

Sustainability and climate education are 'vital for green jobs,' say experts

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As the new U.K. government begins its stated mission to "rebuild Britain," a group of education and climate experts is calling for sustainability and climate education to be at the heart of its priorities.

In its election manifesto, The Labor Party committed to making Britain a clean energy superpower and to a new, modern educational curriculum.

Launched at the Royal Meteorological Society Annual Weather and Climate Conference on Monday 8 July in Reading, the National Climate Education Action Plan Curriculum Mapping [report](#) shows how these two missions could be linked. The [report](#) highlights the many opportunities to bring quality climate and sustainability [education](#) into the curriculum.

Professor 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.

In the foreword to the report, Lisa Hoerning, a recent school leaver, makes clear the desire among 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 14 educational organizations led by Professor Sylvia Knight, of the Royal Meteorological Society, and Sean McQuaid and is endorsed by a broad coalition of 60 organizations from schools, colleges, universities, climate charities and educational publishers.

More information: Climate Education in the Curriculum: From Early Years to Further Education in England. [static.reading.ac.uk/content/P ... on-in-curriculum.pdf](https://static.reading.ac.uk/content/P...on-in-curriculum.pdf)

Provided by University of Reading

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