

CLIMATE EMERGENCY EDUCATION ACT

An Act to Ensure that the Climate Emergency is Incorporated into Education at all Levels and to Provide for Funding so that School Pupils, Students, Apprentices, Teachers, Lecturers and Adult Learners are Prepared for Their Future and the Responsibility of Preserving a Habitable Planet for Future Generations and that Education Buildings Achieve Net Zero Emissions.

PART 1

1. Section 78(1) of the Education Act 2002 shall be amended to:

(a) insert before subsection (a):

(za) educates pupils at the school on the climate emergency and ecological crisis, climate justice (the social injustice issues pertaining from global heating), the need to cut emissions [to net zero as soon as is practicably possible] and the scientific and technical knowledge to do so.

(b) insert after subsection 1:

(2) the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school referred to in subsection 1(a) shall include educating and enabling pupils at the school to care for and protect the natural environment in a way which preserves the environment for present and future generations.

2. Section 80(1) of the Education Act 2002 shall be amended to insert before subsection (a):

(za) provision for education for all registered pupils at the school on the climate emergency and ecological crisis, climate justice (the social injustice issues pertaining from global heating), the need to cut emissions [to net zero as soon as is practicably possible] and the scientific and technical knowledge to do so.

3. Independent schools

In order to demonstrate “public benefit” for the purposes of Charities Act 2011 independent schools must:

- (a) Provide in their curriculum the programme of education in section 1; and
- (b) Ensure that all their education buildings are net zero emissions buildings within the timeframes set out in section 6.

4. Designated responsibility

- (1) This section imposes duties on the appropriate authorities of the following schools—
 - a. maintained schools; and
 - b. independent schools.

- (2) The appropriate authority must designate a member of staff at the school (to be known as the “Climate co-ordinator”) as having responsibility for co-ordinating the the provision of education on the climate emergency and ecological crisis, climate justice), the need to cut emissions to net zero as soon as is practicably possible and the scientific and technical knowledge to do so.

- (3) The “appropriate authority” for a school is—
 - (a) in the case of a maintained school, the governing body;
 - (b) in the case of an independent school, the proprietor.

5. Office for Students

All institutions of Higher and Further Education, and the Office of Students, must have regard to the need to include teaching and learning about the climate emergency, climate justice and the need to abate the ecological crisis.

6. Climate Education Information Institute

- (1) The Secretary of State shall establish a Climate Education Information Institute to disseminate scientific information about climate change, its effects and measures of prevention.

- (2) The Secretary of State shall make grants of not less than £35 million over the eight year period starting with the date of the coming into force of this Act to fund establishment and operation of the Climate Education Information Institute.

7. Educational programmes

- (1) The Secretary of State shall establish the following educational programmes necessary to prevent catastrophic climate change for the following purposes:
 - (a) A learning programme for existing teachers and lecturers, and other key educational institution staff, on the science of the climate emergency and ecological crisis, the systems changes required to abate them, including provision of teaching resources at all levels. This shall include training to enable these staff members to identify eco-anxiety and support pupils suffering from eco-anxiety.

- (b) A programme of vocational training through the development of national centres of excellence to promote the reskilling of the workforce in line with the green skills requirements of industrial strategy;
 - (c) A programme for research into the impact and outcomes of sustainability learning in terms of learning outcomes, attainment, resilience and wellbeing.
 - (d) A programme of outdoor education and connection to nature linked to learning about the climate emergency and ecological crisis
 - (e) A programme to fund an English climate emergency youth voice grant fund, so that youth voice climate boards can be established in all education providers, local authorities and NHS trusts.
 - (f) A programme to establish a Youth Climate Endowment Fund to fund youth-led climate and environmental social action enabling students in every educational institution to engage their peers, teachers and parents in practical, local action to abate the climate emergency and ecological crisis.
- (2) The Secretary of State shall make grants to fund the teaching, learning and skills of the programmes referred to in subsection 1, subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary of State considers necessary, of no less than £1bn over the period of 8 years beginning with the date of the coming into force of this Act. The grants shall be distributed to the educational programmes referred to in subsection 1 in the following sums:
- (c) Not less than £150 million shall be made available for the learning programme for existing teachers and lecturers referred to in subsection 1(a).
 - (d) Not less than £140 million shall be made available for the programme of vocational training referred to in subsection 1(b).
 - (e) Not less than £30 million shall be made available for the research programme referred to in subsection 1(c).
 - (f) Not less than £110 million shall be made available for the programme of outdoor education referred to in subsection 1(d).
 - (g) Not less than £25 million shall be made available for English climate emergency youth voice grant fund referred to in subsection 1(e).
 - (h) Not less than £500 million shall be made available for the Youth Climate Endowment Fund referred to in subsection 1(f).
- (3) The Secretary of State shall continue to make grants of such amounts, and subject to such terms and conditions, as the Secretary of State considers necessary to fund the educational programmes referred to in subsection 1 subsequent to the end of the period of 8 years beginning with the date of the coming into force of this Act.

PART 2

8. Net-zero educational buildings

All providers of education must ensure that:

- (a) By 1 January 2022 all new educational buildings must be designed and constructed to ensure that they are net zero emissions buildings, and deliver a net biodiversity gain, and
- (b) all existing educational buildings must be refurbished, renovated or retrofitted to achieve net zero emissions buildings status by no later than 1 January 2030.

9. Infrastructure investment

(1) The Secretary of State shall establish a grant fund of not less than £23.37 billion to assist providers of education with their obligations under section 8.

(2) The Secretary of State may by regulations prescribe the manner and form in which applications may be made by providers of education for access to this grant fund.

Definitions

In this Act:

“climate emergency” means serious and urgent problems that are being caused or likely to be caused by changes to the world’s climate and hence its weather, in particular the world getting warmer as a result of human activity increasing the levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere

“education buildings” means buildings that are primarily used for educational purposes and have capital costs 50% or more funded by the state.

“existing education buildings” means any education building which has been constructed or for which planning permission has been granted as an education building prior to the coming into force of this act.

“institutions of Higher and Further Education” shall have the same meaning as a “qualifying institution” for the purposes of s11 of the Higher Education Act 2004.

“net zero emissions building” means:

- (a) During the construction of the building, when the amount of carbon emissions associated with a building’s product and construction stages up to practical completion is zero or negative, through the use of offsets or the net export of on-site renewable energy.
- (b) During the operation of the building, when the amount of carbon emissions associated with the building’s operational energy on an annual basis is zero or negative. A net zero carbon building is highly energy efficient and powered from on-site and/or off-site renewable energy sources, with any remaining carbon balance offset.

“new education buildings” means any building which is granted planning permission as an education building or acquired for use as an education building subsequent to the coming into the force of this act.