



Promise To The Planet

Cheshire Scouts Handbook



Take a stand. Make a promise.

#PromiseToThePlanet

For our planet



Get involved by taking action towards a greener future

Let's play our part in Cheshire to help our young people live in a cleaner, safer and sustainable world.

Use this handbook to guide you through delivering activities, challenges, discussions and actions.

Share your experiences:
[@CheshireScouts](#)
[#PromiseToThePlanet](#)

Learning about Promise To The Planet

You don't have to be a scientist to know that climate change is a big deal. As Scouts, we're committed to finding a global solution because we're led by young people – and they know whose future is at stake.

From this year, 57 million Scouts from across the world are taking a stand to work towards a better world by taking action to reduce climate change. They are getting hands-on to make a difference wherever they live, using their voices to inspire decision makers, and recording their actions for the planet.

This global Scout campaign helps towards a number of Sustainable Development Goals, including: Sustainable Cities and Communities, Responsible Consumption and Production, Climate Action, Life Below Water and Life On Land – to find out more, head over to the [Scouts for SDGs website](#). To find out more about PTPP, visit cheshirescouts.org.uk/pttp.

Our next steps

In the wake of the UN climate change conference, COP26 held in Glasgow in November 2021, Cheshire Scouts pledge...



By 2023, all Cheshire Groups and Units will have achieved or completed an environmental project or taken climate action, impacting their local community in a fun, inclusive and youth-led manner.

Getting involved as a youth member

Squirrel Scouts (aged 4-6)

Encourage Squirrels to engage with their local environment. Support them to understand about global countries and climates. Encourage wildlife to outdoor spaces by building bug hotels!

Beaver Scouts (aged 6-8)

Challenge Beavers to think about how they could make a positive change to their local community. Promote the value of biodiversity. Try planting a seed or enhancing the local natural environment.

Cub Scouts (aged 8-10)

Ask Cubs to consider the benefits of reusing and recycling products. Can these goals be turned into games or activities? And can Cubs take a stand in their local school or place of worship to promote their actions?



Scouts (aged 10.5-14)

Amplify the voices of the Scouts through discussion and debate. Try out reducing the carbon footprint of the entire troop. Can you hold a “totally green” camp?

Explorer Scouts (aged 14-18)

Explorers are our leaders of tomorrow. Raise awareness in the community. Consider using shared skills to help repair or encourage the reuse of materials and resources. Motivate debate.

Network members (aged 18-25)

Come together with other Network members to plan for climate action. Deliver as much practical support as possible to younger sections. Can you pledge how you will alter your own personal carbon footprint? Can you advocate for sustainability locally?

Top Tip #1

Make sure young people take part in **reflection** about why they take their climate action. This could be verbal, written or maybe they could film themselves talking through their action at home?

Use your voice



Get your voices heard

Thank you for taking action as part of Promise To The Planet.

Recording your actions to Scouts UK, may leave you in the running to win a prize if you submit before 25th November 2021!

[Click here](#) to share your action with Scouts UK

[Click here](#) to share your action with Cheshire Scouts

Working with your section

Delivering activities, challenges, discussions and actions for your entire section is probably the most effective way to make a significant difference. It is important to **plan carefully** for the potential and strengths of your own section.

You can follow this helpful guide in the next few pages to **help you plan**.

If you can **involve youth voices** in the planning of your section's action, you will be engaging with and developing the experiences of the young people whose futures are most affected by rapid changes in our global climate.



1. Choose your action

Act now. Change tomorrow.

#PromiseToThePlanet covers four key areas: **recover**, **recycle**, **reduce**, and **rethink**. The Scouts have worked with the experts to suggest a 'hands-on' and a 'use your voice' action for each area, but it's up to you what you do to fight climate change.



2. Record your action

Speak up. Tell the world.

Use your voice and join the fight by telling us what you did, so we can keep track of the impact we're having together. We can use this to show world leaders that we're not prepared to lose our future.

[Click here](#) to record your action with Scouts UK.

Recover



Our climate is already changing, so we need to act fast to help it recover. To reduce carbon in the atmosphere, we need to stop deforestation, commit to sustainable practices, and grow more plants.

Hands-on action: plant something that will help your local area.

Things to consider:

- Size up the challenge. You could get stuck in on a small scale with a handful of wildflowers on your balcony or take it to the next level and plant a new forest. Every action, no matter how small, helps fight climate change.
- Do your research to find out what to plant. What would be best for your local area? Is there a local species in decline that would benefit from a certain type of plant? Look online, or speak to charities, non-governmental organisations, and conservationists in your area.
- Link up with people. How could you take planting to the next level? You could join the #BillionSeedChallenge and get your local community involved too. Together, you could adopt a whole patch of land. Download the #BillionSeedChallenge planting event guide for tips on how to do this. Available on the Cheshire Scouts website: cheshirescouts.org.uk/pttp
- Get permission. Whatever and wherever you're planting, make sure you have permission from the appropriate people or authorities before you get stuck in.

Use your voice action: speak to decision makers and businesses about deforestation and sustainability to create change in your local community.

Things to consider:

- Actions speak louder than words. Could you take hands-on action and invite your decision maker to see it happen? Often, decision makers will respond more quickly if they see that you're taking action too.
- Use social media (if you're over 13). How could you use social media to amplify your voice? You could get support from others in the community – they could sign a petition or send their own messages to people in positions of power.

Recycle



When plastic isn't disposed of properly, it pollutes habitats, releases substances that harm humans and animals, and emits gases that make climate change worse. To reduce climate change, we need to recycle as much as possible.

Hands-on action: collect plastic, sort it out, and recycle it appropriately.

Things to consider:

- Keep yourself safe. When you're collecting rubbish, wear suitable clothing to protect yourself, including a pair of gloves. Never collect anything from a dangerous area, and always wash your hands thoroughly before eating, touching your face and when you finish.
- Keep track of how much rubbish you collect. You can use this information to record your action and show decision makers that plastic pollution is a big issue in your area.

Use your voice action: speak to decision makers and businesses about plastic pollution and encourage them to recycle plastic properly.

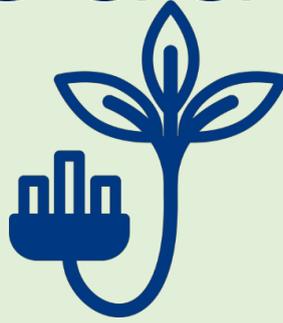
Things to consider:

- Ask decision makers and businesses to reduce their use of unnecessary single-use plastic, as well as investing in cleaning up the environment.
- Think about what type of rubbish is a problem in your area.
- Make people aware of microplastics. These are small pieces of plastic (less than five millimetres big) – they're everywhere, and they make their way up the food chain and hurt animals and people. How could your decision maker stop microplastics from entering habitats and remove the microplastics that are already there?
- Talk about offshoring. This is when countries send their waste away to be processed by other countries. It damages the environment because it uses lots of transport to move the rubbish, and the countries it ends up in don't always process it correctly – they may put it in landfill sites or even burn it! Could your decision maker do more to reduce, reuse, and recycle in your area?

Top Tip #2

Make activities link to Scout badges and Top Awards!

Reduce



Everyday actions make a huge impact on our planet. To reduce climate change, we need to eat, travel, and power our lives in planet-friendly ways. If we keep living as we are, we'd need more than one Earth to keep up with the resources we use. But we don't have another home.

Hands-on action: choose a planet-friendly diet, reduce your food waste, use less fossil fuel powered energy, and avoid fossil fuel powered transport.

Things to consider:

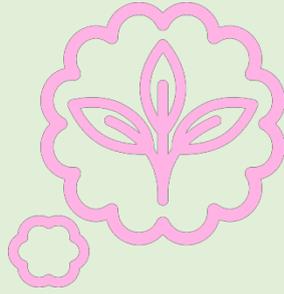
- Choose food that's in season and from local sources. Local food doesn't have to travel long distances to reach you, and food that's in season doesn't have to use as much artificial heat or water to grow.
- Reduce your food waste. Food takes a lot of time and energy to produce. Make sure none gets wasted by planning meals, only buying what you need, and giving any spare food to others (or a charity).
- Change what's on your plate. We all need to eat – but some foods take up lots of space and generate lots of greenhouse gases. Do your research and choose foods that are better for the environment. We'll give you a hint – it'll probably mean eating more plants.
- Change how you get around. Walk or cycle more, or swap car journeys for a train or bus.

Use your voice action: encourage businesses and decision makers to promote eco-friendly choices in your community and adopt ambitious targets for reducing greenhouse gases.

Things to consider:

- Encourage businesses and decision makers to choose carbon-neutral supply chains and sustainable food production. You could make a video, use social media, start a petition, or write letters.
- Speak to decision makers about making public transport in your area accessible and affordable. Are there plans to expand or improve public transport options?
- Work with others in your local area to put on community events that help people to live more sustainably.

Rethink



Hands-on action: fix things whenever you can and buy products from sustainable sources.

Things to consider:

- Fix what you can, so you only buy what you need. You don't have to fix things on your own (especially if it wouldn't be safe). There may be other in your area with the right skills and tools for the job.
- If something can't be fixed, do your research so you buy something that's sustainably sourced. For example, lots of clothing brands are moving towards organic materials and carbon-neutral production. Alternatively, you could try repairing clothes at home. Sew holes in socks for example or repair the hems on trousers.
- Watch out for greenwashing – when companies use clever branding and messaging to trick you into thinking their product is good for the environment when it isn't.

Use your voice action: raise awareness about how people can help fight climate change by spreading the word in your community or online.

Things to consider:

- Set up sessions in your community to help people fix things. Encourage everyone to share their skills, tools, and top tips. It's not just good for the planet – it'll help your local community bond and save money too.
- Notice when businesses aren't operating sustainably. Do your research, then get in touch to ask them to take care of our planet. You could create and write an open letter.

Top Tip #3

Think about getting some media attention, sending pictures (with permission) to local media outlets, social media pages and/or newspapers or using posters in shops. Perhaps get young people to design some. Maybe even start a Twitter account for your group or Unit!

Badges and Top Awards

The meetings you run on an environmental, global awareness or conservation theme for Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers can link to sectional badges or count towards young people's Top Awards. Below is a list, although not exhaustive, of the section specific awards that **involvement or action** in relation to your project might address.

If you are struggling to validate badges or awards, contact your local ADC or DESC. If you would like further advice, please contact one of our Assistant County Commissioners by visiting: cheshirescouts.org.uk/pttp

Squirrel Scouts (aged 4-6)



Beaver Scouts (aged 6-8)



Cub Scouts (aged 8-10)



Scouts (aged 10.5-14)



Explorer Scouts (aged 14-18)



Think safety



Reach out to our County Team

If you'd like some help with completing or achieving your action, get in touch with the County Team here in Cheshire how can provide practical and knowledgeable support.

For help and support, visit:

cheshirescouts.org.uk/pntp

Safety

Use the [Safety Checklist](#) to help you plan and risk assess your activities. Additional coronavirus-related controls to think about may include:

- Carry out the activity outside if possible – perhaps use a dining shelter or large tarpaulin if needed.
- Think about whether social distancing is appropriate and if so, is maintained between individuals throughout the activity.
- Ensure hands are cleaned before using any equipment and again straight afterwards.
- Clean equipment between different users where possible.
- Set up a hand cleaning station that you can use throughout the session.
- Consider how you manage activities requiring close supervision – e.g. increased instruction, face coverings and extra cleaning?

Top Tip #4

Be ambitious and try to think outside the box. If you need ideas or think you can help others, reach out.

