

Environmental Education in Leicester

Assemblies and class or small group workshops can be delivered by the Environmental Education Coordinator, as well as external agencies, on a number of topics. We are currently in the process of building a **searchable database** that schools can use to search by topic, age, cost, activity and region.

Funding opportunities are available that can be applied for by schools and **volunteers** can be sought through De Montfort University, Voluntary Action LeicesterShire and local businesses. Schools may be responsible for DBS checks depending on which organisations volunteers come from.

Conferences and celebration events will take place annually and schools who are actively engaging in environmental education will be invited.

As well as support through the **Eco-School award and other award accreditation** the following is just a flavour of project work and resources that schools can engage in.

Energy

- DynamatLite – a web based energy and water monitoring system for individual schools. Workshops on this can be run showing how to interpret data in class. Staff training can also be provided on how to use the system – however it's really easy!
- 'Switch Off' week or month campaigns - students run a campaign in school to switch off PCs, lights etc. The reductions can be then monitored with DynamatLite to show both energy and financial savings.
- Power down savings analysis and installing energy saving plugs (additional cost for equipment with payback in less than a year).
- Signposting to organisations who can deliver workshops/assemblies such as E.ON/British Gas.

Water

- DynamatLite – as above but with water monitoring.
- Water saving devices installed in older toilets (if not already present) – reductions monitored via DynamatLite. We have a limited number of free devices, however they are also very cheap to buy and payback is less than a year.
- Water saving campaigns delivered with support from WaterAid and water awareness from around the world.
- Signposting to organisation who can deliver workshops/assemblies such as Trent Water.

Litter

- Campaigns run using Keep Britain Tidy resources (assemblies/workshops).
- Local community litter picking in partnership with Leicester Parks and Cleaning Services.
- Free hire of litter picking kits for schools – currently being sourced.
- National 'Big Tidy Up' annual event support.

School grounds

- Signposting to organisations that can provide free/volunteer services or paid services in the school grounds such as tree planting, clearing overgrown areas and pond cleaning.
- Tree planting in the school grounds - support to students involved or volunteers as standalone.

- Leicester City Council (Trees and Woodlands Team) also provides services such as tree inspections and wood products from trees felled in school grounds e.g. woodchip, benches and artwork.

Biodiversity

- Signposting to organisations on wildlife surveys and workshops/activities and EDF projects.
- Support on national surveys and inventories e.g. Big Garden Birdwatch, Big Bumblebee Discovery, Big Butterfly Count.

Global Citizenship/Perspective & Fairtrade

- Signposting to organisations including the Leicester Global Learning Library, Leicester Masaya Link, Fairtrade Leicester and societies in the universities who could offer workshops and culture/dance sessions.
- International Schools accreditation support.
- Support linking with other countries through the British Council Schools programme. This can be curriculum based visits & activities or extra-curricular.

Healthy living

- Opportunities for walking and cycling in school to increase health.
- Outdoor learning activities.
- Signposting to growing and cooking projects & funding opportunities for growing opportunities e.g. for greenhouses, polytunnels.

Transport

- Signposting to organisations to increase sustainable transport use e.g. Sustrans 'Bike it', 'Walk to School' project, Bikeability and rambling. These organisations can provide free support to schools through assemblies, workshop and practical activities.
- One off sustainable travel events.

Waste

- Signposting to recycling services in Leicester e.g. Biffa who can provide workshops and assemblies. New resources are currently being made specifically for Leicester schools via student workshops.
- Waste surveys looking at how to reduce waste in the school.
- Lunchbox waste campaigns.
- Support through national waste and national recycling weeks.
- Campaign to reduce disposable batteries and change to re-useable batteries.

For further information

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