



2023-0028765DBPO

Baroness Barran

Minister for the School System and Student Finance

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Paula McMahan
Chair, Women's Engineering Society Climate Emergency Group
By email: cegchair@wes.org.uk

4 September 2023

Dear Ms McMahan,

Thank you for your recent letter, addressed to the Secretary of State, regarding our climate change in education strategy. I am replying as the minister responsible for this policy area.

The department is helping to create a sustainable future through education, developing the skills needed for a green economy, and supporting our sectors to reach net zero targets. Our strategy for the education system sets out action to 2030 on climate education, green skills and careers, the education estate and digital infrastructure, operations and supply chains, and international. You can find this policy paper on the GOV.UK website at: tinyurl.com/ZPUZ75DA.

Through our education and skills system, we are seeking to inspire young people to choose career paths that support the transition to net zero, the restoration of biodiversity and a sustainable future. We are continuing to support adults to retrain and reskill in line with the needs of the green economy. The government's net zero strategy sets out in detail how our skills reforms will support more people into green jobs and help grow future talent pipelines, including new T Levels and apprenticeships, and the expansion of skills bootcamps. You can find this policy paper on the GOV.UK website at: tinyurl.com/3XFXDFUA.

In November 2021, the new zero carbon and climate resilient specification, S21, was published for all new builds, refurbishments, and elemental works, including green infrastructure (sustainable and resilient products and places). New school and college buildings delivered by the department will be net zero in operation, designed for a 2°C rise in average global temperatures and future-proofed for a rise of 4°C, to adapt to the risks of climate change, including increased flooding and higher indoor temperatures. You can find this guidance on the GOV.UK website at: tinyurl.com/M5KHEF5V.

The school rebuilding programme will transform 500 schools over the next decade, with all new buildings being net zero carbon in operation, achieving this in part by installing electricity generation on their estate. You can find this policy paper on the GOV.UK website at: tinyurl.com/MRYPZMMB.

Adapting existing buildings and designing new ones to respond to climate change and reduce emissions will undoubtedly be a significant challenge. Pilots are exploring the best approaches to decarbonisation and increasing the climate resilience of existing buildings.

In December 2022 we announced that eligible schools and sixth-form colleges will receive an allocation from an additional £447 million in capital funding in 2022-23 for capital improvements to buildings and facilities, prioritising works to improve energy efficiency. You can find this guidance on the GOV.UK website at: [tinyurl.com/5F47S3YA](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/5f47s3ya).

Thank you for writing on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Diana Barran".

Baroness Barran

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