

# Schools News

July 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 July 2022 Leicester Schools newsletter. We have been so happy to see many of you at our recent events and celebrations! The Great Big Green Month/Less Litter celebration in May blessed us with lovely weather for lots of sustainable activities, and the Eco-Schools/Food for Life celebration in June saw the year out in style.

A huge thanks and congratulations is in order to all Leicester schools – give yourself a pat on the back for getting through an almost “normal” school year and for all the hard work you have managed to achieve!

If you're keen, read on to find out about some of the projects and events you can get yourself involved in next time around...

As always, get in touch if you need any support - Lee, Marc, Molly, Hollie, & Laura.



Just some of the highlights this term...

## How to find out more Environmental Education Team

City Hall, 115 Charles Street, Leicester LE1 1FZ

✉ [Eco-Schools@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Eco-Schools@leicester.gov.uk)

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



**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](http://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](http://www.eco-schools.org.uk/the-eco-schools-programme-is-changing)

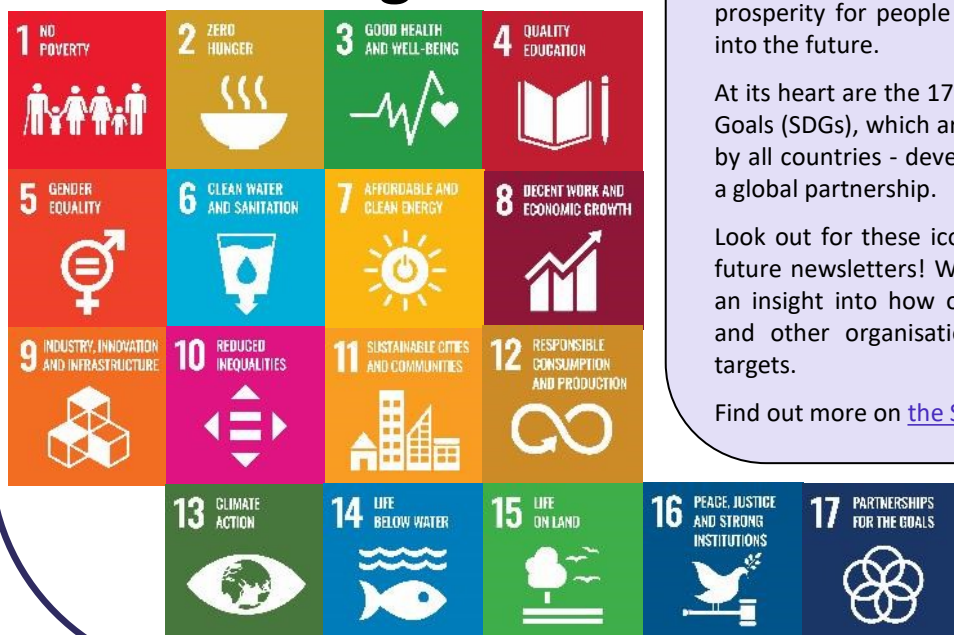
## Newsletter

Our newsletters are published 4 times per year. If you would like to submit an article for the next newsletter, the deadline is **Monday 29 August 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](mailto:Eco-Schools@leicester.gov.uk)

There have been so many Eco-Schools achievements recently that we couldn't fit them all onto this page! Please flip over to the next page to see what Leicester schools have been up to.

Please note that the deadline for applications for this academic year is 31 July. There are many more schools who are part way through their application and they will be announced in our September Newsletter.

## Introducing SDGs!



The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future.

At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership.

Look out for these icons next to articles in our future newsletters! We hope it will give you all an insight into how our activities help schools and other organisations contribute to global targets.

Find out more on [the SDG website](http://theSDGwebsite).

# Eco-Schools Achievements

Up until 29 June 2022



## Green Flags

- Parks Primary School
- Knighton Mead Primary Academy
- Catherine Infant School
- Stokes Wood Primary School
- Uplands Infant School
- Judgemeadow Community College
- Kestrel Mead Primary School
- Hope Hamilton C of E Aided Primary School
- Leicester Islamic Academy
- Madani Boys School
- Sir Jonathan North Girls' College
- Sparkenhoe Community Primary School
- St John Baptist CE Primary School

The following schools retain their Green Flags from last academic year:

- Bridge Junior School
- Caldecote Community Primary School
- Charnwood Primary School
- Dovelands Primary School
- Fullhurst Community College
- Glebelands Primary School
- Granby Primary School
- Holy Cross Catholic Primary School
- Land of Learning Nursery and Primary School
- Mellor Community Primary School
- Merrydale Junior School
- Moat Community College
- Mowmacre Hill Primary School
- Overdale Infant School
- Overdale Junior School
- Rolleston Primary School
- Shaftesbury Community Junior School
- Soar Valley College
- St Paul's Catholic School
- Whitehall Primary School
- Willowbank School - Children's Hospital School
- Wyvern Primary School

## Green Flag with Merit

- Rushey Mead Academy
- Highfields Primary School
- Hazel Community Primary School
- Fosse Mead Primary Academy
- Heatherbrook Primary Academy
- Buswells Lodge Primary School

## Green Flag with Distinction

- Abbey Mead Primary Academy
- Nether Hall School
- Catherine Junior School
- St Joseph's Catholic Voluntary Academy
- Mayflower Primary School
- Jameah Academy

This year, we have also been supporting schools who are part of the St Thomas Aquinas CMAT in Leicestershire.

The following achieved their Green Flag Award this year:

## Green Flags

- Holy Cross School, A Catholic Voluntary Academy in Whitwick
- Sacred Heart Catholic Voluntary Academy in Loughborough
- St Charles Catholic Primary Voluntary Academy in Measham
- St Peter's Catholic Primary School, A Voluntary Academy in Hinckley
- St Peter's Catholic Voluntary Academy in Earl Shilton

## Green Flag with Merit

- St Josephs Catholic Voluntary Academy in Market Harborough

Please note that the deadline for applications for this academic year is **31 July**. We are hoping to achieve 70 Green Flags in Leicester City this year and retain our status of the most Eco-School Green Flag Awards of any Local Authority area in England!

**Well done to all school staff and pupils involved in Eco-Schools this year! A fantastic achievement which shows the high levels of dedication and environmental awareness of schools in Leicester and Leicestershire!**





# Great Big Green Month



Continuing on the success of Great Big Green Week 2021, we were able to Hold Great Big Green Month throughout the month of May, supporting the climate action push in Leicester communities.



Schools across the city were once again offered £100 mini grants to host their own environmentally-themed activities. Activities included wild flower planting, vegetable growing, and bike breakfasts to celebrate pupils' success in Bikeability cycle training. Schools have also invested in litter picking equipment so they can continue to play their part in keeping their communities tidy and litter free.

Furthermore, families were also invited to a mini-film festival at Phoenix, with a specially selected programme of films linked to the natural world. Many screens were completely booked out, so thank you for all your support and enthusiasm.

There were two winners of our upcycling competition that won a private film screening for their school, who were:

- Priyan Damania – Catherine Junior School
  - Alvaro Dias – St. Patrick's R.C. Primary School
- So a huge congratulations to you both!

Finally, the Less Litter campaign culminated in a celebration event in Abbey Park at the end of May which coincided with the end of Great Big Green Month. Pupils from Rushey Mead Academy, Holy Cross Catholic Primary School, St Joseph's Catholic Voluntary Academy, Beaumont Leys School, Land of Learning Primary School, St Martin's Catholic Academy in Stoke Golding and Barley Croft Primary School joined us for a plastic free picnic and took part in a variety of environmental activities.

We have very much enjoyed this month-long celebration – thank you so much to everyone that got involved!



**RETURNING**  
24 September  
– 2 October  
2022



*Supports many Eco-Schools topics*

# 22-word Story Competition

**In the year 2022, our climate is still in crisis.**

**For Great Big Green Week 2022, we want students to write a story about climate change - in only 22 words!**

**The brief is simple:** in a maximum of 22 words, tell us a story on the theme of climate change and its impacts on our environment.

Think about:

- **Where** your story will be set – close to home, or far away?
- **When** your story will be set – now, or in the future?
- **What** is happening – does the situation look bright, or not?



In partnership with Willow, there are lots of plantable books to be won! KS3+ entrants will have the chance to win our upcycled animal statues!

**Entries can be from students between 4-19 years old who attend schools/colleges in Leicester City or Leicester City Traded Services.**

Schools or parent/carers - please send a photo, scanned copy or word file of your entries (using our template on the back) to [Eco-Schools@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Eco-Schools@leicester.gov.uk) in .pdf, .jpg or .doc format.

**The deadline is Thursday 29 September 2022**, with winners to be announced just after Great Big Green Week (24 Sep – 2 Oct 2022).

# 22-word Story Competition Entry Form

**In the year 2022, our climate is still in crisis.**

**Use the template below to write a story on the theme of climate change and its impact on our environment in the future – but you only have 22 words!**

Think about:

- **Where** your story will be set – close to home, or far away?
- **When** your story will be set – now, or in the future?
- **What** is happening – does the situation look bright, or not?

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**Name:**

**School/College:**



# Great Big Green Week 2022 Secondary & College Conference



From 24 September to 2 October communities across the country will join together for Great Big Green Week. It aims to be the UK's biggest ever celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature.



We are giving secondary school (KS3 to KS5) students the opportunity to reflect on some of the issues affecting us from climate change!



- **On Tuesday 27 September**, students from all over the city and surrounding areas can come together to attend a conference set up to discuss the environment and policies put in place to protect it across Leicester.
- **There will be several speakers** that will share their expertise, followed by interactive workshops. The event is limited to 10 schools, each bringing 10-14 students
- **It will be held at City Hall**, and will last the majority of the school day



**In the spirit of Great Big Green Week, we are especially interested to hear from schools that have not previously engaged in this type of event!**



Sign up using the official [eForm](#) if you would like to get your students involved in climate discussions and lobbying action in September 2022!

**Deadline to sign up 9 September 2022**

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

*Schools that attend will be eligible for £100 grant to cover costs*

**To find out more please email Marc at [Marc.Tench@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Marc.Tench@leicester.gov.uk)**

# Great Big Green Week 2022 Grants



Following on from the success of Great Big Green Week last year, and our own Great Big Green Month celebration, we are pleased to announce that we have another set of £100 grants to apply for!

There are four projects to choose from, or, if you have your own idea, you can still apply and we will be happy to assist where possible.

## Plastic Clever Schools

Use the grant money to begin your journey with Plastic Clever Schools. The money could go towards reusable water bottles for children, cups to use with milk, or something else that would help to reduce single use plastics in your school.

For more information contact: [laura.barke@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:laura.barke@leicester.gov.uk)



## Seed bombs

Creating seeds 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.

For more information contact: [Hollie.Campbell@leicester.gov.uk](mailto: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 include cleaner, healthier school grounds and local area.

For more information contact: [Marc.Tench@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Marc.Tench@leicester.gov.uk)



## Plant and grow

Food growing is one of the first steps in healthy eating. Children are more likely to try new foods if they have grown and or cooked and eaten new food. The grant money could go towards; compost, seeds, plant plugs or gardening equipment such as trowel or gloves.

For more information contact: [ldidier@soilassociation.org](mailto:ldidier@soilassociation.org)



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

*Please note that grant money must NOT be spent on food/refreshments. Activities must take place during Great Big Green Week*

To apply for the grant, please complete the [eForm](#). Applications will be dealt with a first come, first served basis. Deadline for applications is 9 September 2022.

For more information, please contact [Laura.Barke@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Laura.Barke@leicester.gov.uk)



# BESS Energy Core 2022-23

## 12 Month Subscription



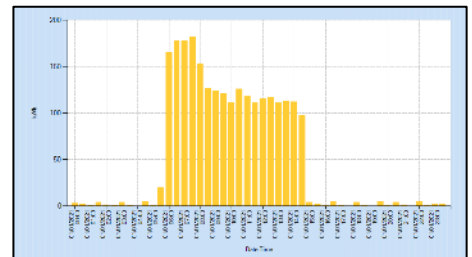
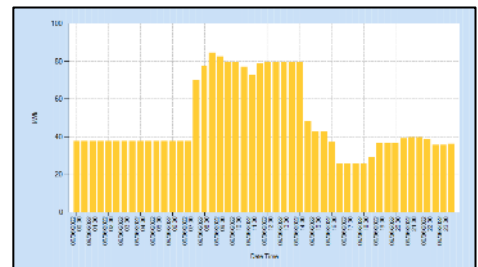
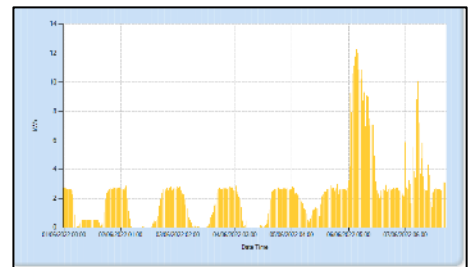
***Worried about increasing energy costs? Wanting to save money and improve your environmental credentials?***

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

***This offer is open to all schools in Leicester City at cost price as part of our Climate Emergency Declaration commitment***

### What is included in the service:

- **Monitoring equipment installed and maintained** (main meter gas or district heat, water, and electricity) throughout your subscription
- Access to **DynamatLite2050**, the updated half-hourly energy and water monitoring website used by Leicester City Council for your own unique data
- **Identification and reporting** of excessive use/wastage (phone and email)
- **Annual energy and carbon** report which identifies trends in data and potential savings over 5 years (subject to data availability) *and up to one hour Teams walkthrough of the report*
- **Data report for Academies** – Streamlining Energy and Carbon Reporting (SERC) as required (saving £150)
- **Provision of data** for school's preferred DEC provider
- **Regular updates** via email and Teams online



*“Through monitoring our water, we identified a leak which could have cost us hundreds of pounds had it not been spotted” **Business Manager, Leicester***

For more information please contact:

The BESS Energy team

✉ [BESS.Energy@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:BESS.Energy@leicester.gov.uk)

☎ 0116 454 2271

🌐 [schools.leicester.gov.uk/BESS-Energy](https://schools.leicester.gov.uk/BESS-Energy)

***This service will start in September 2022***

**Priced at £545**

**10% reduction for BESS schools**

Sign up to BESS Energy by 31 July 2022 by completing our [online form](#).



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# BESS Energy Enhanced 2022-3

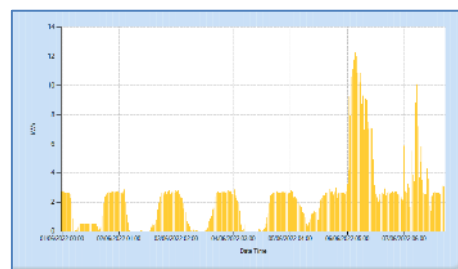
## 12 Month Subscription



***Worried about increasing energy costs? Wanting to save money and improve your environmental credentials?***

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

***This offer is open to all schools in Leicester City at cost price as part of our Climate Emergency Declaration commitment***



### What is included in the service?

***All the benefits of BESS Energy Core:***

- **Monitoring equipment installed and maintained** (main meter gas or district heat, water, and electricity) throughout your subscription
- Access to **DynamatLite2050**, the updated half-hourly energy and water monitoring website used by Leicester City Council for your own unique data
- **Identification and reporting** of excessive use/wastage (phone and email)
- **Annual energy and carbon** report which identifies trends in data and potential savings over 5 years (subject to data availability), *and up to one hour Teams walkthrough of the report*
- Data report for Academies **Streamlining Energy and Carbon Reporting (SERC)** requirements (saving £150)
- **Provision of data** for school's preferred DEC provider
- **Regular updates** via email and Teams online

### Plus BESS Energy Enhanced:

- **Identification and reporting** of excessive use/wastage (including visits)
- **Provision of your annual DEC certificate** (or subsidised 7 year DEC certificate)
- Online or face to face training **termly**
- **10 hours of bespoke support** per school (including technical, analysis and education support for staff and pupils) – **see our separate flyer**

*"Through monitoring our electricity we discovered our thermal heater timers had a fault, meaning that they were being left on at the weekend - once resolved, this saved hundreds of pounds over the school holidays"* **Business Manager, Leicester**

**For more information please contact:  
The BESS Energy team**

✉ [BESS.Energy@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:BESS.Energy@leicester.gov.uk)

☎ **0116 454 2271**

🌐 [schools.leicester.gov.uk/BESS-Energy](https://schools.leicester.gov.uk/BESS-Energy)

**Price maintained at £1295**  
**10% reduction for BESS schools**

***This service will start in September 2022***

Sign up to BESS Energy by 31 July 2022 by completing our [online form](#).



# Individual support in BESS Energy Enhanced

Schools and academies that sign up for BESS Energy Enhanced will received up to 10 hours of bespoke support. This time is allocated and agreed on an individual basis depending on the needs of your school.

Below are examples of bespoke services which can be provided:



## Technical Support

- Work with individual school or academy staff:
  - Premises team walk round to identify heat/energy wastage
  - ICT shutdown procedure and/or software shutdown
  - Advice on purchasing technical support on your Building Energy Management System (BEMS)
  - Additional support and advice for Salix funded projects

## Analysis Support

- Working with the business manager, finance officer and/or premises officer to:
  - Evaluate utility bills for value for money, climate levy and VAT rating
  - Provide advice about changing and comparing tariffs
  - Provide advice and support around historical FIT tariffs
  - Detailed analysis of DynamatLite graphs (daily, weekly) to identify excessive use (e.g. during the day), wastage (e.g. high baseloads overnight and weekends) or leaks (e.g. water).

## Educational Support

- Working with whole school staff:
  - Deliver twilight, inset or staff meetings (typically 30-45 minutes) on energy savings
  - DynamatLite training (data analysis with departments or teams)
  - Develop mechanisms for reporting problems with classroom heating/lighting
- Work with individual classes, your school council and/or Eco-Schools team:
  - Active labelling of lights and equipment that can be switched off/remain on
  - Active thermometers in classrooms and offices to report temperature extremes
  - Assemblies on saving energy
  - Designing of posters or 'corporate' posters displayed around schools
  - Developing whole school policy and shutdown procedure
  - Energy monitoring job descriptions
  - Curriculum activities and quizzes
  - Switch off hour/day campaign
  - Detailed analysis of DynamatLite graphs (daily, weekly, monthly, annually)
  - DynamatLite training
  - Campaign and/or national awareness day activities
  - Energy walk around using thermal imaging camera/s (iPad and Android tablet)
  - Audits and competitions (class or department focused)



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# Built Environment School Service (BESS) Energy Academies 2022-23 Annual Energy and Carbon Report



From 1 April 2020, academy trusts have needed to report on environmental reporting regulations. Regulations require large companies that consume more than 40,000 kWh of energy in a reporting period to include certain information about energy efficiency measures. Large companies are defined by sections 465-466 of the Companies Act 2006 as companies which meet 2 out of the following 3 criteria:

- Gross income of £36 million or more;
- Balance sheet assets of £18 million or more; and
- 250 employees or more

The reporting period for academy trusts will be 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022.

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-reporting-guidelines-including-mandatory-greenhouse-gas-emissions-reporting-guidance](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-reporting-guidelines-including-mandatory-greenhouse-gas-emissions-reporting-guidance)

**Academies in Leicester City that choose BESS Energy Core or BESS Energy Enhanced will receive BESS Energy Academies as part of the product and do not need to purchase twice, saving £150 per school.**

## What is included in the service?

### Reports which covers:

- Annual carbon, energy and water usage reports
- Analysis of energy and water trends/patterns of usage
- Identifying the impact of energy/water efficiency improvements
- Data in a format required as part of Energy and Carbon Reporting regulation (from September 2020):
  - UK energy use (in kWh) including purchased electricity, gas and transport fuel
  - Associated greenhouse gas emissions (in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent)
  - At least one 'intensity ratio' that expresses the academy trust's annual emissions in relation to a quantifiable factor associated with its activities
  - Information about energy efficiency action taken during the year
  - Methodologies used in the calculation of disclosures
- Provision of a collated MAT report provided
- Provision of data for school's preferred Display Energy Certificate (DEC) provider

***This offer is open to all Multi-Academy Trusts in England***

**Priced at £160 per academy**

**10% reduction for Leicester BESS schools**

**For more information please contact:**

**The BESS Energy team**

✉ [BESS.Energy@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:BESS.Energy@leicester.gov.uk)

☎ 0116 454 2271

🌐 [schools.leicester.gov.uk/BESS-Energy](http://schools.leicester.gov.uk/BESS-Energy)

***This service is available from September 2021***

**Sign up to BESS Energy by 31 August 2022  
by completing our [online form](#).**



*To provide Leicester with a high quality, efficient, effective and sustainable built environment*

# Less Litter for Leicester



The Less Litter campaign ran from February to May 2022. It aimed to engage with as many schools as possible - running litter awareness assemblies or sessions and carrying out litter picks in their school grounds or local area. It was designed to be a self-contained project to complete 1 of the topic actions needed for the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award

31 Schools across Leicester and Leicestershire took part including 27 Primary and 4 Secondary schools, helping to keep their school grounds and local area free from litter. A total of 350 kg of litter was picked throughout the duration of the campaign!

Well done to all pupils and staff who were involved. A special mention for Abbey Mead Primary School who collected an astonishing 45.8kg of litter!



A BIG thank you to all who were involved in supporting schools, whether that was through the loan of litter picking equipment, running litter awareness assemblies, donations of prizes, or running events at the celebration (see the Great Big Green Month article for more info!)



**Supports waste  
Eco-Schools topic**

## Botanica: Pollinators for Schools



Things have really kicked off around our pollinator patches! Although there has been differing levels of growth so far, keen students have been hard at work in the meantime!

Students have been learning about bug hotels and some have even had the opportunity to build their own within their school grounds. We have used wooden pallets, bricks, canes, carpet, and lots of natural materials from the environment around us!

The other part of recent sessions has involved completing a BioBlitz! Budding scientists have had 30 minutes to record all the living organisms they could see in the area around their pollinator patches, using all their senses to make sure everything was captured. We will use this data to compare with results from next year!

Thank you to all the staff and students for their hard work this term – we will return in September to re-seed each patch and finish the remaining bug hotels!



**Supports the Eco-Schools  
biodiversity topic**



# Biodiversity Training Days



Free practical, outdoor training and information day for teachers and educators to support pupils, age 7 to 14, to learn about and survey biodiversity.

## When

- 28th September at Marriott Primary School (time TBC)
- 29th September at Mayflower Primary School 8.45am to 4.30pm
- 30th September at Sandfield Close Primary School 8.30am to 3.30pm

## More information

These free training days are run by Learning through Landscapes, as part of the Natural Nations Project. Natural Nations has developed a set of surveys to help schools assess their biodiversity. There are four surveys: School Grounds and Habitat, Birds, Pollinators and Flowering Plants, and Minibeasts and Leaves, and a set of activities to support children's learning surrounding the survey topics. There are SEND accessible surveys and activities available. Join us to learn more about the project and to plan how to implement the resources in your school.

## Register your interest

If you would like to attend, please complete [the official eForm](#).

### Green Recovery Challenge Fund





# Saving the Saffron Brook schools update!



The *Saving the Saffron Brook* project has been very busy over the past couple of months.

This term I have delivered over 50 workshops in schools across the saffron catchment!

We have done pond-dipping and stream-dipping sessions in school grounds and at Knighton Park.

Students have enjoyed finding out what species live in their local brook.



## 100 species challenge:



School groups have started taking part in this challenge to identify and record 100 species



They have already found lots of interesting species to record!



Please get in touch if you want to find out more about the challenge

Molly Laycock, Education Project Officer

Email: [Molly.Laycock@Leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Molly.Laycock@Leicester.gov.uk) Tel: 0116 454 3187



# Saving the Saffron Brook

Get involved in our river restoration project on your doorstep

Join us for our summer events, which are fun for the whole family!

 **Family play days**

 **Guided nature walks**

 **Community events**

Please see reverse for event dates and information on how to sign up and get involved.

To learn about the work we are doing on the brook search 'Saffron Brook' on [Leicester.gov.uk](https://leicester.gov.uk) or contact [nature.conservation@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:nature.conservation@leicester.gov.uk)



**Leicestershire  
& Rutland**  
Wildlife Trust



Leicester  
City Council

**Green Recovery Challenge Fund**



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

The  
National Lottery  
Heritage Fund



Environment  
Agency



NATURAL  
ENGLAND

<b>Tues</b> <b>12/07</b> <b>10-1.30 pm</b>	<b>Outdoor ‘wild play’</b> Play sessions for 5-12-year-olds at Knighton Park (Plus siblings and accompanying adults). A safe way to play in the water. Morning and afternoon session	Register at <a href="http://www.lrwt.org.uk/events">www.lrwt.org.uk/events</a>
<b>Wed 13/07</b> <b>10-1.30 pm</b>	<b>Outdoor ‘wild play’</b> Play sessions for 5-12-year-olds at Washbrook Nature Area (Plus siblings and accompanying adults). A safe way to play in the water. Morning and afternoon session	Register at <a href="http://www.lrwt.org.uk/events">www.lrwt.org.uk/events</a>
<b>Wed 20/07</b> <b>10-12 pm</b>	<b>Guided walk</b> A nature walk with a focus on summer meadows. To meet at Brocks Hill visitor centre at 10am so please arrive promptly.	
<b>Sat 23/07</b> <b>10-1pm</b>	<b>Saffron wild day at Saffron Acres</b> Discover the wildlife haven in the heart of Saffron Lane! Take part in citizen science as we find as many species as possible in one day – with fun kids activities too.	For details contact <a href="mailto:nature.conservation@leicester.gov.uk">nature.conservation@leicester.gov.uk</a>
<b>Wed 27/07</b> <b>10-1pm</b>	<b>Community day and litter pick at Aylestone Recreation Ground</b> Meet the team, find out what we are doing in your area and give us your ideas. Do your bit for nature, join in a litter-pick between 11am-12pm. Just show up on the day!	
<b>Tues</b> <b>02/08</b> <b>10-1.30 pm</b>	<b>Outdoor ‘wild play’</b> Play sessions for 5-12-year-olds at Knighton Park (Plus siblings and accompanying adults). A safe way to play in the water. Morning and afternoon session	Register at <a href="http://www.lrwt.org.uk/events">www.lrwt.org.uk/events</a>
<b>Tues</b> <b>09/08</b> <b>10-1.30 pm</b>	<b>Outdoor ‘wild play’</b> Play sessions for 5-12-year-olds at Knighton Park (Plus siblings and accompanying adults). A safe way to play in the water. Morning and afternoon session	Register at <a href="http://www.lrwt.org.uk/events">www.lrwt.org.uk/events</a>
<b>Sat</b> <b>04/09</b> <b>All day</b>	<b>Knighton Family show</b> A fun event for all the family! This event runs all day and there will also be a species hunt between 10-1 pm on the day. Just show up on the day!	





# Summer Reading Challenge

The theme for this year's Summer Reading Challenge (1 July – 11 September) is "Gadgeteers"! Children aged 0-16 can take part by loaning, reading and returning 6 books to any of the 16 libraries in the city. They will be awarded with a fun poster, scratch and sniff stickers, a bookmark, certificate and medal. And that's not all - the Leicester school with the highest proportion of pupils who complete the challenge will also be awarded with £100 to spend on books for their library!

Repeating the success of last year's partnership during the Wild World Heroes Summer Reading Challenge, the Sustainable Schools Team have once again partnered up with Sandy and Matt from Leicester Libraries Neighbourhood Services. We helped to launch the Summer Reading Challenge by delivering 16 "Green Gadgeteers" workshops at Primary Schools across the city with the choice of 3 themes - sustainable fashion, music or food. Pupils learnt about how these industries can harm the environment and were given the opportunity to design either a sustainable outfit, festival or menu. They were also joined by Sandy or Matt for story telling and book reviews relating to the environment or gadgets.



**Supports the Eco-Schools**  
**waste and healthy living**  
**topics**

There are a huge amount of fun and exciting activities at libraries across the city this summer, including Green Gadgeteers workshops by the Sustainable Schools Team. For further information, dates, times and locations visit [the Leicester libraries website](https://www.leicesterlibraries.co.uk/).

## Grow Your Own Grub Competition



Our annual Grow Your Own Grub – Mealbarrow competition is coming to an end. We have had 23 schools joining in by designing a three-course menu, planting the items required for the menu in a wheelbarrow and maintaining the 'mealbarrow' and extended growing areas in school. Most of the mealbarrows were then shared on Saturday 2 July at Abbey Pumping Station, where individuals could vote for their favourite. We have had a fantastic time seeing all of the hard work that staff and children have put in over the past few months. A huge well done to you all and a big thank you from us all! The final judgements are taking place this week so look out for the winners, soon to be announced!

While the annual Grow Your Own Grub – Mealbarrow competition is coming to an end, the Pumpkin Garden competition is just beginning! Schools have been challenged to design and grow a pumpkin garden in their school grounds. We began with a training session for schools at Mayflower Primary School to share how to grow a pumpkin. Schools are now in the process of growing their pumpkins and planting them out – here are just a few examples of where they are up to so far.



**Supports the Eco-Schools**  
**school grounds topic**

# Sustainable Urban Drainage (SuDS)



Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) manage surface water runoff (the flow of rainwater across the surface) by capturing, using, absorbing, storing and transporting rainfall in a way that mimics nature. A few good school examples can be found [online](#).

We know that Leicester will face increased risk of flooding from rain due to climate change and we want to proactively tackle this.

In early spring we were successful with a bid to the Department for Education to undertake SuDS work in 3 schools in Leicester. We are hoping to get contracts signed in the next few weeks and to start work on each of the schools at the end of the summer holidays.

We are very excited to be working with Trees for Cities on developing a flagship project at Abbey Mead Primary Academy along with two projects in house at Linden Primary School and Bridge Junior School.

We are looking forward to updating you on progress at each site.



Brick rain planter by a school entrance



Rain garden visible through stairwell window



Courtesy Groundwork London



A wildflower green roof on a school kitchen



*Supports the water and school grounds topics*



## Buzzing Roots – Our Future Planet trip



On Wednesday 29 June, Marc from the Sustainable Schools team joined students from Queensmead Primary Academy on a trip to the Science Museum in London to see the Our Future Planet exhibition!

Our Future Planet is a partnership project between Buzzing Roots, Queensmead Primary Academy and Eco schools Leicester. The project would like to get Braunstone's community together in 5 Saturday workshops (April to September) at the Walled Gardens. In these workshops participants are learning how to prepare soil, grow their own vegetables, prepare food mindfully, prepare and store seeds for next year, make 'grow your own veg' sharing packs to share with neighbours and the wider community. Growing your own food leads to conversations about food waste, composting, food packaging, energy, weather changes, wildlife and much more. Each practical activity has been followed by a community gathering for a talk as guest speakers are invited to talk about other climate change problems and solutions.

The next 2 events are:

- **Sat 6 August, 11am - 3pm: Repairing Clothes and Upcycling Waste**
- **Sat 10 September, 11am - 3pm: Energy & Water**

Further information available on Buzz Root's website [Together For Our Planet | buzzingroots](#)



*Supports many of the Eco-Schools topics*



# Leicester Salix Programme



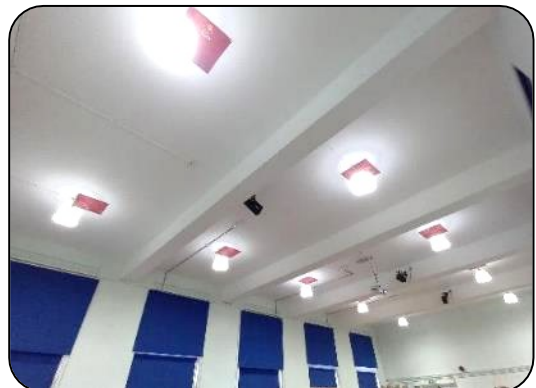
We are seeing some excellent progress with the Salix programme which is fundamentally assisting with the decarbonisation of our estate and improving the environmental quality of Leicester. The £25m of investment in the last year has enabled the retrospective fitting of carbon reduction measures, is providing financial savings, and improvements to the internal environment of the schools and Council buildings.

The Council has made a considerable investment into independently surveying its estate with the objective of understanding the potential to reduce its carbon footprint. It is important that as we respond to our Climate Emergency Declaration that we embrace new technologies. As we introduce these, which include Solar PVs and Air source heat pumps (ASHP) and Smart meters, we will ensure that we support these technologies by training our teams, training users, creating 'green' jobs and sharing as much information as we can. It is important that schools share this approach with us by engaging in our training programmes, tutorials, and maintenance arrangements.

**The Salix team recently visited Montrose School in Aylestone with Councillor Adam Clarke, alongside representatives from contractors, J Tomlinson and consultants, Pick Everard. Montrose School has had various technologies fitted to help decarbonise the school building. The school has benefitted from new windows in part of the building, solar PVs on the roof, and has also had two air source heat pumps installed. See photos of installations below.**



Alderman Richard Hallam Primary School has received solar PVs, LED lights, and new windows and doors as part of their Salix funded works. The school has already noticed how much brighter it is inside their building with their new LED lights, and staff have noticed how much more insulated their classrooms feel with their new windows. With the installation of solar PVs on the roof of the building, Alderman Richard Hallam is already generating their own electricity to power their school. Check out some photos of the works that have been done.





# Clean Air Day 2022



Healthier  
**AIR**  
for Leicester

Clean Air Day is the UK's largest air pollution campaign, bringing together communities, businesses, schools and the health sector. Every year, air pollution causes up to 36,000 deaths in the UK. The World Health Organisation and the UK Government recognise that air pollution is the largest environmental health risk we face today – and Schools in Leicester have been celebrating Clean Air Day by making the most of traffic-free local streets!

Across the city, on Clean Air Day (16 June), Leicester City Council has worked with schools to close roads to through traffic and instead use the street space for games, artwork, cycle skills and a community tea party. They were also supported by [Sustrans](#), the charity that works to make it easier for people to walk and cycle.

At Judgemeadow Community College, in Evington, a section of Newhaven Road outside the school was closed, street art was created by students and games were played on the street. The college recorded the difference to the street using drone photography, and hosted a community tea party in their traffic-free space.

Herrick Primary School, in Rushey Mead, used street space on Lockerbie Avenue to create art, and held BalanceAbility cycle skills sessions for their younger pupils. St John the Baptist Primary, in Clarendon Park, used East Avenue for BalanceAbility and Bikeability sessions from the Leicester City School Sport & Physical Activity Network.

Sandfield Close Primary School, in Thurmaston, hosted sports and games on the street for all year groups, as well as in their school grounds, while Dovelands Primary, in Western Park, held an assembly and activities to promote active travel and their new 'park and stride' site for school run parking on nearby Western Park.

In April, Catherine Junior School, in Belgrave, saw efforts to promote active travel result in a fourth-place finish in a national Big Walk and Wheel competition, with 98% of all children arriving at school on foot, scooter or bike. The school followed this up with a full day of learning for Clean Air Day, celebrating active travel as well as exploring air pollution through the curriculum.



To find out more about Clean Air Day, visit the [Action for Clean Air website](#), or you can visit [the Schools' extranet](#) for more details about air quality education at Leicester City Council.



*Supports the transport and healthy living  
Eco-Schools topics*

# WILL YOUR SCHOOL JOIN PLANET SUPER LEAGUE THIS AUTUMN?



PLANET  
SUPER  
LEAGUE

**KICKING OFF AUTUMN 2022:** A free national competition for football fans, schools and communities to engage in climate action in a positive, inspiring and trendy way!

Educational resources available for free to engage your class in the topic of sustainability using football as a vehicle for learning.

Take part in a national competition with prizes and media attention, represent YOUR football club and help them lift the trophy! Complete green activities to score as many goals as you can for your school and club, and help them to climb the league table.

**SIGN UP FREE TODAY** at [www.planetsuperleague.com/schools](http://www.planetsuperleague.com/schools)

**Mr. Nick Garley**  
Headteacher at Irthlingborough  
Junior School:



"What struck us about Planet Super League was the opportunity to talk to children about something fundamentally important to them and their futures in climate change.

We've had rich and interesting conversations about the world we live in and Planet Super League is actually now written into our School Improvement Plan".

## HOW IT WORKS



Staff, children & families  
sign up free at:  
[planetsuperleague.com](http://planetsuperleague.com)



Select your favourite  
football club and then  
your local authority and  
school from the  
dropdown menu.

## EXAMPLE ACTIVITIES



### MEAT FREE MEAL

Eat a meat-free meal to  
score goals for your school



### WALK TO SCHOOL

Ditch the car and walk,  
cycle or scoot to school



### CLASSROOM

Complete one of our fun and  
educational classroom  
worksheets to learn  
more about climate action  
through football



Visit the ACTIVITIES or  
SCHOOLS pages &  
choose the activities you  
want to complete to score  
green goals.



Score as many green  
goals as you can, in and  
outside of school to climb  
the league and win the  
competition!

PLANET  
SUPER  
LEAGUE

Find out more at: [planetsuperleague.com/schools](http://planetsuperleague.com/schools)  
Email: [schools@psl.football](mailto:schools@psl.football)

**SIGN UP FREE TODAY**

# Eco Schools/FFL Celebration



The Eco-Schools/Food for Life celebration took place on Wednesday 22 June at City Hall, where children and staff from eight Leicester City schools showcased their environmental and healthy food-related projects. Schools set up displays showing the work that they have completed over the year to achieve their Food for Life or Green Flag awards.

They were then joined by a range of judges from across the council along with external organisations. The children enjoyed sharing their work and explaining the meaning behind their display, and judges commented on how 'professional and passionate' the children were when talking about their projects.

Schools that took part in the event included Judgemeadow Community College, Sir Jonathan North Girls' College, Merrydale Infant School, Mayflower Primary School, Sparkenhoe Community Primary School, St Patrick's Catholic Voluntary Academy, Highfields Primary School and Knighton Mead Primary Academy.



## The winners were:

- Eco-Schools Award – Mayflower Primary
- Food for Life – Merrydale Infant School
- Judge's Special Award – Mayflower Primary School
- Eco-Factor – Knighton Mead Primary Academy

Thank you all so much for attending, and to the Central England Cooperative for sponsorship of prizes and Willswow for amazing plantable books! **You can see all the photos on our [Facebook page](#).**

## 9 New Tiny Forests in Leicester



Leicester City Council teamed up with Severn Trent which is aiming to create 72 Tiny Forests in urban areas across the Midlands, one for each of the nations and territories due to compete at Birmingham 2022. The ambitious planting programme is supported by environmental charity Earthwatch Europe, who are pioneering the Tiny Forest movement in the UK, and will help deliver a lasting legacy for the Games. At each of the schools taking part in Leicester, pupils, staff and other volunteers have helped to plant 600 native trees in a plot of land about the size of a tennis court. The trees are planted densely together helping to maximise the nature benefits per square metre of land.

The schools that have taken part are:

- Hope Hamilton CE Primary School, in Hamilton
- Scraftoft Valley Primary School, in Nether Hall
- New College, in New Parks
- Whitehall Primary School, in Evington
- Buswells Lodge Primary School, in Beaumont Leys
- Ellesmere College, in Rowley Fields
- St Mary's Fields, in Rowley Fields
- Nether Hall School
- Beaumont Leys School

**In total, around 5,400 new trees have been planted in Leicester as part of the scheme.**



**Supports the Eco-Schools  
biodiversity and school  
grounds topics**





# S4TP's Big Ideas Programme



Solutions for the Planet (S4TP) connects enquiring minds from schools and businesses creating space and opportunity for young people to explore sustainability and STEM careers. As a social enterprise, S4TP delivers the award-winning Big Ideas Programme across England and Scotland.

S4TP's Big Ideas Programme is a national **STEM and enterprise** programme with a focus on **sustainability**. It starts with Big Ideas Days held in schools, where teams of students explore sustainability issues and identify those that they want to solve. The teams of students, aged 11-14, are mentored by staff from locally-based business partner companies who facilitate them to generate their creative solutions and enter their ideas into our Big Ideas Competition. The Competition continues with Regional Finals at local universities and culminates with regional winners presenting at the National Final at the Palace of Westminster, hosted by a cross-party group of MPs.

The Big Ideas Programme is a way of encouraging improvement and development in schools, as it gets students learning about sustainability, working in groups, using their STEM skills to analyse and solve problems, presenting, researching, etc. It gives schools the opportunity to have a programme that not only focuses on students' STEM skills, but also crosses over into other disciplines such as business, geography, DT, citizenship, PSHE, or English. Add to that the mentoring from employees of local businesses (giving students the opportunity for encounters with employers) and the regional finals held at local universities (giving them encounters with higher education), and you can see that the programme directly addresses four of the [Gatsby benchmarks](#) too. Those that present at the Regional Finals are also eligible to receive a [CREST Bronze Award](#)!

In 2021-22, the programme involved over 3,000 young people from 26 schools, with 70 business mentors providing 100s of hours of their time, supporting young people to develop their ideas, skills and knowledge around STEM, sustainability and entrepreneurship.

S4TP run the programme with Key Stage 3 students in schools across England. They have limited spaces available for new schools to join the programme from September 2022.

The school participation fee is heavily subsidised by businesses, and they offer the full programme for £500. Please contact S4TP if the cost is prohibitive, and they can suggest funding options.



*Supports many  
Eco-Schools topics*

## How can I find out more?

For further information about the programme please contact:

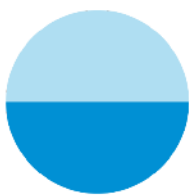
**Sarah Milburn, Programme Manager**

[sarah@solutionsfortheplanet.co.uk](mailto:sarah@solutionsfortheplanet.co.uk)

07393863689



BY



Common  
Seas

x



## Join us in our bid to becoming the first ever Plastic Clever City!



We are pleased to introduce Plastic Clever Schools, a project new for the Sustainable Schools team starting in September 2022. Plastic Clever Schools is a programme developed by Kids Against Plastic and Common Seas, with the aim of reducing single use plastics in schools.

Our aim is to become the first ever Plastic Clever City. To achieve this, we need at least 60 schools in Leicester actively taking part in the programme during the academic year 2022/2023.

### What does Plastic Clever Schools involve?

- There are three stages to the programme:
  - Inspire – hold a litter pick and share why YOU want to be a Plastic Clever School
  - Investigate – look at the use of plastic in your school and create an action plan
  - Act – take steps to reduce 2 problem plastics in your school and celebrate YOUR success!
- The online platform has workbooks for students, resources for teachers and a display board showing success stories from schools across the countries.
- New for Autumn 2022, there will be a set of resources for secondary schools meaning everyone can be involved!

### How can you join?

Simply sign up online through the [Plastic Clever Schools website](#). Work through the stages and start reducing your schools plastic waste now!



### Why participate?

- Young people are encouraged to take the lead in the project
- Ideal for eco teams, individual classes or even year groups to take ownership of
- Join a network of schools all working towards the same aim
- Work for your Plastic Clever Schools award will also support your Eco-Schools Green Flag award application



For more information, please contact Laura on [Laura.Barke@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Laura.Barke@leicester.gov.uk)

# Low Carbon Lunches update



The low carbon lunches workshops are now coming to an end. We have had 15 schools take part in the workshops which have focused on energy use, packaging waste, food waste and plant-based meals in their schools. Children were shocked to learn that over 20 million slices of bread are wasted in the UK every single day! Schools have then put together action plans to help them reduce the carbon impacts from their food choices, by reducing food waste or packaging use for example.

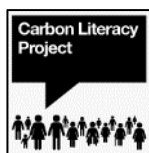
Some students have also had the opportunity to trial 'Planet Friendly' school meals. These have been provided by City Catering who are currently looking at introducing some new menu items in the coming academic year, based on feedback from students. Look out for these new, student-approved, meals in the future!



**Sustainable  
Schools  
LEICESTER**



*Supports healthy living  
Eco-Schools topic*



## Carbon Literacy update



We have finally been able to offer our Carbon Awareness training for school pupils over the last term with support from the NAEF. We have worked with over 600 pupils across 10 different schools, who have all taken part in a full day of learning, focusing on understanding what greenhouse gases are, the impact of carbon emissions and calculating carbon footprints. By the end of the session, the young people were then challenged to make a pledge to help reduce their own carbon footprints and had to produce a piece of work showing what they had learnt. We have seen posters, flyers, boardgames, cards games, quizzes and much more being produced – all with the shared intention of educating people about carbon emissions!

A special well done goes to the KS1 students who took part from Inglehurst Infants School as, despite the topic being quite a challenge, all of the students worked really hard to show what the world could look like in the future if we all work together to make a difference!



Funded by  
the NAEF



We are currently looking at whether we will be able to continue to offer Carbon Awareness training for school students in the future. If this is something that you would be interested in, please let Laura know as this will help to inform our planning for next year.



*Supports many of the Eco-Schools topics*





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