# The NOCN Greener Buildings Challenge

**Introduction**

This lesson pack supports pupils in understanding how small changes at home and at school can help the planet. It encourages children to spot ways to save energy and make their environments greener, linking practical activities to real-world careers in sustainability.

Dream Big Day is about building aspirations early, and part of that is helping children see how their actions today can connect to the jobs of tomorrow.

**Learning Objectives**

* Recognise everyday actions that save energy and protect the environment.
* Identify simple ways to make homes and schools greener.
* Link real-world jobs to actions that help the planet.
* Imagine and explore their own green futures.

### Teacher Notes: Greener Buildings Challenge

This challenge encourages pupils to think practically about how energy is used at home and school, and how small changes can make a big difference.

**Suggested use:**

* Link with science (materials, energy, light and heat)
* Tie into PSHE or sustainability week
* Encourage family engagement by sending the activity home

**Learning Objectives:**

* Identify common sources of energy waste.
* Suggest practical ways to improve energy efficiency.
* Apply creativity through eco-home design.
* Recognise real-world green careers linked to sustainability actions.

### Whole Class Activity: Greener School Challenge

**Pupil Activity Sheet: Greener School Walkabout**

Walk around your school (or classroom) with a teacher or teaching assistant and use this checklist:

**Spot the Leaks – Energy Checklist**

* Can you feel a draught around any windows or doors?
* Are any radiators blocked by furniture?
* Do you leave lights or screens on when no one’s using them?
* Are your curtains or blinds open during the day to let sunshine in?

**Create an Action Plan – Pick three changes you can make**

### Home Activity: Greener Home Challenge

**Pupil Activity Sheet: Home Energy Walkabout**

With a parent, walk around your home and talk about where heat or electricity might be wasted:

* Can you feel any cold draughts?
* Are there any appliances left on overnight?
* Could curtains be opened more to let in natural light or closed earlier to keep heat in?
* Are any rooms always too hot or too cold?

**Create an Action Plan – Pick 3 Pick three changes you can make**

### Whole Class Activity: Eco Home Graphic

Look at the Eco Home graphic together. How many eco features can you spot? Discuss:

* Solar panels
* Insulated walls
* Wildlife gardens
* Energy-saving windows and lights
* Water collection

### Whole Class Activity: Design Your Own Eco-Home

Draw your home of the future on a blank page. Think about:

* Solar panels
* Insulated walls
* A garden for bees and birds
* Energy-saving lights and windows
* Water collection

Label your design and give it a name.

### Whole Class Activity - Green Jobs and Futures

**Exploring Real Green Jobs**

Introduce pupils to the real jobs connected to making greener homes and a healthier planet:

* **Solar Panel Technician** – Fits solar panels to houses to create clean electricity.
* **Energy Advisor** – Helps families make homes warmer and save energy.
* **Electric Vehicle Engineer** – Builds and fixes cars that run on electricity.
* **Wildlife Conservationist** – Protects animals, plants and green spaces.
* **Environmental Scientist** – Tests air, water and soil to fight pollution.

**Discussion:**

* Which green job sounds the most interesting?
* Which job do you think is most important for helping the planet?