

Welcome to the **March Sustainable Schools Leicester eBulletin**.

As we head into Spring, it is time to look ahead at all the projects and events coming up.

### Upcoming events, projects and competitions:

**World Wildlife Day** is on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

**International Womens Day** is on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

**Great British Spring Clean** and **Great Big School Clean** start on 13<sup>th</sup> March and run until 29<sup>th</sup> March

**Big Walk and Wheel** starts on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March and runs until Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March

**Global Recycling Day** is on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March

**Earth Hour** runs from 8:30 - 9:30pm on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March

**World Water Day** is on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March

**Litter Less Leicester** - Monday 23 February to Friday 3 June 2026. Find out more below.

**Grow Your Own Grub competition** – Sign up deadline is Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March. Find out more below.

**Deadline for submissions for our April newsletter** = Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026



*Foundation students at Hope Hamilton CofE Primary planted hazel and blackthorn trees in their school grounds.*

Take care and, as always, if you need any help or support do get in touch.

[Marc.Tench@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Marc.Tench@leicester.gov.uk)

[Victoria.Brown@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Victoria.Brown@leicester.gov.uk)

### Follow us on Social Media

The Sustainable Schools Team have their own social media channels where you can keep up to date with all things related to sustainability in schools.



[EnvEducationLeicester](https://www.facebook.com/EnvEducationLeicester)



[EcoSchoolsLCC](https://www.youtube.com/EcoSchoolsLCC)



[EcoSchoolsLCC](https://twitter.com/EcoSchoolsLCC)



[EcoSchoolsLCC](https://www.instagram.com/EcoSchoolsLCC)



[schools.leicester.gov.uk/eco-schools](https://schools.leicester.gov.uk/eco-schools)



[SustainableSchools@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:SustainableSchools@leicester.gov.uk)

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## Join Big Walk and Wheel

Big Walk and Wheel is back, and we would love you to take part and help make it the largest and most successful one yet. Big Walk and Wheel is the UK's largest inter-school walking, wheeling, scooting and cycling challenge. It inspires pupils to make active journeys to school, improve air quality in their neighbourhood and discover how these changes benefit their world.



The event aims to encourage more families to travel to school actively to help create healthier and happier communities. On each day of the challenge, schools compete to see who can record the greatest proportion of their pupils walking, using a wheelchair, scooting or cycling to school.

This year's challenge will run **16 - 27 March 2026** and is free for all primary and secondary schools in the UK, including SEN, ALN and ASN schools. Schools can choose to enter as a whole school or an individual class. A school's best five days will determine their final position, but schools can log journeys on all ten days if you wish. There are fantastic daily prizes to be won for schools if over 15% of their pupils walk, use a wheelchair, scoot or cycle to school on that day of the challenge. Participating in Big Walk and Wheel also contributes towards gaining Modeshift Stars accreditation.

There are lots of free resources, including curriculum linked lesson plans, which can be used in schools to ensure everyone can feel involved during Big Walk and Wheel. Registration is now open. For more information and to register your class or school, visit the [www.bigwalkandwheel.org.uk](http://www.bigwalkandwheel.org.uk)

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## Grow Your Own Grub Mealbarrow Competition 2026

Leicester's Grow Your Own Grub Mealbarrow competition is back and is a great way to encourage food growing in the school community. For 2026, we have chosen a 'rainbow' theme for the event, meaning you need to choose a rainbow-themed link and base your menu and food growing on that! Take it in whichever direction you wish and you might reach the pot of gold at the end!

- **Attend our optional, free, in-person training on Thursday 19 March, 3:30-4:45pm at Beaumont Leys Library to find out more**



Registration to take part is now open – [click here](#) to complete the form. Deadline for registration is **Friday 16 March 2026**. Any questions please email [Victoria.brown@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Victoria.brown@leicester.gov.uk)

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## Eco Schools training – 30 April 2026: Completing the application and planning for next year

This training will:

- Go through the Eco-Schools application process
- Share examples of good practice from schools across Leicester

Eco-School Training Sign Up - session 3



- Look at the evidence which is needed to gain your Green Flag Award with Merit or Distinction
- Give you time to work on your application with individual support from the Sustainable Schools Team

**Training will take place on Thursday 30 April 2026 1:00-3:30pm at Elmbrook School, Netherhall Road, Leicester, LE5 1DT**

Click the link or use the QR code to complete the form: [Eco-School Training Sign Up](#)

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### Carbon Literacy Project – upcoming training dates

In February 2019, Leicester City Council declared a climate emergency. We are working to reduce carbon with the aim of the city becoming zero carbon. In order to raise awareness of the climate emergency, we are using the Carbon Literacy Project as a way of accrediting school staff in becoming Carbon Literate. The DfE have said that each school should have a sustainability lead who will have taken part in Carbon Literacy Training. Any school staff, governors, and managers can take part.

Virtual training: **Tuesdays 14, 21 and 28 April 2026, 4-6pm** (all 3 sessions needed)

To sign up to one of the training, please complete the [eform](#) or scan the QR code →

Cost is £50 per person for school staff / governors from Leicester City schools or £70 for non-school staff and staff outside of Leicester City. This includes the individual and course accreditation fees from the Carbon Literacy Project.



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### Let's Go Zero webinar – Greening the Curriculum: Taking climate education beyond the Geography lesson

We hear it again and again: students need to be better informed about the climate and the changes happening around them. But with packed curricula, ongoing assessments and fixed lesson plans, adding another priority can feel overwhelming. For many educators, climate conversations can also feel complex or difficult to approach.

Join us on **Thursday 19 March 2026, 3:45–4:45pm**, for a practical workshop focused on achievable ways to embed sustainability into the curriculum, without adding extra pressure.

We'll explore the common barriers to introducing sustainability into learning, how to overcome them, and how anyone, whatever their role, can help build climate awareness among staff and students.

The session will cover:

- Why sustainability and climate education matter across the curriculum
- What strong practice can look like, with clear, real-world examples
- Practical ways to integrate sustainability into existing lessons and school life

Register here: <https://bit.ly/4adRHd3>

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## Great British Spring Clean / Great Big School Clean

The Great British Spring Clean is the nation's biggest mass-action environmental campaign. Since 2016, our army of millions of amazing Litter Heroes has shown they love where they live by pledging to pick more than 4.5 million bags of litter.



[The Great British Spring Clean](#) and [Great Big School Clean](#) are back for 2026 and will take place from **13 to 29 March 2026**.

Four and a half million bags of litter collected is the result of hundreds of thousands of Litter Heroes taking small, individual actions that add up to a huge difference.

Last year alone, more than 342,000 people took part including 265,000 school pupils.

Sometimes, the environmental challenges we face can seem huge. By working together and carrying out the same action, again and again, our incredible community has scaled grass roots activity in to mass action.

To sign up and pledge bags of rubbish, then follow the links above.

If you take part in this, you can also take part in our own Litter Less Leicester campaign below.



### Litter Less Leicester

The Sustainable Schools team at Leicester City Council are running Litter Less Leicester again this year! This project is now open and runs **until Friday 3 June 2026**.

We are aiming for as many schools as possible to become Litter Less Champions, running litter awareness assemblies or sessions and carrying out litter picks in your school grounds or local area.

#### Why take part?

- Get students involved in a great project to **raise awareness** about and **reduce litter** at school and in your community.
- **Borrow litter picking equipment** for a half term (if required and subject to availability).
- Links to **Eco-Schools topics** litter, waste, marine and school grounds to help achieve your Green Flag!
- Receive a **free virtual or in-person assembly** (or resources to run your own) on litter, **or individual class sessions**.
- Have fun and help to keep the environment free from litter!



#### All you need to do:

- Carry out at least **5 litter picks**.



- **Weigh and record** how much you collect (luggage scales can be borrowed for this).
- Write a **short case study** (100 words) once completed with 2 photos (template provided).

If you would like your school to take part in this project, please complete our [eform](#)

For more information, please contact Vicky Brown, Education Officer at [victoria.brown@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:victoria.brown@leicester.gov.uk)

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### **FREE assemblies and workshops on waste management, reduction and recycling for Leicester Schools**

Did you know Leicester City Council's Waste Management team offer FREE assemblies or bespoke workshops on waste reduction and recycling for Leicester Schools. They offer a range of activities tailored to your school for all things recycling and waste related, including assemblies, workshops and classroom presentations, tailored to your needs and covering a range of topics.

For further information on the FREE activities we can provide please contact Kimberley Tilley, Service Development Officer (Waste Management), Leicester City Council - [kimberley.tilley@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:kimberley.tilley@leicester.gov.uk) or [0116 454 6742](tel:01164546742)



### **Eco Schools Green Flag Award – support available**

The Eco-Schools programme is a pupil-led initiative that empowers young people to lead sustainability efforts within their schools and communities. The programme provides a simple, seven-step framework that guides schools on their environmental journey, focusing on ten key topics, such as biodiversity, energy, litter and transport.



This structured approach ensures that schools develop long-term, sustainable habits, turning environmental action into an integral part of school life.

There is still plenty of time to sign up and register for the 2025-26 award.

Last year, 42 schools achieved their Green Flag awards.

If you need any help or support with your application or any step of the process, feel free to get in touch and ask as Vicky can come to your school to go over steps with you and your eco group, or can provide support via Teams or phone call. Email Vicky at [victoria.brown@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:victoria.brown@leicester.gov.uk).

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### **Eco-Schools Celebration – Sign up now!**



Celebrate the work that your school has completed this year by attending our Eco-Schools Celebration event. Bring along up to 6 students to display your Eco-Schools project/s and celebrate your Eco-Schools Green Flag award. Special guests will come round and chat to your students and see their projects, before awarding prizes for different categories.

Taking place on Friday 12 June 2026 (9.30am-2.15pm) at City Hall, Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ.

[Eco-Schools Celebration 2026 - sign up form \(initial expression of interest\) – Fill in form](#)



If you have any initial questions, please contact Vicky Brown at [victoria.brown@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:victoria.brown@leicester.gov.uk)

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## Learning Through Landscapes - Local School Nature Grants are back for 2026!

Supported by the People's Postcode Lottery, we're offering:

- Two hours of quality outdoor learning training for your staff;
- £500 worth of outdoor equipment for your school;
- A climate curriculum pack worth £150;
- A climate audit of your site; and more!



This is your chance to tell us how a grant would benefit your school or setting in your own words. Every single application is read by a member of LtL staff who is excited to hear about your site, your cohort, and your experiences, so don't hold back!

Applications are open to schools and early years settings in England, Scotland, and Wales **until 13 March**. If you've received a Local School Nature Grant in previous years, you're instead eligible for our LSNG XL programme, which offers up to 30 hours of CPD training, alongside equipment and resources.

Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity to embed outdoor learning and play into the school day! Not sure where to begin? Take a look at our advice for writing a winning Local School Nature Grant application, plus a deep dive into the training available through the project. Good luck!

**Apply now:** [Local School Nature Grants - Learning through Landscapes](#)

### Need help?

How to write a winning application: [How to write a winning Local School Nature Grant application](#)

How the training could benefit you: [Local School Nature Grants: How can outdoor learning training benefit you?](#)

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### **Our mailing address is:**

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