

First News ACTive Citizenship Awards SUSTAINABILITY THEME

What is climate change?

Climate change is a global emergency. The world is warming up because of harmful emissions caused by human behaviour. The emissions are causing global warming, and this is already having an effect on Earth. The biggest step to tackle climate change is for countries around the world to end their dependence on fossil fuels. You can find out more about climate change [here](#).

What is COP26 and sustainability?

The COP26 climate summit in Glasgow, Scotland, runs from 31 October to 12 November 2021, and will see world leaders gather to discuss the climate crisis and, it is hoped, agree on some urgent actions to prevent a rise in global temperatures. Campaigners are calling on governments to take serious actions to address the issues of climate change and global warming and most people agree that we need to build more sustainable economies and ways of life. Living sustainably means meeting our own needs without compromising the future generation, something many young people are concerned about.

How does this link to the First News ACTive Citizenship Awards?

The ACTive Citizenship Award is about recognising how you can make real, positive changes. This year we want you to think about some of these environmental and sustainable issues and take action to change them. It's about you, working with others to make a difference to your future.

There are three ways to achieve an award:

1. Take a

LEARNING action:

you've been learning about an impact of climate change and global warming in a lesson like geography, science or as part of a topic, and you want to do something about it.

2. Take a

SCHOOL action:

you would like to get involved in making decisions about how sustainable your school is, or because you think something needs to improve in your wider school community.

3. Take a

COMMUNITY action:

there's a particular environmental issue happening in your local area, a community you belong to or the wider world that you want to draw attention to, or get involved in.

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Ideas for sustainability actions to get you thinking (you will go into more detail in the toolkit!)

Learning	School	Community
<i>Run an awareness campaign around the harms of greenhouse gases and steps individuals can take</i>	<i>Share concerns with the school community on food waste, or Fairtrade products in the canteen</i>	<i>Support a local, national or international campaign on issues such as deforestation, fast fashion, or meat consumption</i>
<i>Teach others how to reduce their carbon footprint day to day in an assembly or form time activity</i>	<i>Set up a school council/or consult with them, to ensure sustainability issues are discussed</i>	<i>Promote sustainable development (things that will last, instead of being thrown away) with your local councillor</i>
<i>Inform classmates of the ways they could live more sustainably through posters, presentations or a video</i>	<i>Review/ rewrite school policies with teachers and governors on plastic use and recycling</i>	<i>Write to your local MP to give your views about learning more about climate change in schools</i>

Remember, you do not have to choose an issue related to climate change or the environment; step one in the toolkit aims to help you choose an issue that you are interested in and care about. Whatever you may decide, get planning, take action and don't forget to measure your impact!

Let's do this!

You can view the full toolkit [here](#).

The toolkit pack gives you all the information you need to plan and carry out your ACTive Citizenship projects. You can use it however you choose – in a group with other people, as a whole class with your teacher to guide you, or even on your own. Whatever you decide, it will help you keep your project in order and on track.

We can't wait to see your completed projects and the impact you have made!