

Schools News

April 2023



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.

Welcome to the April 2023 Leicester Sustainable Schools newsletter. We hope you have all had a lovely Easter break! It finally feels like spring is here in Leicester, bringing with it a fantastic opportunity to get students involved in outdoor education as much as possible.

We have lots of ideas, activities and opportunities to participate in over this term. This term also brings with it the start of the Eco-Schools Green Flag application window, starting May 1. Have a read through this newsletter to get ideas for any final projects that you are working on.

Last term we were busy with our celebration evening along with lots of outdoor activities including planting the final 9 out of our 10 Tiny Forests this season and supporting schools in making their school grounds more nature friendly.

We are looking forward to the warmer weather in the coming months!! As always, get in touch if you need any support - Lee, Marc, Molly & Laura.



How to find out more Sustainable Schools Team

City Hall, 115 Charles Street, Leicester LE1 1FZ

✉ Eco-Schools@leicester.gov.uk

🌐 schools.leicester.gov.uk/eco-schools

🐦 [EcoSchoolsLCC](https://twitter.com/EcoSchoolsLCC)

📷 [EcoSchoolsLCC](https://www.instagram.com/EcoSchoolsLCC)

📘 [EnvEducationLeicester](https://www.facebook.com/EnvEducationLeicester)

☎ 0116 454 6746



[Tiny Forest planting](#) at Merrydale Junior School – March 2023

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

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

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

The 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 is £200+VAT on an annual basis. Leicester City Council has been able to subsidise Eco-Schools Green Flags for several years. For the academic year 2022/23 we are able to cover £150, so schools need to cover £50. More information available online at www.eco-schools.org.uk/the-eco-schools-programme-is-changing

Newsletter

Our newsletters are published 4 times per year. If you would like to submit an article for the next newsletter, the deadline is **Friday 30 June 2023**. We ask for around 200 words, at least 1 photo and contact details e.g. name and email address to: SustainableSchools@leicester.gov.uk



Dates for your diary – Eco events

- **Leicester - staff training/information**
- **Leicester - student activities/events**
- **National events**

We now have an annual calendar with all the dates 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
Earth Day Assembly (virtual 1.30-2pm)	Friday 21	April
Earth Day	Saturday 22	April
Eco-Schools training session 3 (1-3.30pm)	Friday 28	April
World Environment Day	Monday 5	June
ReThink Food Tower Teams presentation (4.00-4.45pm)	14 and 16	May
EcoTeachMeet at Linden Primary School (4.00-5.30pm)	Wednesday 17	May
Urban Nature Project Celebration (11am-3pm)	Saturday 20	May
World Oceans Day	Thursday 8	June
World Oceans Day Assembly (virtual - 1.30-2pm)	Thursday 8	June
Clean Air Day	Thursday 15	June
Carbon Literacy training (face to face, all day)	Mon 19 or Thu 22	June
Plastic bag-free day	Monday 3	July
Eco-Schools Celebration (all day)	Thursday 6	July

Lee is leaving the City Council!



After nearly 9 years I've made the decision to leave Leicester City Council. When I started in 2014 it was for a fixed term contract of 2-years and term time only. Since then I have become permanent, full time and more recently a team leader managing a team of 5 people.

There have certainly been some ups and down in my time here including some fantastic opportunities working with school staff and students from all over Leicester and Leicestershire. Some of my highlights have been:

- Developing and retaining a high performing team who regularly are seen as a leading authority in sustainable schools in the UK.
- Achieving the most Eco-Schools Green Flags in England for several consecutive years.
- Working with national partners including Ashden, Keep Britain Tidy, Learning through Landscapes, Earthwatch and WWF to name but a few!
- Being successful leading a £25m bid to the Salix PSDS fund which has enabled 55 schools to receive a combination of solar panels, LEDs, insulation and air source heat pumps – reducing running costs and carbon.
- Working with conservation to undertake the Saving the Saffron Brook project.
- Our new coverage of Great Big Green Week where we undertook a climate march to Abbey Park.
- Our joint project with Learning through Landscapes - the Polli:Gen project which enabled 24 schools to participate in improving nature.
- Supporting the education programme for Rocket Around Leicester art project with LOROS.
- Creating SuDS interventions in 3 primary schools
- Delivering 20 Tiny Forests with Earthwatch over the last 3 winters – meaning we have the most of any local authority.
- Launching our BESS Energy programme working with over 60 schools in Leicester and Leicestershire.
- Meeting Dr Jane Goodall and showcasing our work at the Roots & Shoots Awards in London on several occasions.
- Our Carbon Literacy courses funded through the NAEF which has enabled us to reach thousands of children, young people and adults.
- Presenting evidence to parliament on behalf of the NAEF and Leicester City Council on greener jobs and environmental education.
- Hosting several national conferences including the SEEd national Sustainable Schools Conference (2016), RCE-East Midlands (2018) and Erasmus+ Learning through Landscapes/Birdlife (2019) conferences.

I'll be starting a role at Sheffield Hallam University from the beginning of June 2023 as a Climate Change and Sustainability Fellow in their Institute of Education. It's a really exciting role which is newly created. I won't be completely disappearing from Leicester as I will continue to be a Trustee of Attenborough Learning Trust MAT.

At the moment I can't confirm if my role will be replaced – but I hope given all the amazing work we have achieved in Leicester and a really full work programme that this will happen.

All the best, Lee

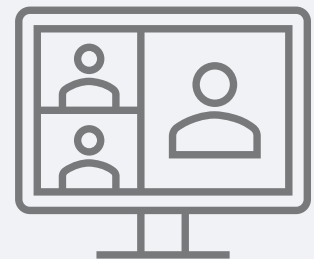


Sustainable Schools Virtual Assemblies

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**, our remaining virtual assemblies for the year are:

- [Earth Day](#) – Friday 21 April 2023
- [World Ocean Day](#) – Thursday 8 June 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!

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 the 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!

In Person:

Dates: 19 or 22 June 2023

Time: 9:00 – 4:00

Location: Monday 19 June – Soar Valley College

Thursday 22 June – Judgemeadow College

* You only need to attend one full day course

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

Your commitments

- 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**

Visit the link below to sign up through the eForm to secure your place!

Carbon Literacy Training - Spring and Summer 2023



The cost of the training course is £30 for school staff/governors or £50 for non-school staff and staff outside of Leicester City. This includes the individual and course accreditation fees from the Carbon Literacy Project.

To book your place please complete the [eForm](#). For more information, contact Laura.Barke@leicester.gov.uk

Eco-Schools Training – Green Flag Application

Going for Merit or Distinction, networking with staff, planning for next year.

FREE Training course:

Friday 28 April 2023, 1.00-3.30 pm

Venue – **Avanti Fields School, LE5 0BX**

Sign up [Here](#)

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

This training will:

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



In Leicester there are now 65 schools with the prestigious Green Flag Award putting us at number one in England! This training, delivered by Leicester City Council, will provide top tips for gaining or renewing your Eco Schools Green Flag Award and gaining a Merit or Distinction. Help and time will be given to begin or complete the application process. There will also be chance to team up with colleagues, in preparation for next academic year



Who would benefit from this course?

Eco-leads and all school staff who are wanting to apply or renew their Eco Schools Green Flag Award this academic year (in the May/July 2023 window)

For more information please contact:

Marc at Marc.Tench@Leicester.gov.uk
or

Sustainable Schools Team

✉ SustainableSchools@leicester.gov.uk

🌐 schools.leicester.gov.uk/eco-schools

🐦 [EcoSchoolsLCC](https://twitter.com/EcoSchoolsLCC)

📷 [EcoSchoolsLCC](https://www.instagram.com/EcoSchoolsLCC)

📘 [EnvEducationLeicester](https://www.facebook.com/EnvEducationLeicester)

☎ 0116 454 2271



Leicester's Urban Nature Project



Working together to help restore
wildflower habitats globally



Celebration Event!

This event is *free* and open to everyone!

Come along and celebrate our work on improving Leicester's nature. Have your face painted, create a seed bomb or play on the adventure playground!

Saturday 20 May 2023

11am – 3pm

**Highfields Adventure
Playground, Spinney Hill
Park, LE5 5GQ**



**Stall holders include: Save Soil,
WILE, Buzzing Roots, Libraries,
Friends of the Earth, Home Energy
and much more!**

For more information and the celebration event, please contact Laura.Barke@leicester.gov.uk



Eco-Schools

Eco-Schools Celebration 2023



**Deadline for
school entry
22 June 2023**

Thursday 6 July 2023 • City Hall, Leicester

Celebrate the work that your school has completed this year by attending the now annual Eco-Schools. Bring along up to 6 students to display your Eco-Schools project and celebrate your Eco-Schools Green Flag.



Schools can display 2 Eco-Schools topics. As a reminder, the Eco-Schools topics are:

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



All schools will also be entered into the:

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

The event will run from 9.30am – 2.15pm.

Students will need to bring a plastic clever packed lunch



Approximate timing of the day

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

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



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

For more information contact:

Sustainable Schools Team

SustainableSchools@leicester.gov.uk

0116 454 6746



#EcoTeachMeets in Leicester 2022-23



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



Linden Primary School, Headland Road, Evington, LE5 6AD
Wednesday 17 May 2023, session runs 4.00-5.30pm
(refreshments from 3.45pm)

Confirmed speakers and activities

Visit the **SuDS** (Sustainable Drainage Systems) and **Tiny Forest** sites at Linden
Education activity at the Tiny Forest

Demonstration of a **Rethink Food Tower**

Updates on **Plastic Clever Schools** and **Leicester's Urban Nature Project**
celebration

All delivered by members of the Sustainable Schools Team

All school staff and organisations welcome!

If you would like more information, please contact the Sustainable Schools
Team at 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 the email above



schools.leicester.gov.uk/eco-schools

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

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

Food tower prices (include materials, set up, training, dismantling, and 1:1 workshop per term):

- £250 per term
- £600 per year (3 terms)
- Virtual information sessions will be held by the Sustainable Schools Team on:
 - Tuesday May 16, 4 - 4.45 pm
 - Wednesday May 24, 4 - 4.45 pm

Sign up via the eForm - [FoodTowersTraining](#)



For further information please email Molly.Laycock@leicester.gov.uk

Sustainable Schools Celebration

For our environment, our health and wellbeing



On Tuesday 10 January, the third biennial Sustainable Schools Celebration saw a total of 24 awards presented to local schools, with two overall winners named for outstanding achievement.

Leicester's Children's Hospital School was named as the overall Environment, Health and Wellbeing School of the Year, after being nominated in six categories and winning the Mental Health Champions and Forest School Champion awards. Stephen Deadman, Head Teacher at The Children's Hospital School, said: "We are really proud to receive this award which recognises the contribution of every member of our staff who work tirelessly to improve the lives of young people in our school and the wider community. We are passionate in our belief that children with medical needs should have access to the same opportunities as their peers, and actively seek to remove any barriers to make this a reality. "Congratulations also to our teachers Kerry Whiteley and Lorraine Biddle for winning Forest School Champion & Mental Health Champion."

The overall individual winner's award was given to Jayson Taylor, learning mentor and Forest School Leader at Catherine Junior School, who was nominated in five categories and also took The Active Travel Individual award. Jayson said: "Encouraging and supporting children to enjoy commuting to school in a sustainable way is a challenging, but such a rewarding part of my role. I love to hear about children's journeys, how they think it affects the planet as well as sharing my own stories about my cycling and running. It's comforts me to hear that pupils are just as passionate as I am and that despite living in deprived areas of the city, they can still enjoy the great outdoors!"

The third biennial 2023 Sustainable Schools Celebration was held at City Hall, with a welcome and keynote speech from Clare Maltby, England Director for the Midlands and East at Sustrans.

The full list of awards is as follows:

- **Active Travel Individual of the Year** – Jayson Taylor, Catherine Junior School
- **Active Travel School** – Sandfield Close Primary School
- **Reducing and Recycling Champion** – Zainab Adams, Uplands Junior Academy
- **Sports Leader** – Jayal Mistry, Avanti Fields School
- **Litter Champion** – Addy Taylor, Whitehall Primary School
- **Mental Health Champion** – joint winners Lorraine Biddle, Children's Hospital School, and Kylie Wheatstone, Kestrel Mead Primary Academy
- **Healthy Eating Champion** – Haylie Lowe, Kestrel Mead Primary Academy
- **Cooking Champion** – Jody Gemmell, City Catering and Sandfield Close Primary
- **Food For Life Champion** – Sue Johnstone, Merrydale Infant School
- **Health and Wellbeing Champion** – Alison Robinson, Rolleston Primary School
- **Growing Champion** – Sally Smith and Charlene Freeman, Stokes Wood Primary School
- **Forest School Champion** – joint winners Yaz Alidina, West Gate School, and Kerry Whiteley, Children's Hospital School
- **Energy Champion** – Charlotte Jones, Evington Valley Primary School
- **Biodiversity Champion** – joint winners William Warley, Montrose School, and Becca Adlard, Mellor Community Primary
- **Premises officer or site manager** – Liam Bland, St Mary's Fields Primary School
- **Community and Parent Champion** – Leah Guiseppe, Kestrel Mead Primary Academy
- **Cooperative Values Champion** – Abdullah Gezmis, Gateway College
- **Global Learning Champion** – Sima Odedra, Sandfield Close Primary School
- **Pastoral Champion** – Ela Sawicka, Stokes Wood Primary School
- **Senior Leader** – Laura Rawson, Gateway College
- **Student Champion** – joint winners Safiya Patel, Madani Girls School, and Nell Lewis, Leicester High School for Girls
- **Teacher Champion** – Anne Scott, Overdale Junior School
- **Teaching Assistant Champion** – joint winners Rachel Ashmore and Adrienne Davies, St Joseph's Catholic Voluntary Academy



Leicester
City Council



*A selection of photos
from our celebration
event. All photos
available on our
[Facebook page](#)*



12 months of achievements

We wanted to share with you just some of our achievements over the last 12 months (April 2022 – March 2023)

- Continued to the local authority with the most Eco-Schools Green Flags (65 schools) for the 5th year running (and sponsored all flags)
- Secured permanent staff for 3 temporary members of the team which has been fully funded through external income
- Achieved Local Authority of the Year presented by Eco-Schools England
- Secured income over our target by £44,000 to use for match funding and supporting other projects

- Supported Capital Projects to deliver PSDS Phase 1 c.£25m
- BESS energy extended to 28 schools and 37 academies
- Delivered Great Big Green Month (May 2022) and Great Big Green Week (September 2022)
- Trained over 75 teachers and governors
- Delivered carbon literacy awareness to over 600 pupils and 60 school staff
- Built on the relationship G4S/PFI schools to improve environmental targets
- Engaged with Energy Sparks to add over 30 schools to the scheme
- Delivered Lower Carbon Lunches to over 15 schools
- Delivered an annual Eco-Schools/FFL celebration (9 schools) July 2022
- Delivered 2 EcoTeachMeets
- Delivered training (PGCE, governor and Eco-School teacher training (3-sessions)
- Delivered 4 city-wide virtual assemblies via Teams (Fairtrade Fortnight, Earth Day etc)
- Coordinated the environment, health and wellbeing group
- Maintained our social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube), increasing engagement and followers
- Maintained the extranet, newsletters and eBulletins (increase recipients by 11.6%)
- Achieved 12+ successful grant applications (nearly £1m)
- Delivered the Eco-Schools roadshow during COP27 (
- Successfully completed the Polli:Nation for the Next Generation with Learning through Landscapes
- Launched the schools' Botanica project with 10 schools



- Delivered 10 fully funded Tiny Forests
- Successfully delivered the Grow Your Own Grub Mealbarrow competition with partners
- Delivered local support for the Jane Goodall Roots & Shoots programme
- Delivered a traded service of Environmental Education support to 2 Multi-Academy Trusts
- Supported the summer reading challenge
- Launched the education offer of Saving the Saffron Brook
- Delivered over 100 educational sessions in the Saffron Brook catchment
- Launched a challenge to become the first Plastic Clever Schools City
- Delivered a Climate Change home learning pack to 900 pupils with Museums
- Delivered a Climate Change Arts Award to over 200 students
- Worked with over 150 children on the WWF funded urban nature project to enhance school grounds
- Delivered 3 school SuDS interventions and education programme
- Developed a communications tracker and annual events calendar for the team



Roots & Shoots Awards 2023

After four long years, The Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots in-person Awards finally returned! On Friday 3rd March young people from Roots & Shoots groups across the UK gathered at the Barbican Centre in London to celebrate the 2023 Roots & Shoots UK Awards.

The awards ceremony highlights the achievements of groups and individuals who have done amazing things to help people, animals and the environment as part of the global Roots & Shoots community founded by Dr Jane Goodall.

Amazing displays were put up by the presenting schools, highlighting their work. Sandfield Close Primary School was able to visit along with Molly in the team, who is the Roots & Shoots link. They were able to attend the celebration and meet Dr Jane.



© Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots UK

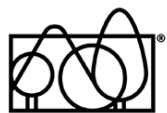
Sign up your school now for a chance to join next year's celebration

www.rootsnshoots.org.uk/sign-up



Supports many of the Eco-Schools topics

Tiny Forests



tinyforest
earthwatch
EUROPE

What are Tiny Forests?

For those who may not know, a Tiny Forest is a small, dense forest that can be created in urban areas, with the aim of restoring and preserving biodiversity, while also providing numerous benefits to the local community. These forests are roughly the size of a tennis court, but can host dozens of different species of trees, plants, and wildlife. The benefits of these forests are numerous. They act as a carbon sink, help to reduce air pollution, and create a habitat for a range of wildlife, including insects, birds, and small mammals.



Latest updates

Following the success of our previous forests, with the first being planted at Queensmead Primary School back in 2021, and the following 9 being planted alongside Severn Trent in celebration of the Commonwealth Games, we set an ambitious target of adding a further 10 Tiny Forests this planted season!

We are pleased to say that the final forest of this year went in at Merrydale Junior School a few weeks back, taking the total number in Leicester to 20! This makes us the city with the highest number of Tiny Forests, something which we are very proud of. Not only will the 6000 newly planted trees bring benefits for biodiversity and support with our carbon reduction work, but they provide a fantastic resources for engaging young people in engaging with nature.

If you are interested in finding out more about Tiny Forests, or signing up to become a Tree Keeper for one of our sites, please contact Laura.Barke@leicester.gov.uk.



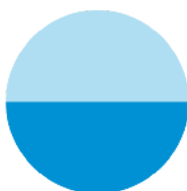
First Tiny Forest planted in the UK, 2020
Picture spring 2022 (2 growing seasons)



Supports the Eco-Schools School grounds and biodiversity topics



BY



Common Seas

x



Win £150 for your school by registering now!



Leicester is aiming to become the first ever Plastic Clever Schools City but we need your help! By registering on the Plastic Clever Schools platform your school will automatically be entered into a prize draw to win one of three prizes, including £150 to spend on reducing plastic in your school!



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!

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

Plastic Clever Schools **KIDS**

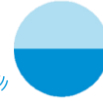
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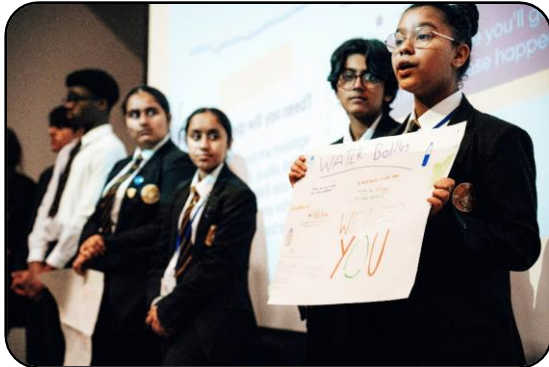


Common Seas

Plastic Clever Schools



We now have 25 schools registered on the Plastic Clever Schools website in Leicester City, all showing their commitment to reducing 'problem plastics' in their schools. We have loved seeing all of the activities taking place for the three stages of the award.



Stokes Wood Primary School's School Council team have created a video explaining the problems with plastic and have already managed to get more bins for the outdoor space while encouraging students not to throw their sweet packets away!

St Pauls Catholic School

Back in November 2022, St Pauls Catholic School started working on their Plastic Clever Schools award alongside Sarah and Amy from the award. After speaking with their Headteacher and business manager, they created an action plan. We can say that they have now become the first Plastic Clever Secondary School!

Montrose Primary School

A huge well done goes to Montrose Primary School for being the first Plastic Clever Primary School in the City! The students have worked really hard on their campaigns to reduce single use plastic in their school and it has been fantastic to see the impact that they have had.



Investigate

Highfields Primary School have created an excellent action plan. We hope you are successful in reducing the plastic bottles, straws, polystyrene pots and increased laminating in your school!

What problem plastic(s) are you going to tackle? <small>E.g. Single use bottles and cups</small>	What can you do to reduce it? <small>E.g. Get everyone to use a reusable bottle instead</small>
Plastic water bottles.	→ Give reusable water bottles. Send a letter
Plastic straws.	→ Talk to Premises officers.
Polystyrene pots.	→ Talk to kitchen.
Less laminating	→ Talk to head.
	→ Talk to teachers



Act

The 'Act' stage is all about getting the school community on board in helping to reduce the problem plastics in your school. The most successful campaigns involve students, school staff and the wider community.



Supports the Eco-Schools water, litter, waste and marine topics





There are less than two months to go until the Great Big Green Week kicks off! Communities across the country will come together between 10th and 18th June to celebrate the heartfelt, brave, everyday actions being taken to tackle climate change and protect nature.

People are taking part for many different reasons. Whether it's for future generations, for people around the world or for your love of nature and wildlife - we can't wait to see how you'll be showing up for the planet this June. If you're planning an event for Great Big Green Week, **make sure you add it to their [event finder](#) so other people in your local area can find it and join in on the fun!**



*Supports many of the
Eco-Schools topic*



**THE
CLIMATE
COALITION**



Can you do one wild thing every day for an entire month either as an individual or as a class?

Think you're up to the challenge? Then register your interest to be the first to hear about this year's biggest nature challenge from The Wildlife Trusts, 30 Days Wild, coming this June!

They'll notify you when sign up opens, so that you can be sure to get hold of your pack of free goodies before anyone else, filled with ideas and activities to help inspire you throughout the month. Register your interest at www.wildlifetrusts.org/30dayswild



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



Young Litter Hero Award



CHILDREN at a Leicester primary school were recently shortlisted for their litter-picking efforts in a prestigious national award. The 'Less Litter for Leicester' project saw youngsters from Hope Hamilton C of E Primary School collect more than 28kg of litter from their school grounds, neighbouring streets and local parks.

More than 150 children, aged between five and 11, took part in the litter picks, with members of the school's Eco Committee inviting their families to help them clean up the area too. Leicester City Council, which developed the Less Litter campaign, nominated the school for the award.

Eco-Schools education officer Marc Tench said: "Hope Hamilton was one of 31 city schools to take part in the project, but their response to the challenge was particularly impressive.

"Not only did they collect nearly 30kg of litter, but they involved all year groups in the project. They also showed great initiative in sharing their ideas with their local ward councillor and joining the Leicestershire Wombles on litter picks in the local area. We were proud to nominate the school for this award and are delighted that the project has now been shortlisted."

Deputy head and eco-lead for the school Sophie Barker said: "This was a project that all our children wanted to be part of.

"Two of our pupils, however, went above and beyond. One of them has been a member of the school's Eco Committee for the whole year and has worked tirelessly to come up with ideas and activities to support our local area.

"She's always collecting rubbish on the playground and gathering food waste for our allotment compost bin.

"The other one is always the first to ask for litter-picking equipment and goes out at the weekends to clean up litter that she's spotted when she's out and about.

The *Young #LitterHeroes Award 2023* was part of Keep Britain Tidy's Network Awards.

The award seeks to recognise an outstanding contribution by a group of young people who have demonstrated commitment to the local environment and reducing litter.

A spokesperson for the charity said: "Our Network Awards celebrate the most innovative litter, waste and space solutions developed by local authorities, often with the incredible collaboration and contribution of residents. Our hope is that these fantastic initiatives will inspire others to do the same.

Hope Hamilton C of E Primary School didn't win the category, but we are proud of all the hard work they undertook in the project!



Supports the litter
Eco-Schools topic



'THE MISSING BEES' by The3Engineers
Friday 19 May | 9.15am to 9.45am

Join The3Engineers for a live talk to hear about its series of engaging books which raise awareness of environmental issues and inspire the next generation to take positive action to better the world.

To support 'World Bee Day' on 20 May which highlights the importance of pollinators, the threats they face and their contribution to sustainable development, the The3Engineers team will read from their second book in the series 'The Adventures of Scout' titled, 'The Missing Bees'. The talk will be followed by an interactive Q&A session.

This informative and engaging event is aimed at Primary school aged children, most suitable for KS1 & KS2 students.

The3Engineers team has created some fantastic STEM resources for schools to use for FREE via its website: www.the3engineers.com



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TO BOOK YOUR PLACE, VISIT
<https://themissingbees.eventbrite.co.uk>

Why Save Soil?

Workshops/Talks

Dear Colleagues,

SaveSoil is a global movement to increase soil health, biodiversity, combat climate change and much more...see links below!

Supported by Leicester's Sustainable Schools Manager, Deputy City Mayor (Environ/Trans) & our Lord Mayor!

19 schools have had a FREE workshop. Would you like one too?

Please watch [this 6 minute video](#) - a movement that has reached 3.9 billion people so far and has the support of Jane Goodall DBE, The Dalai Lama, Will.i.am...amongst many others!

Age (yrs)	Format	Content	Duration (mins)
6 to 12	Workshop or Assembly Talk	Fun, interactive and engaging; questions, experiments, short clips - What is soil? Why is it important? What's happening to it? What can we do about it?	60 15-20
12 to 16	Workshop or Talk	As above with added discussions, group exercises, facts/trivia Talk: PP slides, video clip, action points	60 15-20
16+	Talk or Workshop	Talk: PP slides, video clip, action points Workshop: As above talk with discussion, group exercises, facts/trivia	20 60

A STEM Ambassador with over 25yrs experience of working with children and young people.

Want to know more? Please get in touch:)



Shiv Amano
STEM Ambassador

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mrshivamano@gmail.com

**SAVE
SOIL**

SaveSoil.org

Thriving, living soil is vital to life.

Supporting Nature in Your School Grounds

WWF-UK and RSPB Supporting Nature in Your School Grounds | Primary

The Sustainable Schools team supported WWF and RSPB in producing a free online webinar focusing on bring nature into your school grounds. The webinar was filmed in Sparkenhoe Primary School and showed that even small, urban spaces can become rich in wildlife with the right interventions in place. Register with the National College to view the webinar for free. We would love to hear how you have used the teachings in your own schools!

Use the [link](#) to access the webinar directly.



Supports biodiversity and school grounds Eco-Schools topics



Grow Your Own Grub 2023



Grow Your Own Grub is back for another year! This year we have two competitions – the Mealbarrow Competition and a Sunflower Competition.

The Mealbarrow Competition involves schools designing a healthy, balanced 3-course meal and growing the necessary ingredients for their chosen meal in a wheelbarrow – hence the 'mealbarrow!'. New for this year, we have introduced a bean theme to the competition, adding an additional challenge for the schools. This means that we want to see beans included in the menus and growing in the wheelbarrows. We can't wait to see which beans are selected!

At the end of the competition we gather all of the mealbarrows together at Abbey Pumping Station for the public vote. This is a chance for parents, children and members of the public to come and see all of the mealbarrows in one place! Everyone has a chance to vote for their favourite and this vote contributes to the overall winners of the competition. This is a free event open to all. Look out for the flyer later on this term for more information!



Supports healthy living and school grounds Eco-Schools topic

Sponsorship for Eco-School Green Flag accreditation



Leicester is leading the way when it comes to environmental education and wider support for schools that contributes to the city's net zero carbon ambition. In total, 65 schools in the city, including primary, secondary and special schools, now have an Eco-Schools Green Flag – the highest number in any local authority area in England. **This academic year we have a target of 80 schools** achieving this prestigious award.

Green Flag accreditation is now an annual process, with schools needing to renew each academic year. The cost for accreditation is usually £200+VAT (this applies to both renewals and schools achieving their first Green Flag Award)

However, we are pleased to confirm that we can subsidise (via sponsorship) all Eco-Schools Green Flags in Leicester City this academic year. We have been able to cover £150+VAT, therefore leaving a cost of £50 per school. We hope that this will help you to achieve the award.

If we think you are likely to achieve or renew your Green Flag Award this academic year, you should have been contacted already. However, if you have not, please let us know.

Don't forget, the window for applications opens on 1 May, and you have until 31 July to submit your application and evidence. If you have any questions or need support please contact Marc, at Marc.Tench@Leicester.gov.uk



Supports all the Eco-Schools topics

Students from Avenue Primary School celebrate their Green Flag



ASE conference



In January of this year, the Sustainable Schools team attended the annual Association for Science Education (ASE) conference in Sheffield. Here we presented our work on Carbon Literacy, Lower Carbon Lunches and Using Your School Grounds to Invite Nature In. Through these presentations we were able to inspire educators from across the world to follow the work taking place here in Leicester City. The team also had the opportunity to network with many other organisations and have lots of ideas of further work that we can be doing in Leicester.



Saving the Saffron Brook update

We have been working hard to re-naturalise the river and encourage more wildlife in the saffron area

Volunteers have been out searching for otters and they have found evidence that otters are using the brook! This is fantastic news and suggests that the brook is thriving!



Overdale Juniors is becoming more wildlife friendly!

The dragonfly is one of four carved statues that has been constructed in the grounds of the school. We have also put in kingfisher nesting tubes (pictured below) alongside the brook to encourage more of the beautiful birds to the area.



To find out more please see our page:
[Saving the Saffron Brook - river restoration scheme](#)

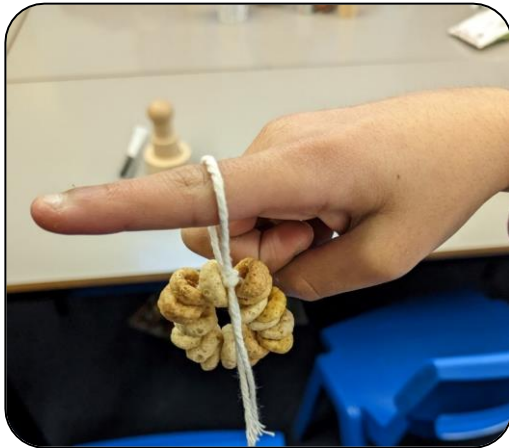
To find out more please contact:
Molly Laycock, Education Project Officer

Email: Molly.Laycock@Leicester.gov.uk Tel: 0116 454 3187

Leicester's Urban Nature Project Updates



Working together to help restore wildflower habitats globally



Leicester's Urban Nature Project is all about engaging the people of Leicester more with nature. We have been working with 6 schools to make their school grounds more friendly for wildlife following decisions from the students about what changes they would like to see. Over the next term we will be adding lots of animal homes to the school grounds along with plenty of pollinator-friendly plants!

During the February half term we ran a couple of community sessions for parents and children to come along to at the Sparkenhoe Ark Arts Centre, and at Green Lane Infant School. All the activities were designed to engage children and get them thinking about the natural world around them. Families were able to make some items that they could take home and introduce into their local outdoor environments. This included bird feeders, recycled plant pot starters and wildflower seed bombs! There was also a nature inspired scavenger hunt to test their general knowledge on the outdoors.



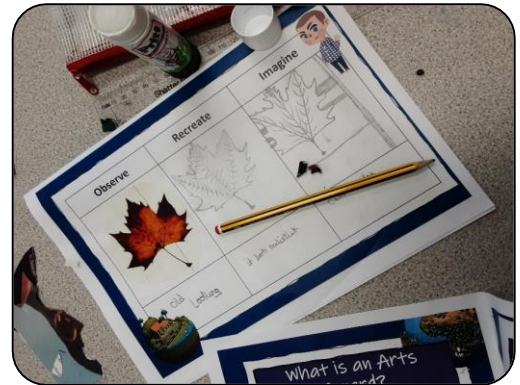
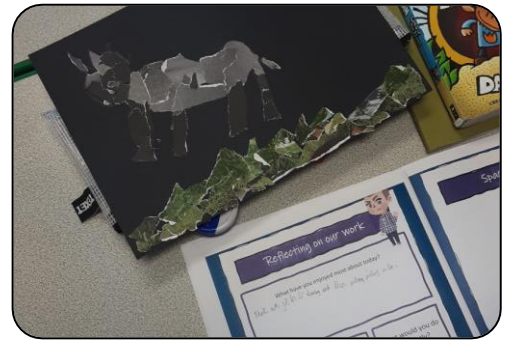
Supports the Eco-Schools biodiversity topic



Arts Award Update

Over the past term, over 200 pupils from 5 different primary schools across the city have taken part in the Discover Arts Award. This is the first stage in the Arts Award programme set up by Trinity College.

While learning about different forms of Art and Andy Goldsworthy, an English sculptor, photographer, and environmentalist who produces site-specific sculptures and land art situated in natural and urban setting, students also looked in detail at some of the causes of climate change and how this can link to extinction. We looked at 10 endangered animals and used this to inspire collages created from recycled materials. All students produced some fantastic final pieces of art so well done to everyone who took part!



Supports many of the Eco-Schools topics

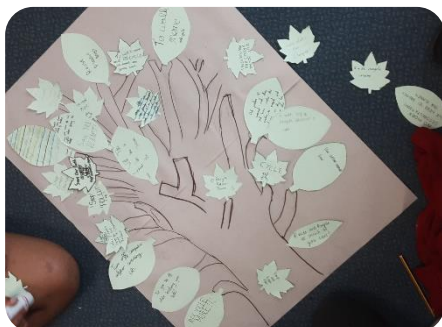


Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Carbon Literacy Project



Carbon Literacy Project Update



We have now trained a further 31 staff members on our Carbon Literacy Course for staff and governors, taking the total number of school staff being trained as Carbon Literate in Leicester to over 100! We have also worked with more student groups, taking the number of students who have taken part in our carbon awareness course to over 700. We have thoroughly enjoyed working with the young people to create fun and exciting ways to share their learning about carbon emissions with others and cant wait to see what they do next.

The Carbon Literacy Project was referenced in the new Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy as being something that all sustainability leads should have taken part in by 2025. Why not stay ahead of this aim by taking part in our next staff and governor course, starting in Spring 2023. See the flyer for more information.

For any queries relating to Carbon Literacy, please contact laura.barke@leicester.gov.uk.



Supports many of the Eco-Schools topics



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