

Schools News

April 2024



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 2024 Leicester Sustainable Schools newsletter.

We hope you all had a well-deserved break over the Easter holidays!

We have lots of competitions, training sessions, virtual assemblies, and events planned for this term!

Take a look at our updated calendar for the 2023/24 school year for an overview of things happening.

This term also marks the opening of the **Eco Schools Green Flag application window on 1 May 2024** so have a look through to find out ways we can support you with this.

As always, get in touch if you need any support - Marc, Jasmine, and Laura.



How to find out more Sustainable Schools Team

City Hall, 115 Charles Street, Leicester LE1 1FZ

SustainableSchools@leicester.gov.uk

schools.leicester.gov.uk/eco-schools

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

[EcoSchoolsLCC](https://www.facebook.com/EcoSchoolsLCC)

[EnvEducationLeicester](https://www.leicester.gov.uk/education/leicester)

0116 454 6746



Finished reading? Pass on to a colleague

Dates for your diary – Eco events this year



We now have an [annual calendar](#) with all the date for the academic year on. We still have some exciting events planned that you can take part in this term!

Event Details	Date	Month
Carbon Literacy training	Thursday 18	April
Teach Earth Teacher Training Programmer – online webinar	Wednesday 17	April
Earth Day virtual assembly	Monday 22	April
Eco-Schools Training Session 3	Monday 29	April
Walk to School Week	Monday 20	May
Teach Earth Teacher Training Programme - in-person training at Queensmead Primary School	Tuesday 21	May
World Environment Day	Wednesday 5	June
Great Big Green Week	8-16	June
Wildlife Friendly Schools Celebration	Saturday 8	June
Clean Air Day	Thursday 20	June
Eco-Schools Celebration	Thursday 27	June
Grown Your Own Grub Celebration	Saturday 6	July

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

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 28 June 2024**. We ask for around 200 words, at least 1 photo, and contact details e.g. name and email address to: SustainableSchools@leicester.gov.uk

Staff updates



Molly has recently accepted a new role as Project Officer at The Rivers Trust. We are sorry to see her leave, but her new role is an exciting opportunity. We would like to thank her for hard work over the last two years!

A reintroduction to the team!

If you need to speak to someone about a specific project or topic, see below for a summary of roles and responsibilities, for the best contact. However, if you are used to dealing with one of us, feel free to contact them, and we would be happy to assist!



Roles and responsibilities:

Marc – Sustainable Schools Manager

- Finance and grant applications
- SuDS management
- Sustainable Schools Celebration
- BESS Energy and Energy Sparks
- Eco-teach meets
- Eco-Schools Roadshow

Laura – Education Officer (Eco-Schools)

- Eco-Schools Green Flag Support
- Tiny Forest support
- Carbon literacy training
- Plastic Clever Schools
- Eco-Schools training
- BESS Energy Education sessions

Jas – Project Officer

- Litter Project
- Grow Your Own Grub
- Newsletter/E-bulletin
- Roots and Shoots
- Environment, Health and Wellbeing group coordination
- Rethink food tower
- Social media
- Carbon reports
- WWF project delivery



Carbon Literacy Training for School Staff and Governors



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:

Date: 18 April 2024

Time: 9:00 – 4:00

Location: Thursday 18 April – Gateway College

Sign up using the [eForm](#).

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**

Carbon Literacy Training -
2023/2024



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:

Monday 29 April, 1.00-3.00 pm

Venue: **The City of Leicester College, LE5 6LN**

Sign up using the [eForm](#).

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 an Eco-Schools Green Flag with **Merit or Distinction**.



In Leicester there are currently 56 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 2024 window).

For more information please contact:

Laura at Laura.Barke@leicester.gov.uk

Sustainable Schools Team

SustainableSchools@leicester.gov.uk

schools.leicester.gov.uk/eco-schools

[EcoSchoolsLCC](https://www.facebook.com/EcoSchoolsLCC)

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

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

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Eco-Schools

Eco-Schools Celebration 2024



**Deadline for
school entry
13 June 2024**

Thursday 27 June 2024 • 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](#)



For more information contact:

Sustainable Schools Team

SustainableSchools@leicester.gov.uk

0116 454 6746

Leicester's Wildlife Friendly Schools Project



Save the date!

This event is *free* and open to everyone!

Come along and celebrate our work on improving Leicester's nature. More information and timings to follow!

Saturday 8 June 2024
Highfields Adventure
Playground, Spinney Hill
Park, LE5 5GQ



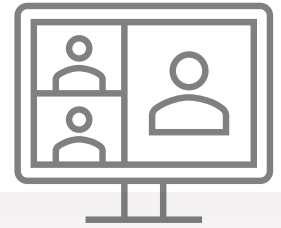
For more information about the celebration event, or if you are interested in having a stall, please contact Laura.Barke@leicester.gov.uk

Sustainable Schools Virtual Assemblies

The Sustainable Schools team will be hosting one more virtual assembly this year! This will be to celebrate Earth Day on Monday 22nd April.

Our virtual assemblies will all be held at **1:30pm via Microsoft Teams**.
Please follow the link to join on the day

- ❖ [National Tree Week - Tuesday 28 November](#)
- ❖ [World Wildlife Day – Friday 1 March](#)
- ❖ [Earth Day – Monday 22 April](#)



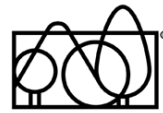
The assemblies will last approximately 20 minutes and there will be time for questions at the end
There is no need to sign up – just use the links above to join at the time!



If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at SustainableSchools@leicester.gov.uk



Tiny Forests in Leicester



What is a Tiny Forest?

A Tiny Forest is a dense, fast growing nature woodland roughly the size of a tennis court. Each forest consists of 600 trees specifically selected for the site meaning each Tiny Forest is unique. Benefits to the Tiny Forest programme include reconnecting people with nature, enhancing wellbeing, helping to mitigate the impacts of climate change and providing nature-rich habitat patches to support urban wildlife.

New sites for 2024-2025!

We are looking for schools who would be interested in having a Tiny Forest in their school grounds. We currently have 25 Tiny Forests in School Sites in Leicester and are looking for 3 new schools to join them in 2024-2025. To be eligible, your school will need 200 sq m available within one area (shapes can vary!) and a willingness to be involved! For more information and to register your interest, please contact Laura.Barke@leicester.gov.uk.



Becoming a Tree Keeper!

How can you get involved?

If your school doesn't have space for a Tiny Forest, the best way to still get involved in the project is to sign up as a Tree Keeper. This way, you can help to look after the site and gain access to a wealth of knowledge from Earthwatch! There are educational resources available on the portal. To find out more visit the [Earthwatch website](https://www.earthwatch.org/).

For more information about Tiny Forests, or to sign up as a Tree Keeper, please contact Laura on Laura.Barke@leicester.gov.uk



Supports the Eco-Schools School grounds and biodiversity topics

Less Litter for Leicester

The Sustainable Schools team at Leicester City Council are running **Less Litter for Leicester** again this year! This project runs from April to June 2024

We are aiming for as many schools as possible to take part, running litter awareness assemblies or sessions, carrying out litter picks in your school grounds or local area, and celebrating your achievements at a celebration event in June.



Why participate?

- Receive a free **virtual or in-person assembly** (or resources to run your own **litter assemblies** or individual class/form sessions)
- **Raise awareness** across your school community of the problems caused by litter
- Receive a **loan of litter picking equipment** if required (subject to availability)
- Link to **Eco-Schools** as part of the litter, marine, waste and school grounds topics, helping to achieve your **Green Flag**
- Take part in **competitions with prizes provided by Helping Hand**, and receive **free copies of The3Engineers "Stop Dropping Litter" books** (for all participating primary schools)
- **Have fun and help to keep your school grounds or local area free from litter!**

Your school commitments

- Hold a whole school **litter assembly** or individual class/form sessions
- Attend an online **training session** at 3.45- 4.30pm on the **23 April 2024** (recording will be provided)
- Carry out at least **5 litter picks** in the school grounds or local area, and record the amount collected. (luggage scales can be provided for you to weigh the bags)
- Attend the **celebration event** (date and location TBC) with a group of students (optional)
- Complete a short case study (100 words) after the project ends with two photos – (template provided)



Leicester
City Council

If you would like your school to take part in this project please complete our [eform](#) - Deadline: 19 April 2024

For more information, please contact Jasmine Walker, Project Officer
Jasmine.Walker@leicester.gov.uk



This project has been made possible by a Ward Community Funding grant from Beaumont Leys, Humberstone and Hamilton, and North Evington city wards. Priority for sets of litter picking equipment will be given to schools in those wards (however we will do our best to support everyone)

Supported by
**Beaumont Leys
Ward Councillors**
(Community Ward Funding)



Supported by
**Humberstone & Hamilton
Ward Councillors**
(Community Ward Funding)



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





earthwatch
education

Teach Earth Teacher Training Programme



Are you an EYFS, Primary or Secondary teacher or informal educator based in Leicester?

Want to build your knowledge and confidence in **leading inspiring environmental and outdoor education**? Join our **FREE** four-part teacher training!

What value does the programme bring?

"All the ideas shared about how to bring nature to children (and vice versa) in simple and achievable ways"

"The activities you can use throughout the curriculum"

"The outdoor time to reflect"



education@earthwatch.org.uk

When?

CPD programme dates:

- **17th Apr** - Introduction webinar, 3.30-5pm, online;
- **21st May** - Full-day training, 9.30am-3.30pm, Queensmead Primary Academy;
- **18th Jun** - Action workshop, 3.30-5pm, online;
- **18th Sep** - Action workshop, 3.30-5pm, online.

Scan the QR code and register to the Eventbrite collection today!

[TeachEarth on Youtube](#)



Hedgehog Community Event

On Tuesday 27 February we ran a community hedgehog event at Lancaster Academy. The event was open to anyone in the local area who wanted to learn more about how to take action for hedgehogs!



We were joined by hedgehog expert and rescue volunteer Beverley Hart, who shared lots of facts about how you can help hedgehog populations. Students from Lancaster Academy and Sir Jonathon North made display boards for the event and were keen to inform attendees about the work that they have been doing to make their school grounds more hedgehog-friendly! We were also joined by local group Friends of Wash Brook Nature Reserve.



Wildlife Friendly Schools Project



Wildlife Friendly Schools Project, funded by Air Wick in partnership with WWF, has been making exciting progress the past three months! Hedgerows have been planted in eight schools, with approximately 895m of hedgerow and 3600 trees planted. Pond creation and maintenance is underway, and approximately half of the education sessions have been completed.



The hedgehog champion school sessions have finished, and the students have made their hedgehog friendly changes to school grounds. These have included putting out nesting boxes, planting to attract insects, creating hedgehog highways, litter picking, and raising awareness.



For more information on this project please see our extranet page - [School's Extranet \(leicester.gov.uk\)](https://www.leicester.gov.uk/schools-extranet)

Allotment Clearing at Willowbrook Mead Primary Academy

On Tuesday 20 February 2024 a group of volunteers from Maber Architects, Pulse Consult, BWB Consulting and Oliveti Group gathered to help clear the allotment space at Willowbrook Mead Primary Academy.

The group were faced with a mountain of brambles and a hugely overgrown growing space but after just a few hours, had managed to fill 1 skip to help reveal the 6 raised beds on site.



A huge thank you to the volunteers who gave up precious time to support the school in getting a fantastic educational resource back up and running! Additional thanks goes to Pulse Consult for funding equipment used on the day, alongside the tools owned by the volunteers.



Clean Air Day – Save the Date!

20 June 2024

Clean Air Day need not be a big extravaganza, we want as many schools to participate as possible!

This year's theme is **"Clean up our air to look after your mind this #CleanAirDay"**.

Did you know? People who breathe polluted air are more likely to develop mental health or brain conditions. Remember – knowledge is power, so if simple is where your school is at – we have options for you.

To get your school involved, follow these three steps:

1. Save the date - Thursday 20 June 2024. Please add this date to your diaries.
2. Decide on ideas to support the day – this can include information giving, car-free days, school assemblies, citizen science, lessons or workshops, idling campaigns and incentives to cycle or walk or scoot, park and strides or walking buses, or your own ideas. We will also be contacting some schools to offer a school street road closure.
3. [Register your interest](#) to say you're taking part!

We will be holding an **online information session** on **Friday 19 April, 10-11am** to help you choose how to participate this clean air day.

For more information, visit the [School's Extranet](#) or see the links below for more ideas:

Teaching resources

1. [Lesson plans, campaign activities and assemblies created by the air quality education officer](#)
2. [Tackle air pollution at the school gate with Transform Our World – Clean air for schools activities](#)

Past clean air day events

1. [Glebelands Primary School, Clean Air Day 2018](#)
2. [Catherine Junior School, Clean Air Day 2019](#)



Healthier
AIR
for Leicester



If you have any questions, please contact:

Matthew Finch, Transport Development Officer, matthew.finch@leicester.gov.uk

Sally Slade, Active Travel Neighbourhood Team Leader, sally.slade@leicester.gov.uk



Funky Feet Whacky Wheels

29 May 2024

11am-2pm

Abbey Park by The Oval

Walk to School Week this year falls within the Walk Leicester Festival.

Resources for Walk to School Week can be found on the Living Streets website [Walk to School Week \(livingstreets.org.uk\)](https://www.livingstreets.org.uk)



To celebrate the end of Walk to School Week, we are putting on Funky Feet Whacky Wheels; a free and family friendly event in Half Term. Please help us by sharing details of the event throughout your school.

Come and decorate your shoes, bicycles and scooters and join in the Funky Feet Whacky Wheels parade!



Plastic Clever Schools



What does Plastic Clever Schools involve?

There are three stages to the programme:

1. Inspire – hold a litter pick, deliver an assembly and share why YOU want to be a Plastic Clever School
2. Investigate – look at the use of plastic in your school and create an action plan
3. Act – Take steps to reduce 2 problem plastics in your school and celebrate YOUR success!

There are brand new lots of resources available on the online platform, including workbooks for students, resources for teachers and a display board showing success stories from schools across the country.

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!



Inspire



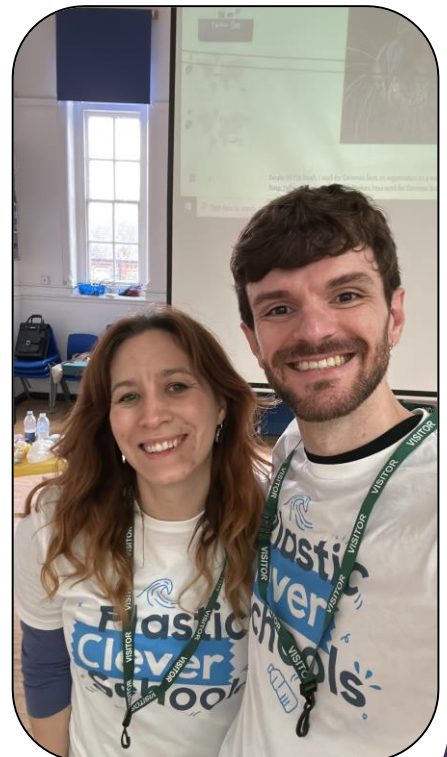
Investigate



Act

Need support?

Common Seas' newly appointed School Engagement Officer – Nate Barrett – is available to work with schools to facilitate assemblies, workshops and assist schools in completing the activities at each stage of the award, both in-person and online. If you'd like Nate to visit your school to deliver a session or if you'd simply like some guidance, don't hesitate to reach out to him! Nate is a former primary school teacher and his services are completely free. You can reach Nate Monday-Thursday, 9am-6pm on: nathan@commonseas.com and 07949702890.



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

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 Mgr, Deputy City Mayor (Climate,Economy+Culture) & several local councillors!

Over 25 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 11	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 15-30
12 to 15	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:)



Certified Carbon Literate



Shiv Amano
STEM Ambassador
Carbon Literate

07904 86 83 82
mrshivamano@gmail.com



SaveSoil.org

Thriving, living soil is vital to life.



Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots

Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots programme is a global education programme for schools. The aim is to make positive change happen – for our communities, for animals, and for the environment. With tens of thousands of young people in over 60 countries, the Roots & Shoots network branches out across the globe, connecting youth of all ages who share a common desire to help make our world a better place.

There are no rigid requirements and no limit to your imagination with the projects! You can use **Eco-Schools projects** for this too!

All you need to do is sign up and provide evidence (e.g. pictures) of your school's eco projects!

Please see the website for more information on this rootsnshoots.org.uk

There are three overall awards categories for the best school projects to commend your hard work!

Bronze Award:

All schools that submit a project post will automatically be eligible for a Bronze Award certificate personalised with the details of your school.

Silver Award:

Projects that show special merit and initiative will be awarded a personalised Silver Award certificate. Both Bronze and Silver award winners will be considered for Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots Annual Award and you may be invited to attend the Awards Ceremony.

Gold Award:

Projects that incorporate work on all three aspects of Roots & Shoots (people, animals, and the environment) will be awarded a personalised Gold Award certificate. The schools who have submitted these projects will be automatically invited to the Roots & Shoots Annual Award Ceremony where students will have the opportunity to present their projects and meet Dr Jane Goodall in person.



Photos credit: Andover Trees United (ATU). Harrow Way Community School and Portway Junior School are Roots & Shoots members through partnership with ATU.

To get involved please contact either Jasmina Georgovska at jasmina@janegoodall.org.uk or Jasmine Walker at Jasmine.Walker@leicester.gov.uk

Family Nature Festival at Beacon Hill

Saturday 25 May 2024
11am - 4pm

Beacon Rd, Woodhouse Eaves,
Loughborough, LE12 8TA

Perfect for children aged 5-10, their siblings,
and their responsible grown-ups.



www.honeycraft.org/wilderness-wonderfest

Saturday, 25 May, 2024

WILDERNESS WONDERFEST

Make:

- Bee Baths
- Willow Insects
- Seed Bombs

Take part:

- Wildflower Painting
- Fun Run
- Insect Olympics

Dress Up!:

Dress up as your
favourite minibeast

Enjoy:

- Nature chill-out area
- Hive demo
- Live music
- Feast in The Forest
– take your pick n'ck
- Pop-up shops & stalls



Blossom & Buzz Show

Join Madam Buzz for a captivating storytelling journey! Experience the magic of bees and flowers through vivid tales and theatrical flair. Transform into a part of the hive and learn the mesmerising Waggle Dance in this interactive spectacle. A storytelling event like no other!

Tickets: £3.00 per person.
Free for under 3s.



Supported by the
National Forest

BLOSSOM & BUZZ



SUNDAY
19
MAY

times available for booking:

11.30am, 1pm and 3pm.

Recommended for ages 5-10;
siblings welcome

Eco-Explorer's Insect Journey

Location: Everards Meadows,
Cooper Way, LE19 2AN
Meeting point: outside of
the Everards Brewery

£3.00 per person
Book on Eventbrite.



fosse
park
www.fossepark.co.uk

Everards
Meadows



There are other free activities happening on the day at Fosse Park and Everards Meadows. For more information, please visit the HoneyCraft website www.honeycraft.org.

