

# Schools News

September 2022



Welcome to the September 2022 Leicester Schools newsletter.

We hope you had a fantastic summer break and were able to cope well in the heat. The team have continued to work hard over the summer giving training sessions and of course the Green Gadeteers workshops that have been happening in libraries all over the city!

Now that schools are getting back into full swing, we are preparing for the next year of sustainable workshops, training sessions and events! Take a look at our updated calendar for the 2022/23 school year for an overview of things happening. We are currently looking forward to Great Big Green Week at the end of September, where we hope you will join in with our competition, grants, and conference event – see you soon!

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

## What is Sustainable Schools Leicester?

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

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

Just some of the things we have been up to over summer...



## 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](#)

[EcoSchoolsLCC](#)

[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 **Friday 16 December 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...



## Running Out of Time



# RUNNING OUT OF TIME

137,686 pupils from 57 countries have already joined the world's largest climate action relay – can you help to deliver a message that global leaders can't ignore? Those over 18 (looking at you, teachers and university students!) can run a part in a relay from Glasgow to Sharm el-Sheikh to deliver a message on climate action to COP27. Visit [the relay route](#) to see where your local stretch is!

There are also plenty of opportunities for schools to get involved. The Global Schools Action Day on 3 November is a day of climate action that any school can join. The World Relay are asking students, and their teachers, to get active for 15 minutes (or more) and share their activities. This can be done at any time of the day, in any way you like – the more creative the better! Don't worry if you can't make this date, you can take part on any day that works for you.

With a wealth of resources available, taking part in Running Out of Time is an exciting opportunity for your students' voices to be heard at COP27; for them to learn more about climate change and show their support for climate action; and to take part in a unique and unforgettable event.

To sign up yourself or your school to take part in the creation and delivery of this message, visit [the Running Out of Time website](#).

# 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 school 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 Sustainable Schools Traded Service Schools.*

*Please note that grant money cannot 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)

# 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





# Eco-Schools Training Session 1

## What is Eco-Schools and how do we gain or renew our Green Flag Award?

### FREE Online Training course:

Wednesday 21 September 2022, 4-5.30 pm

Sign up [Here](#)

*There will be 2 optional in-person follow up sessions throughout the academic year on Friday 20 January and Monday 24 April 2023*

- Are you wanting to find out about Eco-Schools and how your school can gain their Green Flag Award?
- Do you want to learn how to use the online portal for applications which was introduced last year?
- Are you wanting to connect with other school staff in Leicester schools and support each other to gain your Eco-Schools Green Flag Award?

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

**In Leicester there are now 65 schools with the prestigious Green Flag Award putting us at number one in England!** This training, delivered by the Sustainable Schools team at Leicester City Council, will explain the Green Flag Award process including the 7 steps, provide top tips for working on Eco-Schools, ideas for new projects, and a chance to pair up with colleagues.



### Who would benefit from this course?

This training is aimed at staff who are new to Eco-Schools or those who would like a refresher on the process. This could be Eco-leads and all school staff with an interest in environmental education - heads, deputy heads, assistant heads, classroom teachers, TAs, support staff, premises officers, business managers and governors/trustees.

This also includes staff from schools who gained their Green Flag Award in the Aug 2020 – August 2021 academic year who did not need to renew last year and would like to find out how Eco-Schools has changed and how to use the new online portal for applications.

### For more information please contact:

Marc at [Marc.Tench@Leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Marc.Tench@Leicester.gov.uk)  
or

### Sustainable Schools Team

- ✉ [SustainableSchools@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:SustainableSchools@leicester.gov.uk)
- 🌐 [schools.leicester.gov.uk/eco-schools](https://schools.leicester.gov.uk/eco-schools)
- 🐦 [EcoSchoolsLCC](#)
- 📷 [EcoSchoolsLCC](#)
- 📘 [EnvEducationLeicester](#)
- 📞 0116 454 2271



# Climate Change Home Learning Pack

We have an exciting opportunity for a select number of schools to participate on our month-long home learning activity pack, all about climate change. The home learning pack will be used during October 2022, with activities being set daily. The pack includes different challenges and activities each day, all focusing on reducing our impact on the environment.



## What is included?

- A calendar for children to display at home, providing the daily activity instructions
- A booklet providing more information about the activities
- Stickers including self-selected challenges to use throughout the month
- Children have the opportunity to visit a museum in Leicester
- Three competitions with exciting prizes during the month!
- Optional QR codes for additional information on some days.
- Class chart to compare the progress between students
- Virtual launch assembly for the children
- Certificates for children who complete the activities

## Who is the pack for?

- KS2 children in targeting Leicester City Schools
- Schools who are wanting to teach their children more about climate change
- Schools who are wanting to work more with the Museums team at Leicester City Council

## School commitments:

- At least one class/year group participating during the month
- Class chart to be displayed and monitored in each class taking part
- Join the virtual launch assembly on Friday 23 September 2022

# Help stop climate change!



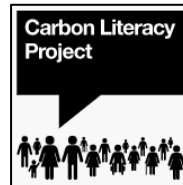
Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND**



To register your schools' interest, please complete the [eForm](#). If you would like further information, please contact [SustainableSchools@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:SustainableSchools@leicester.gov.uk).

*These packs are **free** and open to **primary schools** in Leicester City.*

# Virtual Carbon Literacy Training for School Staff, Governors & Trustees



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

In order to raise awareness of the climate emergency, we are using the Carbon Literacy Project as a way of accrediting school staff in becoming Carbon Literate. By 2025, the DfE have said that each school will have a sustainability lead who will have taken part in Carbon Literacy Training. By joining us, you will help put your school ahead of the rest!

## Training: Mondays 10, 24, 31 October 2022

4.30-6.30pm each day (you need to attend all 3 sessions to pass)

**Training delivered online via Microsoft Teams**

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



## Why participate?

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

## Your commitments

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



- *The cost of the three sessions is £20. This includes the £10 accreditation fee from the Carbon Literacy Project.*
- *This training is open to all staff in Leicester City schools and schools within our traded services.*

To book your place please book via this [eForm](#) or email [Laura.Barke@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Laura.Barke@leicester.gov.uk)



# #EcoTeachMeets in Leicester 2022-23

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



## Lancaster Academy

Knighton Lane East, Leicester, LE2 6FU

**Thursday 6 October 2022, session runs 4.30-6.00pm  
(refreshments from 4.00pm)**

### Confirmed speakers

**Lee Jowett** – National Climate Change Strategy in Schools

**Hollie Campbell** – Jane Goodall Roots and Shoots Programme

**Molly Laycock** - 100 species challenge

**Laura Barke** – Plastic Clever School and Energy Sparks updates

All school staff and organisations welcome!

If you would like more information, please contact the Sustainable Schools Team at  
[SustainableSchools@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:SustainableSchools@leicester.gov.uk)

**You can sign up to attend or present using this [link](#)** If you would like to host an #EcoTeachMeet in the future do get in touch via [Eco-Schools@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Eco-Schools@leicester.gov.uk)



@EcoSchoolsLCC



EnvEducationLeicester



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

# Eco-Schools Achievements



## Green Flags

- Avenue Primary School
- Catherine Infant School
- Christ the King Catholic Primary School
- Green Lane Infant School
- Hope Hamilton CE Primary School
- Humberstone Infant School
- Humberstone Junior School
- Inglehurst Junior School
- Judgemeadow Community College
- Kestrel Mead Primary School
- Knighton Mead Primary Academy
- Leicester Islamic Academy
- Madani Boys School
- Madani Girls School
- Parks Primary School
- Scraftoft Valley Primary School
- Sparkenhoe Community Primary School
- Spinney Hill Primary School
- St John the Baptist C of E Primary School
- St Mary's Fields Primary School
- St Patrick's Catholic Voluntary Academy
- St Thomas More Catholic Voluntary Academy
- Stokes Wood Primary School
- Uplands Infant School
- Uplands Junior School

## Green Flag with Merit

- Barley Croft Primary School
- Braunstone Community Primary School
- Buswells Lodge Primary School
- Fosse Primary School
- Hazel Primary School
- Heatherbrook Primary School
- Highfields Primary School
- Rushey Mead Academy
- Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School
- Sir Jonathan North Girls' College

## Green Flag with Distinction

- Abbey Mead Primary Academy
- Catherine Junior School
- Ellesmere College
- Jameah Girls Academy Leicester
- Mayflower Primary School
- Nether Hall School
- Queensmead Primary School
- St Joseph's Catholic Primary School





# Eco-Schools Achievements (continued)



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

- Bridge Junior School
- Caldecote Community Primary School
- Charnwood Primary School
- Doveland's 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 Distinction

- Bishop Ellis Primary School
- St Clare's Primary School - A Catholic Voluntary Academy

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

- De Lisle College - a Catholic Voluntary Academy - Loughborough
- Holy Cross School - A Catholic Voluntary Academy - Whitick
- Sacred Heart Catholic Voluntary Academy - Loughborough
- St Charles' Catholic Primary Voluntary Academy - Measham
- St Francis Catholic Primary School – Melton Mowbray
- St John Fisher Catholic Voluntary Academy – Wigston
- St Mary's Primary School – a Catholic Voluntary Academy – Loughborough
- St Peter's Catholic Voluntary Academy – Earl Shilton
- St Winefride's Catholic Voluntary Academy – Shepshed

## Green Flag with Merit

- St Josephs Catholic Voluntary Academy in Market Harborough
- St Martin's Catholic Voluntary Academy- Stoke Golding
- St Peter's Catholic Primary School – a Voluntary Academy – Hinckley

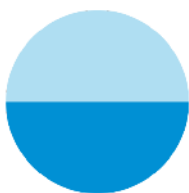


**Altogether in Leicester we now have 65 schools with their Green Flag which means we retain our status as the most Eco-School Green Flag Awards of any Local Authority area in England!**

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



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)

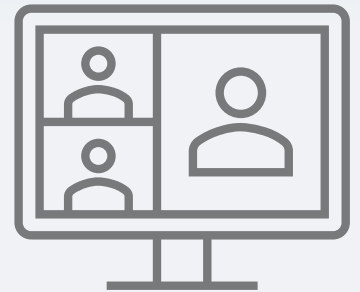


# Sustainable Schools Virtual Assemblies

The Sustainable Schools team will be holding another series of virtual assemblies to coincide with environmental events throughout the school year!

Our virtual assemblies will all be held at **1:30pm via Microsoft Teams** on the following dates:

- [National Tree Week](#) – Monday 28 Nov 2022
- [Fairtrade Fortnight](#) – Friday 17 Feb 2023
- [Earth Day](#) – Friday 21 Apr 2023
- [World Ocean Day](#) – Thursday 8 Jun 2023



We will cover the meaning behind each event and how students can get involved at school and at home.

There is no need to sign up – just use the links above to join at the time!



If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at [SustainableSchools@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:SustainableSchools@leicester.gov.uk)

# RETHINK FOOD FUTURES

**Rethink Food Futures** presents the opportunity to make a difference to the health of people and the planet.



## By Rethinking Food Futures we can:

- Empower children to deliver change that will benefit humanity, improve health and re-nourish the planet
- Encourage children to eat more fresh food, improving health and well-being
- Provide immersive learning opportunities for children

The Rethink Food Futures programme provides the perfect platform to connect school children with the wider food system.

Participants begin this programme as scientists, then learn to be farmers before becoming chefs and finally consumers.

[Watch the YouTube video](#) to find out more!



HEALTHY PEOPLE.  
HEALTHY PLANET.





# **SCHOOL PACKAGE - 1 TERM LOAN**

## **WHAT DO I RECEIVE?**

**One terms use of growing tower with technical and growing support**

**Consumables for 1 growing cycle (nutrients, rockwool & seeds)**

**Access to Rethink Food Academy learning platform, with the option to access;**



### **MODULE 1 - EAT TO SAVE THE PLANET**

Food is the key ingredient in sustainability. Help us save the planet through improved food choices.



### **MODULE 2 - JACK AND THE BEANSTALK**

We all know the story of Jack and the Beanstalk... But whatever happened to Jack's Cow? Help solve the mystery!



### **MODULE 3 MISSION TO MARS**

What does an astronaut eat in space? Help transport food from your tower to Mars and improve the diet of our astronaut.

**£250 + VAT**



# RETHINK FOOD OUTCOMES

"The tower garden became a focal piece for the whole school and was often featured within assembly and celebration sessions, allowing an even wider range of children to witness what was happening and to see growth on a daily basis." Headteacher in Halifax

95% of children don't eat enough fresh produce. Research shows that children who grow their own food are FIVE times more likely to eat it.

"A fantastic experience and we are already growing more of our own because of it" Parent of Y4 Child

"This has changed me" Y3 Pupil in Rotherham

"The children really enjoyed the topic and have had many great in depth discussions about the Global Goals. Many thanks for all of this and the opportunity to be involved" Teacher in Glasgow

"It was so much fun and the end result was absolutely delicious" Y4 Pupil in Leeds



"This was a true awe and wonder experience for the whole school. A wonderful, unique experience"

Y4 Teacher in Bradford

"The children absolutely loved the sessions"

Y3 Teacher in Leeds

To participate please email  
[Laura.Barke@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Laura.Barke@leicester.gov.uk)



## 94%

of participants said they were more likely to eat fresh vegetables as a result of this programme.



# 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:**

# 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
World Cleanup Day (Litter)	Saturday 17	September
Eco-Schools Training session 1 (4-5.30pm on Teams)	Wednesday 21	September
Environmental home learning pack launch (some schools)	Friday 23	September
Great Big Green Week starts	Saturday 24	September
Bike to School Week starts	Monday 26	September
Natural Nations - outdoor learning training - Sandfield Close	Friday 30	September
Natural Nations - outdoor learning training - Mayflower	Thursday 29	September
GBGW Secondary Conference 9.30-2.30 (via Teams)	Tuesday 27	September
Natural Nations - outdoor learning training - Marriott Primary	Wednesday 28	September
World Vegetarian Day	Saturday 1	October
Great Big Green Week ends	Sunday 2	October
World Animal Day	Tuesday 4	October
World Teacher Day	Wednesday 5	October
EcoTeachMeet - Lancaster Academy	Thursday 6	October
Carbon Literacy training (staff and governors) 4.30-6pm Session 1	Monday 10	October
World Food Day	Sunday 16	October
Carbon Literacy training (staff and governors) 4.30-6pm Session 2	Monday 24	October
Carbon Literacy training (staff and governors) 4.30-6pm Session 3	Monday 31	October
Eco-Schools Roadshows taking place (exact venues TBC)	Tuesday 2	November
Outdoor Classroom Day	Thursday 3	November
Sustainable Schools Celebration evening	Thursday 10	November
National Tree Week starts	Saturday 26	November
Virtual Tree Week Assembly (1.30pm)	Monday 28	November
National Tree Week ends	Sunday 4	December
World Soil Day	Monday 5	December

# 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
ASE Conference (Science)	Thursday 5	January
ASE Conference (Science)	Friday 6	January
ASE Conference (Science)	Saturday 7	January
Eco-Schools training session 2 (1-3.30-pm)	Thursday 19	January
Fairtrade Assembly (virtual (1.30-2pm)	Friday 17	February
World Wildlife Day	Friday 3	March
Roots and Shoots Awards (London)	Friday 3	March
International Womens Day	Wednesday 8	March
Global Recycling Day	Saturday 18	March
Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel starts	Monday 20	March
World Water Day	Wednesday 22	March
Earth Hour 8:30-9:30pm	Saturday 25	March
Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel ends	Friday 31	March
Earth Day Assembly (virtual 1.30-2pm)	Friday 21	April
Virtual Earth Day Assembly (1.30pm)	Friday 21	April
Earth Day	Saturday 22	April
Eco-Schools training session 3 (1-3.30pm)	Monday 24	April
World Environment Day	Monday 5	June
World Oceans Day	Thursday 8	June
World Oceans Day Assembly (virtual - 1.30-2pm)	Thursday 8	June
Clean Air Day	Thursday 15	June
Tree Week Assembly (virtual 1.30-2pm)	Monday 28	June
Plastic bag-free day	Monday 3	July
Eco-Schools and FFL Celebration (all day)	Thursday 6	July



# BESS Energy Core 2022-23

## 12 Month Subscription



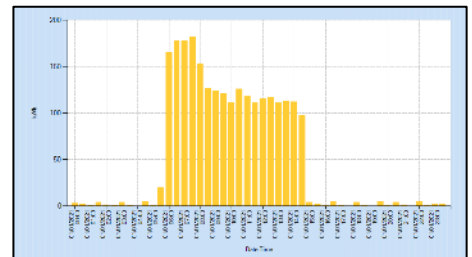
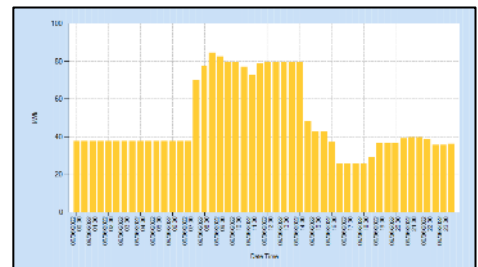
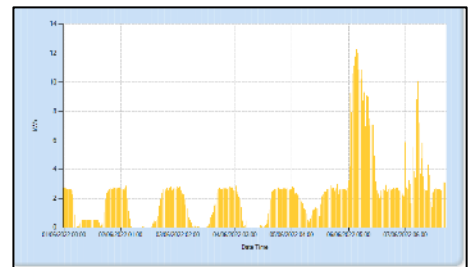
***Worried about increasing energy costs? Wanting to save money and improve your environmental credentials?***

***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 ASAP by completing our [online form](#).



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

# BESS Energy Enhanced 2022-3

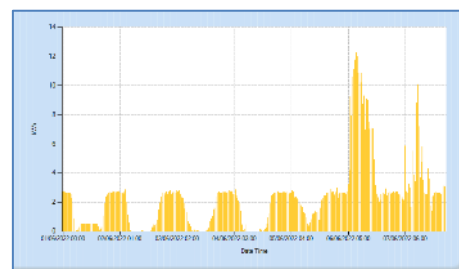
## 12 Month Subscription



***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 ASAP by completing our [online form.](#)



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

# 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)



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



# 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 ASAP by completing our [online form](#).



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

# Share A Pencil Day



Millions of children all over the world do not have access to education or lack the basic tools they need for learning. Sometimes large groups of children have to share exercise books, paper and even pencils and pens!

Share a Pencil Day will be taking place in May 2023. It is about learning, engaging children and teachers in the UK to help everyone understand a little more about the difficulties faced elsewhere. During one lesson on the day, children are asked to share one pencil between two to better understand what school is like when you lack the resources we take for granted.

In May this year, the focus was Children on the Move – highlighting the terrible events occurring in Ukraine and the shocking impact on children when they are forced to flee their homes.

The event is aimed at primary and secondary schools across the UK and is a lovely addition to the standard curriculum. Taking place in May, the week after Year 6 SATs exams, and completely free to take part, participating schools have access to lesson plans, short films and plenty more resources.



## How can I find out more?

You can [read the FAQs online](#), or sign up on [the Vent for Change website](#). Once you have signed up your class or school you will be emailed a link to a full teacher resource pack.



**Supports Global Citizenship Eco-Schools topic**



## Harvest LIVE



Over 40,000 schoolchildren have already signed up to join the world's biggest harvest festival! Harvest LIVE returns on 29 and 30 September 2022, with two free, interactive live lessons delivered by the NFU Education team.

The Harvest LIVE lessons take pupils on an adventure through the countryside to explore the fascinating journey their food takes to reach their plates. They can go behind the scenes of real British farms and meet the people responsible for producing their food.

The virtual session on 29 September is designed for KS2 pupils, and on 30 September for KS1 pupils. Both streams are interactive and aligned with the curriculum, ensuring your students will exercise their STEM knowledge and skills!

For more information about the content of each session and to book places, please visit [the host website](#).



**Supports the Eco-Schools Healthy Living topic**







Following our successful work with City Catering on our low carbon lunches project, we are pleased to announce that the new and improved menu from City Catering will be ready from the first full week back after summer! The menu is attached with this newsletter. You will see that there are lots of new items on the menu which were, in part, influenced by the children who took part in our food tasting sessions.

There are plenty of vegan options on the menu which typically will have a lower carbon footprint compared to other options, alongside lots of 'plant powered' foods which are packed full of vegetables. Remember that the vegan and vegetarian options are open to everyone! We are also really excited to see the 'Love Our Planet Day' every Monday – a fantastic way to make sustainable food choices that still taste amazing. If your school was involved in the low carbon lunches project, see which new menu items you can spot. Are there any that you recommended?

Thanks again to the team at City Catering!

## TRADITIONAL MENU September 2022-July 2023

TIMETABLE	WEEK ONE	MONDAY Love Our Planet Day	TUESDAY European Flavours	WEDNESDAY Traditional Roast	THURSDAY Around the World Day	FRIDAY Fish Friday
5 September 2022 26 September 2022 24 October 2022 14 November 2022 5 December 2022 9 January 2023 27 February 2023 20 March 2023 24 April 2023 15 May 2023 12 June 2023 3 July 2023	Option 1	Meat Free Bolognese Jacket Potato Halves	Lasagne with Loaded Vegetables Malted Baguette	Mediterranean Quorn Pie New Potatoes	Carbon Busting Sausages Creamed Potatoes	Plant Glory Fingers Chips
	Option 2	Plant Power Enchiladas Jacket Potato Halves	Traditional Meat Lasagne Garlic Bread	Roast Chicken with Gravy Stuffing and New Potatoes	Park Sausages Creamed Potatoes	Fish Friday Chips
	Dessert	Fluffy Fruit Pot	Chocolate and Beetroot Brownie	Apple and Pear Crumble with Custard	Chocolate Tart	Yum Yum Biscuit or Ice Cream
TIMETABLE	WEEK TWO	MONDAY Love Our Planet Day	TUESDAY European Flavours	WEDNESDAY Traditional Roast	THURSDAY Around the World Day	FRIDAY Fish Friday
12 September 2022 3 October 2022 31 October 2022 21 November 2022 12 December 2022 16 January 2023 6 February 2023 27 March 2023 1 May 2023 22nd May 2023 19 June 2023 10 July 2023	Option 1	Mixed Bean Chilli Brown & White Rice	Plant Meat Balls in Tomato and Herb Sauce with Pasta	Planet Friendly Puff Roast Potatoes	Moroccan Rainbow Tagine with Coleslaw Traffic Light Cous Cous	Quorn Dippers Chips
	Option 2	Macaroni Cheese Saute Potato	Park Meat Balls in Tomato Herb Sauce with Rice	Roast Turkey with Stuffing with Gravy and Roast Potatoes	Grilled Piri Piri Chicken with Coleslaw Vegetable Rice	Fish Friday Chips
	Dessert	Chocolate Haystack	Iced Peach Sponge	Strawberry Mousse	Apple Crumble and Custard	Melting Moments or Ice Cream
TIMETABLE	WEEK THREE	MONDAY Love Our Planet Day	TUESDAY European Flavours	WEDNESDAY Traditional Roast	THURSDAY Around the World Day	FRIDAY Fish Friday
19 September 2022 10 October 2022 7 November 2022 28 November 2022 2 January 2023 23 January 2023 13 February 2023 13 March 2023 17 April 2023 8 May 2023 5 June 2023 26 June 2023	Option 1	Ravioli Ratatouille with Tomato and Vegetable Sauce Baguette	Seasonal Vegetable Bake Jacket Potato	Quorn Roast with Gravy Parmentier Potatoes	Yummy Vegetable Pizza with Coleslaw Potato Wedges	Quorn Dippers Chips
	Option 2	Tomato And Herb Pasta with Plant Power Ball Malted Baguette	Cheese Fan Jacket Potato	Roast Pork with Gravy and Apple Sauce Parmentier Potatoes	Flattened Chicken Burger with Coleslaw Burger Roll	Fish Friday Chips
	Dessert	Shortbread Biscuit	Jelly with Fruits	Flapjack	Chocolate Banana Pot	Lemon Drizzle Cake or Ice Cream

**\*KEY:**  
 Vegan  
 Plant Power  
 Contains 50% Fruit  
 New dish

**Disclaimer**  
 We endeavour to serve food as specified on the menu, however, there are some circumstances when this isn't possible. You can be assured that these instances will be kept to an absolute minimum.

For children to have healthier meals at school, over the last few years we have reduced the sugar in our puddings by 20%

Choosing a meal from this menu for your child every day will provide 2-3 portions of their five a day. Seasonal vegetables served daily

For all allergens please ask a member of catering staff

### SERVED DAILY

Seasonal vegetables.  
 Jacket Potato & Packed Lunch Sandwich Fillings are available in most schools, please check what the local arrangements are in your school.



**Supports the Eco-Schools  
 Healthy Living topic**



Hello everyone!

**SaveSoil** is a global movement to save our soils from going extinct within the next 50yrs...!

★ Leicester's Sustainable Schools Manager, Deputy City Mayor, Lord Mayor & others have given their full support

★ So far 9 schools and 2 colleges are keen for a **FREE** fun & interactive workshop or talk...  
Which one will you choose?

Age	Format	Content	Duration (Mins)
6 to 12	Workshop	Questions, experiments, short clips covering: What is soil? Why is it crucial for life? What's happening to it? What can we do about it?	40
12 to 16	Workshop	As above more discussions, group exercises, facts/trivia	45-60
16+	Talk	Talk: PP slides, video clip, action points	20
	Workshop	Workshop: As above talk with discussion, group exercises, facts/trivia	45-60

Please watch  
**this 6 mins video**

A movement that has reached  
over *3.9 billion people* so far...

Supported by Jane Goodall, The  
Dalai Lama, Will.i.am amongst  
many others!



**SaveSoil.org**

I'm a fully certified STEM  
Ambassador with 25+yrs  
experience of working with  
children and young people

If this is something you'd like in  
your school or organisation, then  
please get in touch!

Kind regards,

*Shiv*



Shiv Amano  
STEM Ambassador  
07904 868 382  
mrshivamano@gmail.com



# Saving the Saffron Brook summer update

The *Saving the Saffron Brook* team  
have had a busy summer!

We have been hosting meet and  
greet, guided walks, ID sessions,  
stream dipping sessions, and wild play  
days!

Our volunteers have also been hard at  
work clearing vegetation, branches  
and litter from our key sites.



*Raft making session*

**Look out for our autumn timetable of events coming soon!**

We have lots of exciting family-friendly activities planned for half  
term, such as craft sessions and wild walks.



*Path maintenance at Knighton Spinney*

## Upcoming intervention work:

- Tree planting
- Habitat building (for otters, bats, and birds)
- In-channel work

To find out more please contact:

Molly Laycock, Education Project Officer

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



# Energy Sparks



Energy Sparks are an online platform which monitor schools gas and electricity consumption. The platform includes an educational programme which can be used with classes or small groups of children, such as your eco-committee. Energy Sparks can help to reduce carbon emissions and work towards addressing the climate emergency.

**Energy Sparks** and the **Sustainable Schools** team are hosting a **Leicester-focused training session** on how to use Energy Sparks and how using Energy Sparks can support you in achieving your Eco-Schools Green Flag award.

## Training: 3:45-5:00pm on Tuesday 6 September 2022

Training will be delivered online via Microsoft Teams

Who would benefit from this training? All school staff involved in using Energy Sparks, including eco-leads, business managers and premises officers, within Leicester City

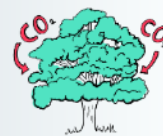
### How can Energy Sparks help you?

- Using smart meter data, Energy Sparks will show you how much energy your school uses.
- Pupils and staff can use information to help save energy
- A scoreboard is in place for schools to compare energy savings with other schools nearby.
- Online, email and text notification of changes in energy consumption, with recommended energy saving actions tailored just for your school.
- Energy saving interventions and investments are suggested to maximise cost and energy savings.
- Over 70 energy related activities for eco-teams or class-based learning.
- Activities can also count towards your Eco-Schools Green Flag award!

Last year your school used 280,000 kWh of gas.

It will take 66 trees, each living 40 years, to absorb the carbon dioxide released when this gas was burnt.

Find out how much energy has been used.



Let's look at the energy use data for your school:



To sign up for the training session, please complete the [Eventbrite invite](#). If you would like more information, please contact [Laura.Barke@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Laura.Barke@leicester.gov.uk)



# 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".

## 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

## 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.



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**



# Summer Reading Challenge



The Sustainable Schools and Library Services partnership continued over the summer, with the team offering Green Gadgeteers workshops in libraries all over the city!

Those that signed up were able to make a variety of musical instruments, fashion designs, and even plant pots from recycled materials, kindly resourced by ward funding.

These sessions were a ton of fun (if a little messy!) for all involved, and taught us a lot about how things we might throw away can become useful gadgets and creative tools. We look forward to seeing what next year's Challenge has in store!



**Supported by**  
**Troon**  
**Ward Councillors**  
(Community Ward Funding)



**Supported by**  
**North Evington**  
**Ward Councillors**  
(Community Ward Funding)



**Supported by**  
**Knighton**  
**Ward Councillors**  
(Community Ward Funding)



*Supports the Eco-Schools  
waste topic*

## Sustainable Urban Drainage (SuDS)



Brick rain planter by a school entrance



Rain garden visible through window



Courtesy Groundwork London



A wildflower green roof on a school kitchen

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.



*Supports the water 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





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