

# Pan-industry report declares sustainability and climate education 'vital for green jobs'

*Twinkl contributes to NCEAP Group's whitepaper on how to better integrate sustainability into the national curriculum*

**Reading, July 8th 2024:** The National Climate Education Action Plan (NCEAP) Group - a coalition of over 60 education and climate experts - is today calling for climate and sustainability education to be at the heart of the UK's new priorities.

In Labour's election manifesto, the party committed to making Britain a clean energy superpower and to a new, modern educational curriculum.

The NCEAP Group's 'Curriculum Mapping Report' - launched today at the Royal Meteorological Society Annual Weather and Climate Conference in Reading - shows how Labour's two missions could be linked. The report highlights the many opportunities to bring quality climate and sustainability education into the curriculum.

Professor Andrew Charlton-Perez of the University of Reading unveiled the report alongside Professor Liz Bentley, chief executive of the Royal Meteorological Society. Charlton-Perez said: "Including climate and sustainability within the curriculum review will be vital to ensuring that the new government delivers long-lasting reform that can prepare young people for the good green jobs of the future."

## **Rich curriculum**

The report highlights different options to improve climate education from the first week of the new government, and the pros and cons of each of these approaches.

There are opportunities for an expansion of current climate education by adjusting teaching within the current curriculum, or by making small but meaningful changes to current curriculum specifications.

It includes detailed mapping showing where and how climate can fit into the curriculum. These changes could be implemented quickly while a more comprehensive review takes place. The report also highlights how greater inclusion of climate education fits with the desire of the new government to make the curriculum rich, broad and inclusive.

"A Twinkl survey found that 68% of teachers weren't confident in teaching sustainability and climate change, despite 92% feeling it was a 'very important' subject area," commented Kat Oakes, Sustainability Lead, Twinkl. "We became a member of the NCEAP working group to help solve this challenge for educators. The Curriculum Mapping Report is a big step

towards achieving our goal, laying out practical ways for the DoFE to better integrate climate topics into the curriculum.”

In the foreword to the report, Lisa Hoerning, a recent school leaver, makes clear the desire amongst young people for the forthcoming curriculum review to incorporate climate and sustainability education as a theme that crosses subjects and educational levels.

She said: “The current curriculum studied by young people across England doesn’t educate us on the climate and ecological emergency, and, depending on your subject preferences, you can nearly skip the relevant content entirely.”

She also expressed her hope that in the near future climate education, as demonstrated in the report, would be integrated across all subjects.

The report was produced by a group of authors from fourteen educational organisations led by Professor Sylvia Knight, of the Royal Meteorological Society, and science education expert Dr Sean McQuaid and is endorsed by a broad coalition of 60 organisations from schools, colleges, universities, climate charities and educational publishers.

The full National Climate Education Action Plan Curriculum Mapping report is available here: <https://rdg.ac/climate-curriculum-mapping>

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### **About the National Climate Education Action Plan**

On the 15th September 2021, the University of Reading brought together young people, scientists, teachers and educationalists, policymakers and campaigners at a Climate Education Summit to create an action plan for better climate education in schools and colleges in the UK. This is to ensure all young people today and generations to come are equipped with the knowledge and understanding, and are empowered, to respond to and tackle the climate and ecological crisis facing our planet.

### **About Twinkl**

Twinkl was founded in 2010 in Sheffield by husband and wife Jonathan and Susie Seaton, with a mission ‘to help those who teach’. The company provides high quality, online learning materials and services, which are all teacher-created and checked.

Twinkl offers over one million resources, with new content added daily, ranging from schemes of work and assessments, to augmented reality games and much more. Twinkl is used and trusted by schools and educators in over 200 countries and regions, including primary and secondary school teachers, nursery workers and parents.

Twinkl has a dedicated sustainability content hub, [available here](#), and an ‘Eco Adventurers’ scheme for teaching related topics, [available here](#).

