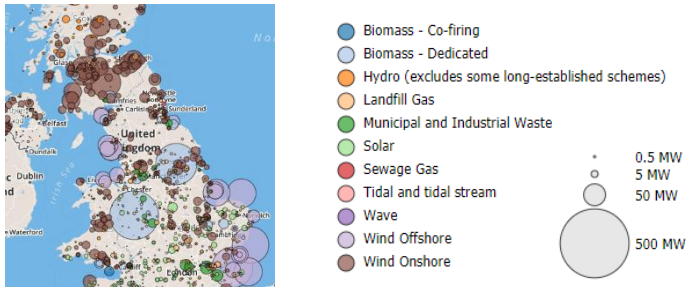
Improving Our Environment: Access for All

The Earth has all the things we need to live, but we need to take care of the Earth so it can keep giving us what we need. Caring for the environment means doing things that will keep the Earth healthy, such as recycling your plastic bottles instead of throwing them in the bin, and turning off lights when you don't need them on anymore. Our environment is important to us and it's important we look after it: once it's gone, it's gone! In this unit we will be learning about the factors that affect our environment and the things we can do to keep it healthy so it can look after us.

Key facts

- Just as we can help animals through conservation, we can help our planet through conservation too. We can do things that are good for the environment and that don't cause pollution.
- One reason to care for the environment is climate change, which means the air around us is warming up too much because of carbon dioxide (CO_2) in the air above us. CO_2 is a gas that comes from places like engines in cars and airplanes, and machines that run power stations.
- Over 70% of the surface of the Earth is covered in water, and everything that lives on the earth (including you!) needs water to survive. So, it's important to think about ways to conserve water.
- One really big way to be green is by **recycling** – this means that things we don't want anymore, like an empty drink bottle, can be re-made into a brand new drink bottle. All we need to do is throw it away in the right bin!



Prior Learning

Year 3

- Land use patterns.
- Compare and contrast human and physical features.

Year 4

- Distribution and natural resources.

Year 5

- Land use patterns and humans use of water.
- Economic activity and trade links, types of settlements and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water.

Key Vocabulary

Physical features (physical geography	The study of the Earth's natural features, such as mountains, rivers, deserts and oceans. Landforms, land use and how they change is also studied, alongside climate and its effects.
Climate	The weather conditions prevailing in an area in general or over a long period of time.
Agriculture	The science or practice of farming, including the cultivation of soil for growing crops, and the rearing of food to provide food, wool or other products.
Residential	Designed for people to live in.
Urban	In, relating to, or characteristic of a town or city.
Rural	In, relating to, or characteristic of the countryside rather than a town of city.
Population	All the inhabitants (people who live there) of a particular place.
Settlements	A place, typically one which has previously been uninhabited, where people establish a community.
Sustainable	Conserving an ecological balance by avoiding depletion of natural resources.
Climate change	A change in global or regional climate patterns, in particular a change apparent from the mid to late 20th century onwards and attributed largely to the increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide produced by the use of fossil fuels.
Renewable energy	Energy from a source that is not depleted (used up) when used, for example wind or solar power.
Non-renewable energy	Energy from a source that is depleted when used, for example the burning of coal, gas and oil.
Natural resources	Materials or substances occurring in nature, that exist without any action of humankind, which can be exploited for economic gain.