encourage birds into the garden, especially in the winter? Yes No

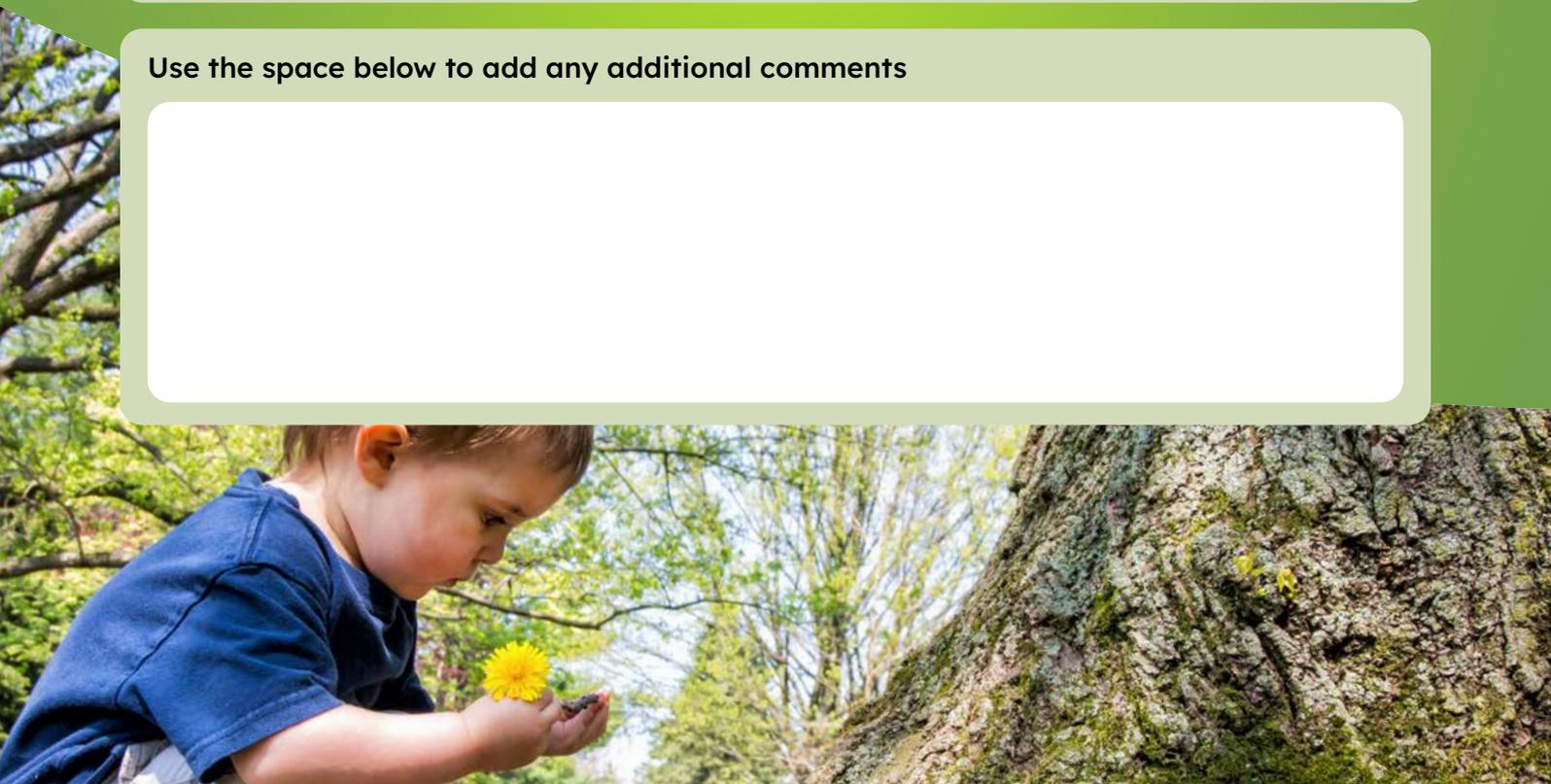
Do you encourage the children to explore their outdoor environment in all seasons? Yes No

Do you leave seed pods (such as old sunflowers or corn stems) to grow in the winter so insect can hibernate? Yes No

Can you encourage children to explore their environment, visiting woods and heaths so they get to know the wildlife in their local area? Yes No

Are staff confident in how the outdoor area can be developed to be more eco-friendly and support local biodiversity? E.g. what plants attract which insects or what vegetables/plant should be grown when? Yes No

Use the space below to add any additional comments





Teaching and learning

Is sustainability part of your curriculum and do you plan activities to empower children to have a positive impact on their environment? E.g. building bug hotels or going on a litter pick?

Yes

No

Do you have teach the children about eco-friendly logos, such as Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance or the FSC?

Yes

No

Do you teach the children about recycling – do they learn how to identify different materials? What is plastic or card etc?

Yes

No

Do you draw children's attention to conservation work being done locally or around the world?

Yes

No

Do you take your children on nature walks and purposefully draw children's attention to the biodiversity of their local area?

Yes

No

Do you have a range of books and read to the children about animals and the natural world?

Yes

No

Have the recycle signs in the setting and teach children to recognise it and understand them?

Yes

No

Do you plants seeds with children so they understand where their food comes from? And if something didn't grow do you talk about why it didn't grow e.g. not enough water?

Yes

No

Is sustainability a theme in staff meetings?

Yes

No

Do you offer eco-training to your staff?

Yes

No

Are staff confident they have the knowledge they need, to pass on the necessary skills to the future stewards of this planet?

Yes

No

Use the space below to add any additional comments



This information is issued by:
Environment and Climate Action

Contact us:
environment.climatecommunications@essex.gov.uk

Environment and Climate Action
Essex County Council
County Hall, Chelmsford,
Essex CM1 1QH

www.essex.gov.uk

 [Essex Climate Action](#)

 [@essexclimatecommission](#)

 [Essex Climate Action Commission](#)

 [@essex_climate](#)

 [Essex Climate Action](#)

Stay up to date with the Your Essex e-newsletter.
For a monthly snapshot of news, events and
activities across the county, sign up at:

www.essex.gov.uk/youressex

The information contained in this document
can be translated and/or made available in
alternative formats, on request.



Essex Climate Action Commission

Supported and informed by
the work of the **Essex Climate
Action Commission** who provided
recommendations to help Essex
become net zero by 2050.

www.essexclimate.org.uk