Dear XXX Nursery

With the current climate crisis, the urgent need to decrease our environmental impact and raise environmental awareness, I am wondering what you were doing to address these issues within your setting?

Babies and toddlers can be a significant contributor to climate change, with major factors being their reliance on disposable nappies and other plastic waste and the large amount of food waste they produce.

With the need also to promote and educate children in being more sustainable for the future, it is vital that they are seeing sustainable practices being implemented by their nursery on a daily basis.

Some observations I have made just in the last few weeks include:

Here are some suggestions I would like to make and would be hopeful you may look to achieving as soon as possible.

* Reduced food waste (consider a donation to a local homeless shelter / composting / re- using for later meals / seeing if parents want to take food home-asking them to donate take away tubs)
* Less single use plastic (e.g. no plastic shoe covers; simply ask parents to remove shoes)
* Water butts for collecting water from the building and teaching children about nurturing plants
* No/ reduced heating of classrooms during warmer months.
* More efficient cooling of rooms during warmer months / effective use of thermostat
* Encouraging use of cloth nappies and / less nappy changes e.g. only if needed and not at scheduled times
* Crafts with natural or recycled resources – asking for donations from parents of cereal boxes, scrap paper etc.
* Ban on glitter
* Child clothes and shoe swap table to encourage reusing clothes
* Asking parents to put a re-useable bag in their nursery bags for soiled clothing i.e. a ‘wet bag’ is ideal
* More topics / discussions about the environment for the children
* Environmental books as part of reading time
* Less meat and dairy on the daily food menu

Here are a few links for more information:

[https://www.worc.ac.uk/documents/unitots-go-green-guidance.pdf](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.worc.ac.uk%2Fdocuments%2Funitots-go-green-guidance.pdf%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR0ldmVcQmTHPo_Oy25ZZCEagxvrfnUh7IKKOHI4th_rWMc0-M7NPU29lzI&h=AT0PP2PqT83CW4CEMQZjd5LHkS3fQWFgCkwnjrQOhVOa-eJnW3IZQrBXhENwedP2y4HWKvh4gEBkAMgwu_KP2hX3EcU1lBPFd0jY5dznPmhuBbHpYo9IOe9ASfEazuFqUcR2lWCQMYYNc8QBlsFWB8v6l1s)

[https://famly.co/blog/management/easy-make-nursery-sustainable/](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Ffamly.co%2Fblog%2Fmanagement%2Feasy-make-nursery-sustainable%2F%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR1IhGFD2v53VtDpF2afqmBnb7c9YCV3JZg4K5Z7rMWE9ZjinoyqZCRv6ok&h=AT3O1Ev0AD7m8ggBBWq7pSl3FDxQo93gJpmpYf0Hvxc5FOxSX5sEQ6r1vC22booGAhk-CdoHccK0Pc49gtRnvIBTU64U3XHsdySw5WrNyGYph8gYS85x4UOPeTm96ns4zRsj0xFCxcPfSlNORs5UVJ6dF-U)

[https://www.sas.org.uk/news/fight-to-crack-down-on-plastic-pollution-steps-into-the-classroom-with-new-lesson-plans/](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.sas.org.uk%2Fnews%2Ffight-to-crack-down-on-plastic-pollution-steps-into-the-classroom-with-new-lesson-plans%2F%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR3e1L50YoiPwadmlGpFyYai8XPHsZGWxc7tdWw15e68tnQUWHHAafxhsJk&h=AT3Xa3lSP-p7KObaLmkzcL3avdA3pyBeSl1BRyKGx5qyGufRFRnjsMe4fCupric_cTke2JN1F9I7_s46CJE2PWkiYuLyHYP6-8DROn3G5pze4tXIU4USIgtwnAHMgwcXbLrV8f9A38W_sLlMKF_jTxsxerQ)

You can also join the ‘Eco Education Essex’ facebook group for more support from other education settings you want to know more about eco swaps.

I am sure that you already have some sustainable practices in place. However, if not then perhaps this letter can be an opportunity to consider making these positive changes and in doing so help do your bit for the planet and I would imagine in some ways lead to some financial savings for the nursery.

Kind Regards

XXXX