

Schools News

April 2022



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 (LOT) has been identified as 'memorable activities leading to memorable learning and positively contributing to pupil safety'. LOT provides positive benefits to all groups of young people and supports a rich, relevant, broad and balanced curriculum.

Welcome to the April 2022 Leicester Schools newsletter. It finally feels like spring is here! The team have been very busy the past few months visiting a lot of schools around the city for projects and workshops, which has been so refreshing to be able to do. All of us also made an appearance at the Polli:Gen celebration in March, which was just buzzing with things to do! Keep an eye on our social media channels going forwards to stay up to date with everything we are doing in the team.

Coming up is our Great Big Green Month in May 2022 – make sure to watch out for news on the wonderful activities you can get involved in all month long!

We hope you have a fantastic Easter break and come back feeling refreshed! **As always, get in touch if you need any support - Lee, Marc, Molly, Hollie, Laura & Jess.**



Help pupils
to make
healthier
choices



The interactive [NHS Food Scanner app](#) can be used in the classroom to inspire pupils to make healthier choices. Please share the newsletter in the link below with your school networks. Teachers will be able to find cross-curricular healthier eating resources on the [School Zone](#) and encourage children to explore what a balanced diet is and help them to make simple, healthier swaps.

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

🐦 [EcoSchoolsLCC](#)

📷 [EcoSchoolsLCC](#)

📘 [EnvEducationLeicester](#)

☎ 0116 454 2271



In February the team along with some of the Saving Saffron Brook team volunteered litter picking on the River Soar

Finished reading? Pass on to a colleague

Eco-School Awards

Schools can register for Eco-Schools for free at www.eco-schools.org.uk/register

Since September 2021, there have been a number of changes in the Eco-Schools Awards. There is no longer a Bronze and Silver accreditation – schools go direct to the Eco-Schools Green Flag.

Green Flags will now be renewed on an **annual basis with an application window open from 1 May until 31 July every year**.

Applications will be **completely done online** to showcase your environmental efforts. There are more questions and an opportunity to achieve Eco-Schools Green Flag with Merit or Distinction.

The new Eco-Schools application online has a **progress bar** which you can see as you complete the application over the year with the students.

The cost will remain at £200+VAT but on an annual basis. More information available online at www.eco-schools.org.uk/the-eco-schools-programme-is-changing

Newsletter

Our newsletters are published 4 times per year. If you would like to submit an article for the next newsletter, the deadline is **Friday 1 July 2022**. We ask for around 200 words, at least 1 photo and contact details e.g. name and email address to: Eco-Schools@leicester.gov.uk

Following the success of our Fairtrade virtual assembly, we have decided to schedule a further two for schools to get involved in! Just click on the links below at the times listed.

Earth Day virtual assembly –
Monday 25 April 2022, 1-1:30pm
[via Teams](#)

World Environment Day virtual assembly – **Monday 6 June 2022, 1-1:30pm** [via Teams](#)

We hope to see you there!

Welcome to the Team Jess!



We have been extremely grateful to have the help of Jessica Atkinson within the team as an intern through the De Montfort University graduate programme!

She studied International Relations and Politics at DMU, where she became interested in sustainability issues and concerned about the lack of attention paid to the climate crisis. Jess hopes that working with the Sustainable Schools team will make for greener Leicester!

Jess was originally scheduled to be with us for 6 weeks – starting in late February 2022, but her placement has been extended to 12 weeks, so is with us until early May 2022.

You may see her assisting with various projects in-school, so make sure to say hello!

Dates for your diary – Eco events



We now have an annual calendar with all the date for the academic year on. This will be updated on a bi-monthly basis. It will be emailed with the eBulletin.

Event Details	Date	Month
Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel ends	Friday 1	April
Earth Day	Friday 22	April
Earth Hour Virtual Assembly 1:00pm	Monday 25	April
Healthy School Network - Physical Activity and Healthy Eating Network Meeting 1:00-3:30pm	Thursday 28	April
Great Big Green Month starts	Sunday 1	May
Eco-Schools Training - session 3 - 1:00-3:30pm	Monday 9	May
Applying for Green Flag Training - 3:00-4:30pm (via Teams)	Wednesday 11	May
Walk to School Week starts	Monday 16	May
Pumpkin Training 4:00-5:30pm Outdoor Classroom Day	Thursday 19	May
#EcoTeachMeet 4:00-5:30pm	Tuesday 24	May
Grow Your Own Grub Menu Deadline	Wednesday 25	May
Grow Your Own Grub Menu Judging	Thursday 26	May
World Environment Day	Sunday 5	June
World Environment Day Virtual Assembly 1pm (via Teams)	Monday 6	June
World Oceans Day	Wednesday 8	June
Healthy School Network - Champions Conference (hopefully face-to-face) 9:00am-12:00pm	Thursday 9	June
Grow Your Own Grub Grounds Judging begins	Monday 13	June
Clean Air Day	Thursday 16	June
Celebration Event 2022 9:30am-2:30pm (City Hall)	Wednesday 22	June
GYOG wheelbarrow collection	Friday 1	July
Grow Your Own Grub Celebration (Abbey Pumping Station)	Saturday 2	July
GYOG return wheelbarrows	Monday 4	July
Plastic bag-free day	Sunday 31	July

- [Leicester - staff training/information](#)
- [Leicester - student activities/events](#)
- [National events](#)

Eco-Schools and Food for Life Celebration 2022

Deadline for
school entry
3 June 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
- Marine



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 Didier, Soil Association Food for Life

ldidier@soilassociation.org 07718 570945



Eco-Schools and Food for Life Celebration 2022

Wednesday 22 June 2022 • City Hall, Leicester

Additional Food for Life information

You are invited to attend this event to demonstrate the work you have completed so far on your Food for Life Journey.



You can showcase work towards your Bronze, Silver or Gold award or you can show a way you have improved an area of the following in school:

- How you used Food for Life to raise attainment
- How Food for Life has been integrated across the school in a whole school approach
- Increased school meal take up
- The good work of your SNAG and pupil voice
- Show the ethos of healthy eating across the school
- Show the improvement in cooking in the curriculum
- Food growing in school
- Demonstrate how you improved the dining room environment

If you would like to achieve Bronze, Silver or Gold by the time this event takes place please contact Lisa Didier. If you would like to display your work from the above categories, then a Certificate will be presented for your work and you will also be achieving criteria B4.2 for their bronze award "we share Food for Life learning with local schools, the wider community and other partners".



Lisa Didier, Soil Association Food for Life
ldidier@soilassociation.org 07718 570945

Roles and Responsibilities

With our expanding team we wanted to let you know who is best to contact for each project.
For all general enquires you can reach all of the team at Eco-Schools@leicester.gov.uk



Lee Jowett – Sustainable Schools Manager & team leader
Lee.Jowett@leicester.gov.uk Tel: 0116 454 2271

- Salix funding – Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS)
- Coordinating grants, funding and social value opportunities
- Climate Declarations
- DMU Graduates
- Climate Woods
- Overseeing BESS Energy
- PFI schools environmental work
- Traded services (including MATs)

Molly Laycock – Education Project Officer for Saving the Saffron Brook (Full-Time) Molly.Laycock@leicester.gov.uk Tel: 0116 454 3187

- Saving the Saffron Brook
- Blue/Green Group
- Sustainable Drainage Schemes (SuDS) work in schools
- The Sea Starts Here



Marc Tench – Education Officer (Term-time, Mon/Wed/Fri)
Marc.Tench@leicester.gov.uk / 0116 454 6746

- Eco-Schools Awards
- Let's Go Zero 2030
- Tree planting
- Tiny Forests
- Litter Campaigns
- Eco-Schools training
- BESS Energy – education support
- Salix – education programme

Hollie Campbell – Graduate Project Officer in Environmental Education (Full-Time) Hollie.Campbell@leicester.gov.uk Tel: 0116 454 4048

- eBulletins & newsletters
- Social media campaigns
- Botanica
- Jane Goodall's Roots and Shoots programme local support
- Promoting events
- BESS Energy carbon reports
- Roadshows & celebration events



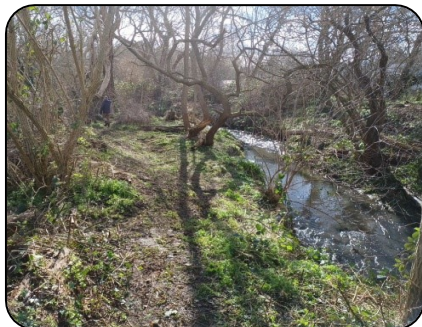
Laura Barke – Project Officer (Full-time)
Laura.Barke@leicester.gov.uk Tel: 0116 454 7156

- Lower Carbon Lunches
- Carbon Literacy
- GYOG and Pumpkins
- Edible Playgrounds
- Young Peoples Climate Board
- Plastic Free Schools
- Re-Think Food Towers

Saving the Saffron Brook Updates

The *Saving the Saffron Brook* project has been making good progress. We have started delivering workshops in several schools across the catchment, which have been well received. One of these was a camera trap session at Willow Bank school.

As part of this we positioned a camera by their hedgehog house, which will hopefully provide us with some great footage! Practical work at Knighton spinney and Overdale Juniors is well underway thanks to the help of some fantastic volunteers! They have been hard at work coppicing trees and clearing brambles in the area.



We also have some exciting opportunities coming up for after the Easter Holidays including one-off events, workshops, volunteering sessions and the 100 species challenge! Please see the flyers on the following pages for more information on the one-off workshops and training for the 100 species challenge.



Supports several Eco-Schools topics

Botanica: Pollinators for Schools



Preparations for wildflower meadows at 10 schools across the city are well underway!

Students from schools taking part in the project have been learning about pollinators and why us humans couldn't live without them – and by supporting them at school and at home, we are helping to stop them from disappearing!

There has also been a lot of hard work happening on the pollinator patches, where groups have been raking and sowing the seeds to start a wildflower meadow growing on their grounds as the weather warms up.

Aa big thank you to all the staff and students that have taken part so far – your small patches will be very important stepping stones for pollinating insects going forwards!



BOTANICA^{BY} 
RESPONSIBLY SOURCED* INSPIRED BY NATURE



Supports the Eco-Schools biodiversity topic



100 Species Challenge

In partnership with Saving the Saffron Brook

- NatureSpot is a site where you can submit any sighting of an animal, plant or fungus seen in Leicestershire or Rutland
- They can be from your school grounds, garden, local park, or a nature reserve
- All wildlife records are valuable, no matter the species

The 100 Species challenge is a project where individuals or groups have to identify 100 species!
There will also be certificates for reaching 25 and 50 species.



Places for school staff in the Saffron Brook catchment are free and we will provide training on identifying and recording species!

If you are a school within the catchment area of Saffron/Wash Brook and are interested in taking part in the challenge, please contact:

Molly Laycock, Education Project Officer
Molly.Laycock@Leicester.gov.uk Tel: 0116 454 3187



NatureSpot 100 Species Challenge Training Session

The 100 Species challenge is a project where individuals or groups have to identify 100 species!

This training session will show you how to identify species and record your findings on the NatureSpot website

This training is open to all school staff in Leicester who are interested in taking part in the challenge

School staff who work in the catchment can participate in the challenge for free, those outside the catchment – there is a £20 fee
(please contact if you are unsure)

The training will be on **Monday 23 May 2022** at **Lancaster Academy** (Knighton Lane East, Leicester LE2 6FU)
This will run between **4.00pm** and **5.30 pm**

If you are interested in taking part in this training, please contact:

Molly Laycock, Education Project Officer
Molly.Laycock@Leicester.gov.uk Tel: 0116 454 3187

In partnership with Saving the Saffron Brook



The Big Battery Hunt is Back!



*Supports the Eco-Schools
waste topic*

The UK's biggest school battery recycling programme (11 million batteries recycled and counting!) is back for a third year, giving pupils the opportunity to work together and make a real difference to our planet. Head to [the Big Battery Hunt website](#) to find out more about the programme and learn how you can get involved.

There are 80 free pupil recycling boxes and a full teacher resource pack available for every school that registers. Participation can also be used as evidence towards your Eco-Schools Green Flag award. Eco-Schools have also worked with the Big Battery Hunt team to create a short guide, demonstrating how to give the programme an Eco-Schools twist! [View the guide on the website.](#)



Sponsored Green Flags for 2021/22



Through a number of sponsorship opportunities and funding streams including the Highcross Shopping Centre we are very pleased to confirm that we can sponsor all Green Flags for Leicester City Schools during the academic year 2021/22.

Marc in the team will be sending out further information in the near future. Eco-Schools will also be contacting schools directly. Schools that apply for the Green Flag will not need to pay and claim back, they will be 'pre-paid'. To make sure we get the right schools repaid, there is a short eForm to confirm you will be applying.



You will need to also complete a very short evaluation form – which the students can complete on your behalf.

#EcoTeachMeets in Leicester 2021-22



Tuesday 24 May 2021 – Overdale Junior School
Eastcourt Rd, Knighton, Leicester LE2 3YA

Sessions run 4.30-6.00pm

If you would like to host an #EcoTeachMeet in the future
do get in touch via Eco-Schools@leicester.gov.uk

**Presentations from colleagues on the impact of environmental education, projects
and activities happening in Leicester Schools.**

All school staff and organisations welcome!

If you would like more information, please contact the Environmental Education
Team Eco-Schools@leicester.gov.uk

You can sign up to attend or present using this [link](#)

It is our intention to host this event in person however we will monitor the Covid-19 situation
and switch to a virtual session if necessary



EnvEducationLeicester



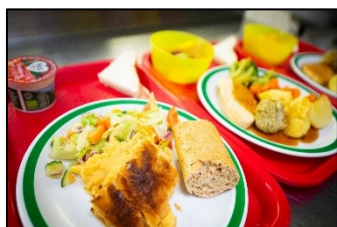
schools.leicester.gov.uk/eco-schools

Lower Carbon Lunches for Schools Climate Action Waste Workshop

Leicester City Council's Sustainable Schools Team are launching a workshop for students to raise awareness about the climate impacts of food and to reduce waste associated to school meals in the city.

The workshop will cover four core themes:

- **Energy use** - 40% of a schools carbon footprint is energy and its estimated and average of 20% is wasted due to inefficient use.
- **Food waste** - It's estimated that 30% of the food we produce globally is wasted. If we were to stop food waste it would eliminate 8% of our total global carbon emissions.
- **Packaging waste** - The embodied carbon emissions in packaging also have an impact and we are considering all packaging not just plastic waste.
- **Plant-based meals** - Animal agriculture and intensive farming account for a significant proportion of greenhouse gas emission and we will explore the benefits of increasing plant based meals in school.



Following the workshop your school will choose to focus on at least one of the core themes and will be supported by the Environmental Education Team to develop an action plan and implement changes.

The workshop is primarily aimed at Key Stage 2/3 but can be adapted for other stages. The workshop can be delivered for up to 30 students and would work well for the school's Eco-Team.

For more information please contact:

Laura Barke, Project Officer
Environmental Education Team

- ✉ Laura.Barke@leicester.gov.uk
- 🌐 schools.leicester.gov.uk/eco-schools
- 🐦 [EcoSchoolsLCC](https://twitter.com/EcoSchoolsLCC)
- 📷 [EcoSchoolsLCC](https://www.instagram.com/EcoSchoolsLCC)
- 📘 [EnvEducationLeicester](https://www.facebook.com/EnvEducationLeicester)
- 📞 0116 454 7156



Less Litter for Leicester News

Our Less Litter campaign is off to a flying start with over 30 schools across Leicester and Leicestershire taking part, raising awareness of the problems of litter and helping to keep school grounds and the surrounding areas free from litter.

To launch schools have had litter awareness assemblies delivered by the Sustainable Schools team or by W.I.L.E (Wombles in Litter Education). Schools with a shortage of litter pickers have been able to borrow sets from our partners at LEV (Leicester Environmental Volunteers) or SSPAN and copies of The3Engineers new book – Stop Dropping Litter are making their way to participating primary schools. The competitions for most unusual item picked, the oldest item picked and for the best before and after photos are now happening with prizes kindly provided by Helping Hand.

Preparation is now underway for the celebration event on 27 May at Abbey Park where the achievements of the schools can be recognised, and attendees can take part in a variety of environmental activities as part of our Great Big Green Month.



Supports litter Eco-Schools topic

Show the Love Campaign 2022



The Show the Love campaign is designed to get the public engaging with their MPs about climate change. The idea is that a green heart is sent to your local MP along with a short message about what you think needs to happen around climate change. This is a fantastic way to engage children with politics in a relevant and child-friendly way.

In February, Madani Schools Federation and Hazel Community Primary were among some of the schools across Leicester that took part in creating their own green hearts to share with MPs about climate issues important to them!



Great Big Green Month Leicester - May 2022



In May, schools and communities across Leicester will join together for a month-long follow up to Great Big Green Week! Are you ready to take some action for our environment and climate?



Why participate?

- Funding of £100 for school events, with support from Leicester City Council and partner organisations
- Raise awareness of climate change and other environmental issues within your school and the wider community
- Contributes towards progress on your Eco-Schools Green Flag



How can schools in Leicester take part?

Sustainable Schools Leicester are organising a number of events throughout the month including:

- **20 school-led events at schools across Leicester City, with a variety of environmental themes. Each school will receive funding of £100 to spend on resources. See separate flyer for ideas, support and how to sign up.**
- An upcycling competition alongside The Wombles, with winners announced during the month. The grand prize will be a private film screening for your school!
- **A mini-film festival hosted at the Phoenix Independent Cinema during the month, featuring a host of films linked to the natural world. This will be for school pupils with their parents/carers.**
- A Great Big Green Month and Less Litter for Leicester celebration on Friday 27 May at Abbey Park. There will be plenty of activities to take part in, and you might even get to see some of your favourite characters!

Deadline to sign up grants is 10 April 2022 and Abbey Park celebration is 29 April 2022

This event is free and open to all schools in Leicester City and our traded services

Great Big Green Month Grants



Following on from the success of great big green week in 2021, Sustainable Schools are putting on a Great Big Green Month during May 2022. The purpose of the month is to celebrate all things sustainable. There will be competitions, activities and projects taking place throughout the month, along with a celebration event where schools can come together to see what they have achieved.

As part of great big green month, the Sustainable School team are offering £100 grants for schools to help with projects that can be run during the month of May. There are five projects to choose from, or, if you have your own idea for a project that is not on the list, you can still apply and we will be happy to assist where possible. The grants will be awarded on a first-come-first-served basis, providing the applications fit the criteria.

School commitments:

- Complete the activity during May 2022
- Ensure a wide range of pupils engage (and community where possible) with the activity
- Share feedback with sustainable schools via a brief report on how your project went
- Record how many people attend
- Invite Councillors/MPs where possible



The five projects (and their eco-schools link):

- Bike breakfast – transport
- The sea starts here – marine
- Seed bombs – biodiversity
- Litter picking – litter
- Plant and grow – healthy living

Each project supports areas of the Eco-Schools award and can help your school to achieve their green flag.

Grants are open to all schools in Leicester City and our Leicestershire Traded Service Schools

To apply for the grant, please complete the [eForm](#). Applications will be dealt with a first come, first served basis, deadline for applications 10 April 2022

For more information or to get further guidance, please contact Laura.Barke@leicester.gov.uk

Great Big Green Month

The Projects



Bike breakfast – in partnership with Sustrans

Hold a celebration breakfast for those children who cycle or scoot to school. We can support with guiding you through a plan for the event, provide a risk assessment for the activity and where possible we can support you on the day. Money would be spent on the food and drinks required for the breakfast.

For more information contact: anna.singleton@sustrans.org.uk

The sea starts here – in partnership with the flood risk team at Leicester City Council

Increase awareness of the impact of plastic waste (particularly single use plastics) on our river and marine environments by spraying stencils around drains on and around the school grounds. Use your grant money to purchase the resources needed to educate your community on the issues of plastic waste.

For more information contact: Alex.Cameron@leicester.gov.uk



Seed bombs

Creating seed bombs is a fantastic, easy-to-run activity for students of all ages. Use the grant money to purchase the resources needed to make the seed bombs and have fun educating children about the value of wildflowers and the surprising history of seed bombs. Why not ask parents to come in to help engage your school community?

For more information contact: Hollie.Campbell@leicester.gov.uk

Litter picking

Litter picking is a great way to get students outdoors and helping the community. Undertake litter picking in your local area or in the school grounds. Benefits will include a cleaner, healthier school grounds and local area. Money could be spent on equipment (pickers, hoops, gloves) and/or refreshments for an after-school/parents session.

For more information contact: Marc.Tench@leicester.gov.uk



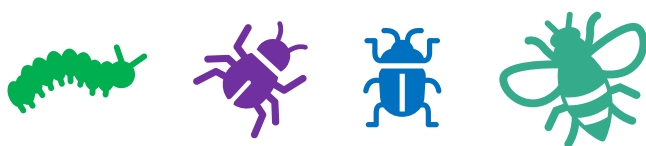
Plant and grow

Food growing is one of the first steps in healthy eating. Understanding where food comes from can make a difference to children's health. Children are more likely to try new foods if they have grown and or cooked and eaten new food. Apply for the grant and this could go towards; soil, compost, seeds, plant plugs or gardening equipment such as trowel or gloves.

For more information contact: ldidier@soilassociation.org

To apply for the grant, please complete the [eForm](#).
For more information or to get further guidance, please contact
Laura.Barke@leicester.gov.uk

Polli:Nation for the Next Generation (Polli:Gen) Celebration



Working in partnership with the Sustainable Schools team at Leicester City Council, and the Wildlife Gardening Forum, environmental education charity Learning through Landscapes have been working with 23 schools and a number of community groups across Leicester City. Each school had a dedicated project officer working with them from May until December 2021, delivering 2 hour sessions each week to the same group of pupils.

The project officially ended in March 2022, and a lot of the participating school groups joined together for a celebration at Saffron Acres!



There were plenty of activities for pupils to get involved in, including creating their own beeswax candles, a drawing competition, a hunt for the biggest minibeast, and a challenge to guess the number of stick insects! There were also speeches from the LtL team and even our own Lee Jowett!



**Sustainable
Schools**
LEICESTER



We have really enjoyed working on Polli:Gen project over its long lifetime, and this celebration event was the perfect way to end it! We know that there are now a huge group of students clued up on pollinators, how important they are, and how we can protect them in the future!

Leicester Salix Programme



The Salix programme is designed to carry out carbon reduction schemes in maintained schools and other council-owned buildings such as libraries and leisure centres, with a total of 93 sites across Leicester. See a summary of the recent completed works below!

Solar PVs

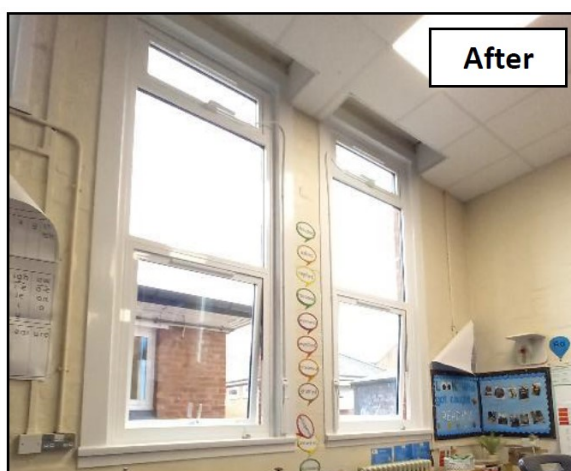
Blue Sun Energy has recently completed the installation of solar PVs at Imperial Avenue Infant School. The solar panels will help the school to generate their own electricity, reducing their electricity consumption from the grid, which will save money on their energy bills!

Beaumont Leys School has also had their new solar PV panels fitted by installer, InecoEnergy, and solar PV panels have been installed at Knighton Library by installer Energy Saving Lighting (ESL).



New windows

Shaftesbury Junior School has recently had new windows installed through Ashe Construction. The school has already noticed an immediate improvement in heating in their building, and are very pleased with the improved aesthetic of the school's windows. See some photos of the old existing windows, compared with the brand new windows, below!



"Although the works are not quite finished, they very nearly are and I just wanted to pass on my thanks to everyone involved. I feel as though the work has gone very smoothly, with good communication and pupils, parents and staff have all commented on how good the windows look. Staff have also noticed an immediate improvement in heating within their rooms too, as well as better ventilation."

Eco-Schools Training Session 3

Applying for your Green Flag Award, networking with staff from other schools, planning for next year.

FREE Training course:

Monday 16 May 2022, 1.00-3.30pm

Venue – **Uplands Infant School**
(Attenborough Learning Trust Training Room)

Sign up [here](#)

This training is open to both attendees of earlier training session and those who did not attend.

This training will:

- Offer guidance and advice for how to apply or renew your Green Flag Award using the new Eco-Schools portal.
- One consistent piece of feedback from school staff is that you need time to complete the application. In response to this we will dedicate a significant chunk of the training **to giving you time to start or complete the application with support from the Sustainable Schools Team**
- Discussion on how to move forward next year, plan for more environmental action, and gain a Eco-Schools Green Flag with **merit or distinction**.



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 gaining or renewing your Eco-Schools Green Flag Award and gaining a merit or distinction. Help and time will be given to begin or complete the application process. There will also be chance to team up with colleagues, in preparation for next academic year.

Who would benefit from this course?

Eco-leads and all school staff who are wanting to apply or renew their Eco-Schools Green Flag Award this academic year (in the May-July 2022 window)

For more information please contact:

Sustainable Schools Team

✉ Eco-Schools@leicester.gov.uk
schools.leicester.gov.uk/eco-schools
🐦 [EcoSchoolsLCC](https://twitter.com/EcoSchoolsLCC)
📷 [EcoSchoolsLCC](https://www.instagram.com/EcoSchoolsLCC)
📘 [EnvEducationLeicester](https://www.facebook.com/EnvEducationLeicester)
☎ 0116 454 2271





The Smile Awards 2022

After the success of 2019's awards, The Smile Awards are once again open for nomination to celebrate the people who keep Leicester's teeth healthy and happy! The Public Health team hope to highlight the efforts of those helping to improve the health of people across Leicester.

Do you know someone or an organisation that you would like to nominate?

This year, there are **six** categories:

1. Dental Practice Award.
2. Early Years Award
3. School Award
4. Community Champion - Children Award
5. Community Champion – Adults Award
6. Above and Beyond Award

Please [visit the official web page](#) to find out more information or to make a nomination. The deadline to submit nominations is **Friday 29 April 2022 at 7pm**. If you have any queries about the Smile Awards, you can also [email the team](#).

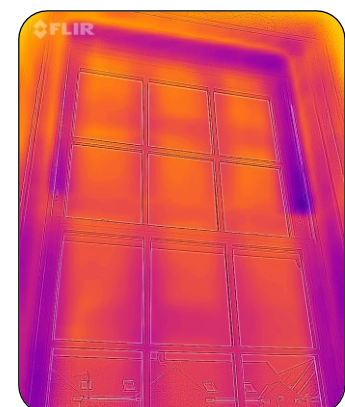
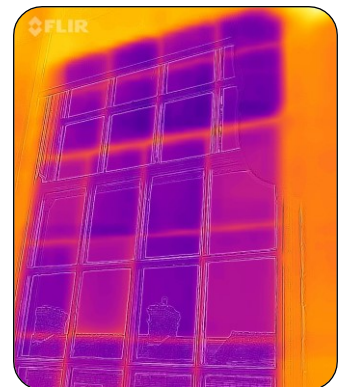


BESS Energy Sessions

Energy and water are some of the biggest spends for schools after staffing, and Leicester City Council has worked closely to develop an offer as part of the BESS schools to develop tools and reports to empower staff and students to take control of their energy.

Throughout the 2022/23 academic year the Sustainable Schools team will be delivering energy workshops in schools that give students an insight into their school's energy usage. In March, students at Spinney Hill Primary School were able to clearly see the difference between their old windows and newly fitted ones using our thermal imaging camera. Heat detected on the panes showed that the new windows were keeping heat in very effectively, as you can see to the right!

We are happy to be able to offer these very interactive workshops to schools signed up to BESS Energy Enhanced going into the future. Thank you for having us!



Supports the Eco-Schools energy topic

In partnership with the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, Severn Trent have committed to planting 2,022 acres of native forests across the Midlands to create a carbon neutral legacy in aims of offsetting the carbon emissions from the Games.

One exciting way they're doing this is by planting 72 tiny forests across the midlands. These woodlands, only the size of a tennis court, are planted using a scientific method that allows 600 trees of an array of species to grow over a small area! With a dedicated team of tree keepers keeping everything in check, we can also expect to see these forests grow by a metre every year!

Nine Leicester schools were lucky enough to be able to host a tiny forest on their grounds, and the Sustainable Schools team dropped in to see the hard work taking place (and even plant a couple of trees ourselves!).



Supports the Eco-Schools school grounds and biodiversity topics

A big thank you goes out to all the people that made the tiny forests happen, including the Severn Trent team and all the students and staff that planted trees! Your effort has created a landmark of environmental action that will last for years to come.

To find out more information about tiny forests, visit [the Earthwatch Europe website](https://www.earthwatch.org.uk/).

Carbon Awareness in Schools



With a climate emergency being declared in Leicester City back in 2019, it is becoming increasingly important to educate our young people about the consequences of carbon emissions. We know that in the coming years job opportunities are likely to have a greater focus on green initiatives and the environment. Now is the perfect chance to broaden your curriculum and inspire your children to make a difference.



We are using the Carbon Literacy Project principles as a way of raising awareness of carbon and supporting young people in committing to actions that can reduce carbon footprints. The learning takes place over a full day

We are looking to expand the reach of this project by offering it as 'enrichment days' for whole year groups. We would deliver the full carbon awareness course for multiple classes in a school hall, or for individual classes if preferred.



The carbon awareness project is free for pupils, but schools have the option of formally accrediting their students at the end of the course for £10 per student with the Carbon Literacy project.

Who would benefit from this project:

All students, particularly when delivered as an enrichment day for multiple classes.

Why participate?

- Enables students to become carbon aware
- Gives students a better understanding of how climate change will affect them and others
- Provides knowledge and skills to develop their own responses to lowering their carbon footprint, and the carbon footprint of others

What does the training cover?

- Examines the scientific basis for climate change
- Explores the potential impacts of rising greenhouse gasses and a changing climate
- Discusses communicating climate change and practices some techniques for doing so

The sessions can be delivered any time until July 2022.



Funding kindly provided by the NAEE

The carbon awareness project is **free** and **open to all schools in Leicester City and schools in our Leicestershire Traded Services**

To register your interest completed this [eForm](#) or email Laura.Barke@leicester.gov.uk

Please note: The course will be delivered by members of the Sustainable Schools team along with volunteer students. Not all volunteers will have a DBS check. If this will be a problem for your school, please let us know when signing up.

The World Reimagined



The World Reimagined - is an exciting new national programme that brings people together through art, history, dialogue and learning to consider our shared history so we can make racial justice a reality, together. We're delighted to say that Leicester is one of the host cities!

It will give schools the opportunity to take part and showcase both its commitment to racial equality and the creative expression of its students as part of the largest public art education project for racial justice the UK has ever seen. The World Reimagined will see sculpture trails take place in 8 cities across the UK and engage 2m+ people from August to October 2022 - and is supported by Sky.

You can view the official virtual Leicester launch on **20 April 2022 from 7-8pm** by signing up on [The World Reimagined website](#).

A Creative, Experiential Learning Journey

The Learning Programme is a creative and experiential Journey of Discovery for school communities featuring Classroom Resources and Leadership in Teaching modules - co-created with artists and subject matter experts including **Baroness Floella Benjamin**; poet & playwright **Inua Ellams**; **Professor Kehinde Andrews**; and cast members from **West End's Hamilton**.

So sign up to The World Reimagined Learning Programme today! An overview of the Learning Programme can be found on [their website](#), with two principal offers; a **poetic programme** that is free to all schools across the country, and a **globe programme** that sees your school/college create a globe that features in the trails as part of the national programme, for £850+vat.

You can sign up on [the official eForm](#) – and a trailer giving more information about the programme can be found at [The World Reimagined's YouTube channel](#).



Supported by



**Artsmark
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Supporting cultural education, endorsed by Arts Council England



Supported using public funding by
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ENGLAND**



A set of resources are also now available to download on [The World Reimagined website](#)! The resources available are:

- Mother Africa: The Power of Symbols (primary learners)
- Mother Africa (11+ learners),
- Teaching Racial Justice well-being resource
- Wild in Art (our Delivery Partners) - Sculpture Guide

If you have any other questions at all, please don't hesitate to [get in touch with Sabrina Reid](#).



Supports the global learning Eco-Schools topic

The Tree Council – Orchards for Schools

The Leicester Tree Wardens, in partnership with the Tree Council and Sustainable Schools Team at Leicester City Council, would like to draw your attention to an offer of FREE fruit trees or fruiting hedgerows– to create an orchard and/or hedgerow in your school grounds.

This is an ideal opportunity to connect the outdoors, food and nature into your curriculum.

For information about the scheme please visit the [Orchards for Schools free orchard and hedgerow packs](#) website.

Your Leicester Tree Warden network members can offer support to your application, with planning advice for your new orchard or hedgerow and through their partnership with Leicester Environmental Volunteers, provide knowhow and equipment on the planting day. As the orchard matures, the tree wardens will demonstrate how to prune the trees and offer interesting ideas and support to enhance the site for wildlife value, assisting the pollination process.

Please [email LEV](#) to make contact with your local Leicester Tree Wardens and find out how they can help.



Supports school grounds and biodiversity Eco-Schools topics

Practical Action Resources

Practical Action have once again put together fantastic free resources to help bring STEM to life within classrooms.

There are a selection of resources for upcoming world events including World Health Day on 7 April and World Fairtrade Day on 14 May. Help your pupils research and design a device to help stop the spread of COVID-19 in developing countries, or figure out a system to ensure that farmers around the world get fair pay for their work!

They also have an archive of real-world stories that are both uplifting and provide interesting case studies to add to lesson plans.

To find out more visit [the Practical Action website](#).

Practical ACTION



Supports the Eco-Schools global learning topic



Low Carbon Lunches update

We have been having a fantastic time taking part in some 'planet friendly' food tasting session as part of our Lower Carbon Lunches workshops. Schools have been receiving some plant-based meals to try, made by City Catering, with the aim of reducing the carbon footprints of their meals. We have sampled food from all different cuisines, with meals including sweet and sour, meatballs and tagine. The children have said that they have enjoyed trying different foods and were often surprised at how nice they were. They have enjoyed guessing which vegetables have been included in the meals and are keen to see some of the meals in the new menu!

If you are interested in hearing more about the project please [contact Laura by email](#).



**Sustainable
Schools
LEICESTER**



**Supports healthy
living Eco-Schools
topic**



Carbon Literacy update

We have run yet another successful Carbon Literacy training session for school staff throughout January and February, taking the total number of people training to 192. As part of the Carbon Literacy course, participants are asked to make a pledge to reduce their carbon footprint through individual and group actions. We are starting to deliver our Carbon Awareness courses for school pupils. We have the first sessions already booked in. For more information, see the flyer on page 22!

One Take Home Message or Action

Try and become more vegan!

Go meat free

To empower children in our school to become ethical citizens change Karika & Shantika

Try and cycle to work once a week

Reduce my meat intake

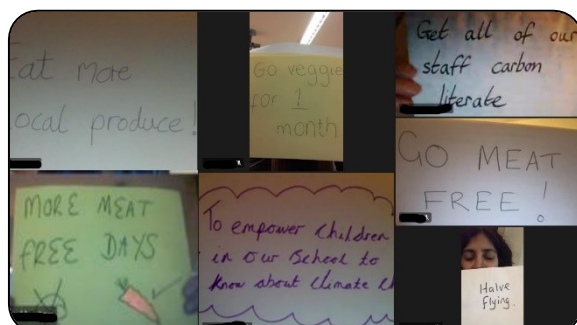
There are so many different vegan cheeses! Lee

Influence people by connecting it to their lives and open information (workbook)

Consider the carbon footprints of modes of transport when deciding on when and how to travel

Encourage school children to grow and come back as school and take part in healthy activities at home with families (see Stuart)

Persuade the family to eat less meat. Helen



Supports many of the Eco-Schools topics

Schools Climate Action Planner: Supporting your journey to carbon zero

In September 2021, Transform Our World launched its Schools Climate Action Planner, a free, online, easy-to-use action planning tool to help teachers and students prioritise the actions their school can take to reduce its environmental impact.

They are running an interactive session at **4pm on 5 May 2022**, where educators will be introduced to the tool, how it works and how it can support existing projects. We will hear from fellow teachers who have used the tool. They will discuss their experience and the progress they have made on their action plan so far.

During the session, we will also be joined by Let's Go Zero and a Local Authority representative to discuss why it is important for schools to work towards carbon zero.

There will be dedicated time towards the end of the session for attendees to ask questions and share practices on what they are or would like to be doing in their school.

Access the tool and find out more on [the Transform our World website](#). To sign up for the Zoom session, visit [the Global Action Plan website](#).

TRANSFORM
OUR
WORLD

global
action
plan
OUR LIVES. OUR PLANET.

LET'S GO
ZERO
2030



*Supports most of the
Eco-Schools topics*

Leicester Friends of the Earth peat-free gardening campaign

Peat bogs take carbon from the atmosphere and keep it safely tucked away. Over the last 10,000 years, UK peatlands have sequestered 5.5 billion tonnes of carbon – nearly 40 times the amount of carbon stored in our woodlands! Digging it up to use in our gardens releases the carbon and increases climate change.

Leicester Friends of the Earth are asking schools to **commit to using peat-free compost**. Peat-free compost is readily available at garden centres and it is much less damaging to the environment. If you would like to help, please let them know that you are buying peat-free compost and they will add you to the 2022 Leicester & Leicestershire Peat Free List published on their blog. **Seven local schools pledged to go peat-free last year** and they hope that many more will join them this year.



**Friends of
the Earth**

Where can I find more information?

Please visit [the Leicester Friends of the Earth blog](#) for more information about peat, their campaign or ideas for how you can teach students about the importance of leaving peat in the ground. If you are ready to go peat-free, [email the group](#) and they will add you to their list!



*Supports the Eco-Schools
school grounds topic*



Where printed, on 100% recycled paper made from post-consumer waste