



# PLANET-FRIENDLY SCHOOLS

The Earth is warming and many natural habitats are changing quicker than wildlife or people can adapt. Climate change is harming our planet's variety of life – its biodiversity – which is essential for us to survive. It provides the air we breathe, the water we drink and the food we eat! But we can help fight climate change and nature loss together. By making our schools planet-friendly we can make space for nature, protect the atmosphere and produce less waste. Let's take action to stand up for our world!

## ANYONE HOME?

Bug hotels are a fantastic way to encourage creepy crawlies into your school grounds as they like to have dark, damp places to hide out. Solitary bees like to lay their eggs in small holes, so try to include some bamboo shoots or drill some holes into wooden logs.



Installing bird and bat boxes or special 'habitat bricks' is a brilliant way to provide new homes for wildlife around your school. Creating gaps in fences – or 'hedgehog highways' – can help our prickly friends to pass in and out of your school grounds easily.



## GREEN FINGERS

Planting your own food at school is a brilliant way to help wildlife and do your bit for the planet. You can grow loads of herbs, fruits and vegetables like chives, mint, rosemary, strawberries, tomatoes, carrots and courgettes. You can cook them into a delicious vegetable soup or some sweet fruity jam.



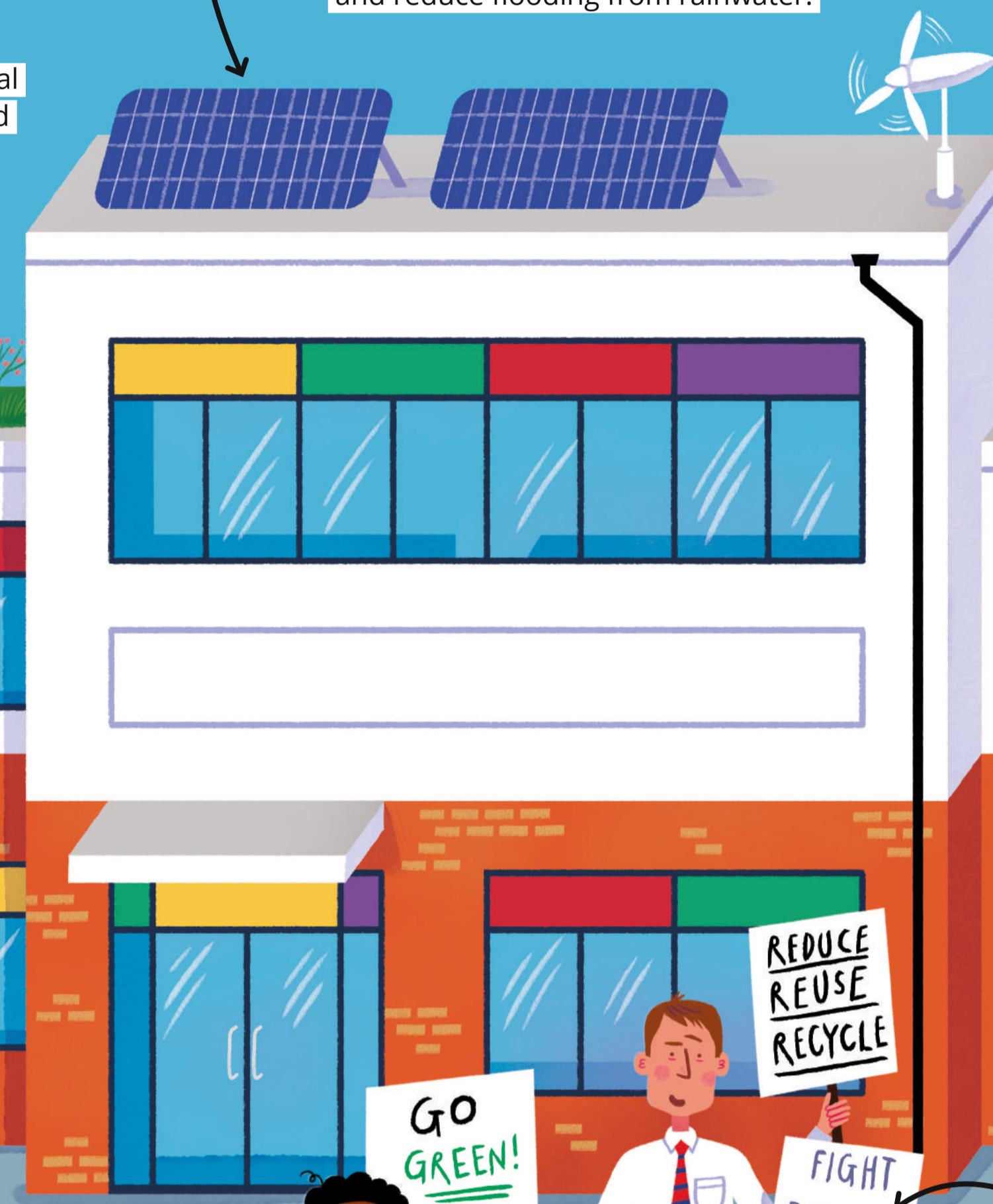
## SWITCH OFF

Reducing the amount of energy we use at school can improve our environmental footprint and help nature. Try to use natural light in classrooms and switch off lights and electronic devices when they're not being used. If you can, try to get your school to switch to a renewable energy supplier as this is much better for the planet.



## UP ON THE ROOF

Solar panels on the roof are a great way of generating your own renewable energy to use at school. Having a 'green roof' covered in grass, moss and other plants can help insulate your school building and reduce flooding from rainwater.



## HOW CAN SCHOOLS HELP?

There are loads of ways to make school grounds better for wildlife. Whether your school has a small tarmac playground or lots of grassy fields, if we all work together we can turn our school grounds into one of the UK's largest nature parks!

## DID YOU KNOW?

We're seeing fewer and fewer wild animals like hedgehogs, water voles, common frogs, butterflies and moths in the UK. In fact, around 40% of our native species are currently in decline. We must all work together to bring back our nature!



## POCKET PONDS

Even a tiny pond made from an old sink, bucket or washing up bowl can be a wonderful home for dragonflies, newts and frogs. Ponds also provide a feeding ground buffet for mammals such as hedgehogs and bats.



## COMMUNITY

Schools are a brilliant place for families and communities to come together. You can involve local people and businesses in planting trees or wildflowers, harvesting or selling food, building wildlife habitats, greenhouses or feeders, surveying local wildlife and so much more.



## SPEAK UP!

Let everyone know what you're doing around school. This might be through making posters and videos, campaigning locally, holding a school assembly, or writing to your councillor, MP or MSP to demand action. You and your school have the power to make a big difference by influencing your families, friends, local businesses and the government. Be a force for good in the fight against nature loss and climate change!

## NATURE DETECTIVES

Use wildlife spotter guides or apps to conduct nature surveys around your school to see if your biodiversity is improving. You could even install cameras near any bird feeders, bird boxes or hedgehog houses to see what your local wildlife gets up to when you're not watching!



## BUSY BEES

Our pollinator friends love flowering plants like lavender, marigolds, native wildflowers and blossoming trees because they provide lots of tasty nectar. Lots of different plants can be grown in pots, recycled containers and even up a wall if you don't have much space.



## LEAVE IT LONG

Letting some areas of grass grow long encourages wildflowers to grow and helps protect wildlife like frogs, field mice, butterflies and ladybirds.