

Dear colleague,

Welcome to the **January Sustainable Schools Leicester eBulletin**. We are very pleased to share with you a whole list of activities and events taking place this term.

December marked the end of delivery on the Polli:Gen project, with sessions fast approaching to celebrate the knowledge gained throughout the year. We have really enjoyed working with the Polli:Gen team at Learning through Landscapes to deliver such informative sessions and make incredible changes to school grounds, from ponds to planters!

As well as **Molly Laycock**, our new Education Project Officer joining the team in November, who is working on the fantastic Saving the Saffron Brook project, we also welcome **Laura Barke** to the team who is taking on the Project Officer role managing some of our low carbon activities including low carbon lunches and carbon literacy.

Keep your eyes peeled for further updates around the projects and the activities we'll be bringing to local schools!

Upcoming events and competitions:

- **Eco-Schools Training session 2** - Friday 14 January 2022 at 1:00-3:30pm [Sign up here](#)
- **Carbon Literacy Training for staff and governors** – Mondays 24, 31 January and 7 February 2022 via Teams – [sign up here](#)
- **Green Heart Campaign 2022** – All February
- **Fairtrade Fortnight 2022** – Monday 21 February – Sunday 6 March 2022
- **Fairtrade Fortnight Virtual Assembly** - Monday 21 February 2022, 1:00pm
- **#EcoTeachMeet** - Monday 21 February 2022, 4:00-5:30pm
- **World Wildlife Day** - Thursday 3 March 2022

Do take care and as always, if you need any help or support email or contact us.

January Newsletter

We have a bumper newsletter this term covering our fantastic projects delivered last term, including Great Big Green Week, COP26/Eco-Schools Roadshow and Polli:Nation. Find out all about:

- Wild Art Competition Winners
- The World Reimagined Art Trail
- Saving the Saffron Brook project
- Plastic Free Schools
- Salix funded programme
- Pumpkin Garden Winners
- Climate Friday Strike invite
- Fairtrade Fortnight 2022

It is attached to this eBulletin for ease or can be downloaded by clicking the link above. Please do share with colleagues.

Schools news

January 2022

Sustainable Schools LEICESTER

What is Eco-Schools Leicester?

Leicester City Council has a dedicated Sustainable Schools team based in the Energy & Sustainability team who provide free support to schools to help them become more sustainable in all that they do.

As well as one-to-one support and environmentally linked projects, schools can engage through termly #EcoTeachMeets, staff training, resource planning & workshops, assemblies, Eco-Schools conferences & celebration events and can keep up to date through dedicated social media, monthly ebulletins and termly newsletters. The Eco-Schools programme provides exciting opportunities for students in curriculum time as well as outside the classroom. Learning outside the classroom (LOTC) has been identified as 'memorable activities leading to memorable learning and positively contributing to pupil safety'. LOTC provides positive benefits to all groups of young people and supports a rich, relevant, broad and balanced curriculum.

Welcome to the January 2022 Leicester Schools newsletter. Happy New Year! We hope you have had chance to charge the batteries for this most term. Last year we celebrated the end of face-to-face delivery or Polli:Gen which has been a very successful project. We welcomed Molly to the team who is leading on the education work in the Saving the Saffron Brook Project and as of 1 January, Laura joins us to take on several low carbon education projects. We are looking forward to getting carbon literacy off the ground again in schools as well. We'll be busy planning our Great Big Green Month which will be taking place in May 2022 as well as our annual litter campaign - this year called Less Litter Leicester! Another tongue twister! As always, get in touch if you need any support - Lee, Marc, Molly, Hollie and Laura

CO₂ 

Big Schools' Birdwatch 2022

REGISTER NOW →

How to find out more

Environmental Education Team
City Hall, 115 Charles Street, Leicester LE1 1FZ
Eco-Schools@leicester.gov.uk
schools.leicester.gov.uk/eco-schools
EcoSchoolsCC
EcoSchoolsCC
EnvEducationLeicester
0116 454 2271



This year's Big Schools' Birdwatch takes place between 5 January and 21 February 2022. You can sign up for free on their website www.rspb.org.uk

 giving nature a home

Finished reading? Pass on to a colleague

Santander Cycle offer for Leicester City Council Employees

Enjoy a Free Annual Membership on us!

A free membership to Santander Cycles Leicester for 2022, available to Leicester City Council colleagues.

To apply contact:
cycle-city@leicester.gov.uk

Best Wishes,
Leicester City Council



   

Powered by GORCON

Leicester City Council employees can now take advantage of a year's free [Santander Cycles membership](#) – worth £60 – allowing you to get around the city in a safe and sustainable way. *Please note **for schools** this offer is only open to Leicester City Council local authority school employees (teaching and non-teaching).*

The e-bike scheme works on a membership basis, so once you're signed up you then only pay for the minutes you use.

To activate your free membership, email [cycle-](mailto:cycle-city@leicester.gov.uk)

[city@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:cycle-city@leicester.gov.uk) for details.

The Climate Coalition Green Hearts Campaign – February 2022

Get ready for green hearts everywhere in February! People across the UK will come together to show decision makers that we want to see real and rapid action to tackle the climate and nature crisis - for the love of our families, our homes, our livelihoods and our planet.

Our action pack is full of ideas and ways you can get involved. Download your pack today.

<https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/show-the-love>



Eco-Schools Training Session 2

- Are you wanting to find out about best practices for incorporating Eco-Schools into a busy school environment?
- Do you want to learn about successful environmental actions and projects in other Leicester schools?
- Are you wanting to connect with other school staff in Leicester schools and support each other to gain or renew your Eco-Schools Green Flag Award?

If the answer to any of these questions is “Yes”, then come along and find out more!

Join the free training course on **Friday 14 January 2022, 1.30-3.30pm** at Uplands Infant School (Attenborough Learning Trust Training Room) by signing up on [the official eForm](#). This training is open to both attendees of the first training session and those who did not attend. There will be another in-person follow up on Monday 9 May 2022.

Please note we will be reviewing whether this is face to face or virtual a week before.

Eco-Schools Training Session 2

Best practice, ideas for projects, curriculum links & informing and involving

FREE Training course:
Friday 14 January 2022, 1.30-3.30pm
Venue – Uplands Infant School
(Attenborough Learning Trust Training Room)
Sign up [here](#)
This training is open to both attendees of the first training session and those who did not attend. There will be another in-person follow up on Monday 9 May 2022.

- Are you wanting to find out about best practices for incorporating Eco-Schools into a busy school environment?
- Do you want to learn about successful environmental actions and projects in other Leicester schools?
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If the answer to any of these questions is “Yes”, then come along and find out more!

In Leicester there are now 52 schools with the prestigious Green Flag Award putting us at number one in England! This training, delivered by Leicester City Council, will provide top tips for working on Eco-Schools, ideas for new projects, and a chance to team up with colleagues. There will also be a focus on Steps 4 and 5 – curriculum links and informing and involving.

Who would benefit from this course?
Eco-leads and all school staff with an interest in environmental education - heads, deputy heads, assistant heads, classroom teachers, TA's, support staff, premises officers, business managers and governors/trustees.

For more information please contact:
Sustainable Schools Team
Eco-Schools@leicester.gov.uk
schools.leicester.gov.uk/eco-schools
EcoSchoolsLC
EcoSchoolsLC
EnvEducationLeicester
0116 454 2271

Sustainable Schools LEICESTER



Less Litter for Leicester

Following on from the success of Litter Less in partnership with Keep Britain Tidy, the Sustainable Schools team at Leicester City Council are running an exciting new project called Less Litter for Leicester. This project runs from February until May 2022.

We aim for as many schools as possible to take part, running litter awareness assemblies or sessions, carrying out litter picks in your school grounds or local area, and celebrating your achievements at an event in Abbey Park in May as part of our Great Big Green Month.

If you would like your school to take part in this project please complete our [eform](#) - Deadline: 30 January 2022

For more information, please contact Marc Tench, Education Officer (Eco-Schools) - Marc.Tench@leicester.gov.uk

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We aim for as many schools as possible to take part, running litter awareness assemblies or sessions, carrying out litter picks in your school grounds or local area, and celebrating your achievements at an event in Abbey Park in May as part of our Great Big Green Month.

Why participate?

- Receive resources and support to run whole school litter assemblies or individual class/form sessions
- Raise awareness across your school community of the problems caused by litter
- Receive a loan of litter picking equipment for the duration of the project (if required)
- Link to your Eco-Schools Green Flag as part of the litter, marine, waste and school grounds topics, helping to achieve your Green Flag
- Have fun and help to keep your school grounds or local area free from litter!

Your school commitments

- Hold a whole school litter assembly or individual class/form sessions (template provided)
- Attend a training session at Abbey Park in February, date TBC (optional)
- Carry out at least 5 litter picks in the school grounds or local area, and record the amount collected (weights or number of bags)
- Attend the celebration event at Abbey Park on 23 May 2022, with a group of students (optional)
- Complete a short case study (100 words) after the project ends with two photos – (template provided)

If you would like your school to take part in this project please complete our [eform](#) - Deadline: 30 January 2022

For more information, please contact Marc Tench
Education Officer (Eco-Schools) - Marc.Tench@leicester.gov.uk

Sustainable Schools LEICESTER





Carbon Literacy training – School staff, governors & trustees

In order to raise awareness through the community of Leicester we are using the Carbon Literacy Project as a way of accrediting school staff and students to become carbon literate. This equivalent one-day course will enable participants to be carbon literate and support them to deliver their own course back in school. Following the success of our recent virtual courses we are hosting another starting in October 2021 on the following dates:

- Monday 24 January, 31 January and 7 February, all 4.30-6.30pm (You must attend all sessions to pass)

Your commitments

- Attend all three training online training events in January/February 2021
- Complete feedback about your experience
- Create at least one significant action, as an individual, to reduce your own personal carbon footprint
- Create at least one significant action involving other people to reduce the collective footprint of your workplace, community or place of education
- Encourage your school to participate in carbon literacy either by delivering training yourself or arranging for Leicester City Council to deliver in-house (at a future date to be confirmed)

To book your place please book via this [eForm](#) or email Eco-Schools@Leicester.gov.uk.

Virtual Carbon Literacy Training for School Staff, Governors & Trustees

Carbon Literacy Project

In February 2019, Leicester City Council declared a climate emergency. We are working to develop a climate emergency programme of action to reduce carbon with aim of the city becoming zero carbon.

In order to raise awareness through the community of Leicester we are using the Carbon Literacy Project as a way of accrediting school staff and students to become carbon literate. This equivalent one-day course will enable participants to be carbon literate and support them to deliver their own course back in school!

Training: Mondays 24, 31 January and 7 February 2022
4.30-6.30pm each day (you need to attend all 3 sessions to pass)
Training delivered online via Microsoft Teams

Who would benefit from this project: All school staff and governors with an interest in becoming carbon literate, especially those involved in teaching about climate change and the climate emergency in Years 5 and 8.





Why participate?

- Gain a better understanding of how climate change will affect you and those around you
- Become an accredited Carbon Literate individual
- Acquire knowledge and skills to develop your own responses to lowering your carbon footprint, and the carbon footprint of others
- Gain knowledge of delivering a course about basic climate change science to your students
- Help to enable students to become carbon literate

Your commitments

- Attend all three training online training events in January/February 2022
- Complete feedback about your experience
- Create at least one significant action, as an individual, to reduce your own personal carbon footprint
- Create at least one significant action involving other people to reduce the collective footprint of your workplace, community or place of education
- Encourage your school to participate in carbon literacy either by delivering training yourself or arranging for Leicester City Council to deliver in-house (at a future date to be confirmed)



Sustainable Schools LEICESTER

To book your place please book via this [eForm](#) or email Eco-Schools@Leicester.gov.uk

Save the date – Eco-Schools and Food for Life Celebration 2022

Celebrate the work that your school has completed this year by attending the now annual Eco-Schools and Food for Life Celebration. Bring along up to 6 students to display your Eco-Schools and/or your Food for Life project. Receive your Food for Life award and celebrate your Eco-Schools Green Flag.

Schools can display 2 Eco-Schools topics, 1 of which can include your Food for Life project.

The event will run from 9.30am – 2.15pm. Lunch will be provided on the day.

Schools will be asked to provide brief information about their display before the day.

Book your place now via our [eForm](#), deadline to enter 3 June 2022.

Eco-Schools and Food for Life Celebration 2022

Wednesday 22 June 2022 • City Hall, Leicester

Celebrate the work that your school has completed this year by attending the now annual Eco-Schools and Food for Life Celebration. Bring along up to 6 students to display your Eco-Schools and/or your Food for Life project. Receive your Food for Life award and celebrate your Eco-Schools Green Flag.






Schools can display 2 Eco-Schools topics, 1 of which can include your Food for Life project. As a reminder, the Eco-Schools topics are:

- Biodiversity
- Energy
- Litter
- Waste
- Transport
- Water
- School Grounds
- Healthy Living
- Global Citizenship
- Maritime

Food for Life awards will be judged separately and will be a demonstration of work completed so far on the Food for Life journey.

All schools will also be entered into the:

- Judge's Special Award
- Eco-factor Award (voted by students)

The event will run from 9.30am – 2.15pm. Lunch will be provided on the day.

Approximate timing of the day

09.30-10.00	Students/staff set up stalls
10.00-12.00	Judges visit stalls and speak to students
12.00-13.00	Lunch and activities
13.00-14.00	Presentations
14.00-14.15	Stalls dismantled and students/staff leave

Schools will be asked to provide brief information about their display before the day.

Book your place now via our [eForm](#) or scan the QR code.

For more information contact:

Lee Jowett, Leicester City Council
lee.jowett@leicester.gov.uk 0116 454 2271

Lisa Didler, Soil Association Food for Life
ldidler@soilassociation.org 07718 570945





Deadline for school entry 3 June 2022



Fairtrade Fortnight 2022 – speaker and workshop invites

The co-operative Central England Co-operative

Central England Co-op offer FREE Healthy Choices Workshops which last approximately 45 minutes. The topic covers what counts as part of your five a day, the importance of healthy eating, portion sizes and understanding food labelling". We also offer FREE Fairtrade Assemblies which last approximately 30 mins. The topic covers how by buying Fairtrade products you can support farmers and producers in the developing world and how we can all make a difference". We also offer FREE instore activities – an ethical challenge which looks behind the labels on products and what it means, and a healthy shopping on a challenge, covering

seasonal and instore offers whilst taking into account the budget they are given". For more information get in touch with

Karen Bevan

Member & Community Relations Officer

Email: karen.bevan@centralengland.coop

Mobile: 07801 468340



The Co-op's founding values mean we support the wider principles of fair trading and the aims of the World Fair Trade Organization and Fair Trade Charter. The Co-op sells a wide variety of Fairtrade products including tea, coffee, sugar, bananas, flowers and wine.

As part of Fairtrade Fortnight (21st February to 6th March 2022) there will be a variety of activities happening in store and in your local communities around Leicestershire and Rutland. Look out instore for events or find events happening near you on; [Co-operate \(coop.co.uk\)](https://coop.co.uk)

If you would like any more information about how the Co-op supports Fairtrade or to be part of the activities in your local area, please contact me in the first instance and then I can put you in touch with one of our Member Pioneers in your area.

Lia Lilly

Member Pioneer Co-ordinator, Leicestershire and Rutland

Email: lia.lilly@coop.co.uk

Mobile: 07929 827553

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