

Welcome to the **May Sustainable Schools Leicester eBulletin**.

We have lots of exciting events and training planned for the next few months so read on to find out more!

Schools involved in our Wildlife Friendly Schools Project have been doing lots this month, including pond dipping, planting, and creating wildflower patches!

Upcoming events and competitions:

Walk to School Week – **Monday 20 May**

EcoTeachMeet, Saffron Acres – **Monday 20 May**

Teach Earth Teacher Training Programme – in-person training at
Queensmead Primary School – **Tuesday 21 May**

Wildlife Friendly Schools Celebration, Highfields Adventure Playground –
Saturday 8 June

Eco-Schools Celebration City Hall – **Thursday 27 June**

Grow Your Own Grub Celebration Abbey Pumping Station – **Saturday 6 July**



*Students from Montrose School
minibeast hunting*

Do take care and, as always, if you need any help or support email or contact us.

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Follow us on Social Media

The Sustainable Schools Team have their own social media channels where you can keep up to date with all things related to sustainability in schools.



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



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



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



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



schools.leicester.gov.uk/eco-schools



SustainableSchools@leicester.gov.uk

Grow Your Own Grub Competition

You've got your wheelbarrow, but now you're trying to fill it! You can try these tips to get plants into your barrow:

- Free seeds from your local Leicester library "the seed library"
- Fresh herb plants are often cheap from the supermarket
- Grow plants from seeds collected by the kids, eg from a tomato or pepper plant
- Put a full grown carrot into the soil to grow into a statuesque, tall flowering plant which will produce carrot seeds (for the kids to collect to grow new carrots next year)
- Go to a plant swap! TCV is organising one at Abbey Pumping Station, 1-3pm on Thursday 30th May. The idea is to bring any plants you have too many of and swap them for other people's surplus plants. Why not organise a small one of these at school with plants grown by parents who love gardening, as well as by the kids?



You can also be creative with decoration if your barrow is looking sparse at the moment. Try an insect feeding station (cut fruit on a plate), colourful bunting, home made trash windmills, some transitory art or a miniature landscape!

[How to make a simple butterfly feeder | Natural History Museum \(nhm.ac.uk\)](https://www.nhm.ac.uk)

[Plastic Windmill DIY Homemade Recycled by the Recycling Queen \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com)

Wildlife Friendly Schools Celebration

Leicester's Wildlife Friendly Schools Project Celebration is on Saturday 8 June 2024 11am-3pm at Highfields Adventure Playground, Spinney Hill Park, Mere Road, LE5 5GQ.

This event is free and open to everyone, and there will be a range of activities and stallholders including facepainting, seed bomb making, a treasure hunt, and lots of other fun!

Please note there is no car parking facilities available at the park, and limited roadside parking. There is no food available, please bring a picnic. For more information, please contact Laura.Barke@leicester.gov.uk



Eco Schools Celebration

Eco-Schools Celebration – bring your eco-team over to City Hall to showcase all of your fantastic work from the past year. Schools are invited to display two of their actions from the past year and work will be judged by a range of special guests. The event is taking place on Thursday 27 June from 9:30am – 2:15pm at City Hall. Sign up using the [eForm](#).



EcoTeachMeet

Join us for our next EcoTeachMeet on Monday 20 May 2024 4-5:15pm at [Saffron Acres](#)

The EcoTeachMeet provides an opportunity for staff across Leicester to get an idea of projects taking place during the academic year, and how these relate to the Eco-Schools Green Flag award. Arrival from 3:45pm for refreshments, presentations starting at 4pm.

Presentations from:

- Becky and Polly – East Midlands coordinators for National Education Nature Park
- Saffron Acres – presenting teaching resources
- Geoff – W.I.L.E Wombles In Litter Education
- Sustainable Schools – upcoming events and projects

Fill in this [eForm](#) to signup.



Tiny Forests 2024/2025

We are currently applying for our final round of Local Authority Treescapes Funding for **Tiny Forests in 2024/2025**. Leicester now has **25 Tiny Forests in schools** across the city! Tiny Forests are fast-growing miniature woodlands that help to connect people with nature, mitigate the impacts of climate change and provide a nature-rich habitat to support wildlife. Tiny Forests cover the size of a **tennis court** and include a space to use as an **outdoor classroom**. Students are involved from start to finish, helping to plant the **600 trees** and then monitoring the impact of the forest through **citizen science** activities. If you are interested in getting a Tiny Forest for your school, please contact Laura.Barke@Leicester.gov.uk.



Climate Action Countdown

There's no time to waste – the clock is ticking towards an event that will inspire schools and communities across the UK. That's Let's Go Zero's first [Climate Action Countdown](#).

This month of green school challenges takes place from June 7 to July 5. The organisations behind Let's Go Zero have come up with fun, easy-to-try activities for primary and secondary schools every day of the countdown. Challenges that help your students get creative, connect with nature, understand climate change and celebrate their green achievements.

Once signed up you'll be able to download the free Climate Action Countdown Calendar and decide how your school or class will get involved. There's no need to try every challenge, or to do them in a particular order. Just take a look and see what works for you. You could even ask your students to pick the activities they're most excited about. Maybe that's our brain-busting Climate Quiz, our active travel adventure, or the plant-based playground picnic? Or maybe they like the idea of a pop-up uniform swap shop or our sustainable futures spotlight, where they explore green careers?

You can [sign up to find out more about the countdown now](#) – and remember, there will be loads of great eco prizes on offer for schools taking part.

The3Engineers STEM online talks

Join The3Engineers team to hear about their series of engaging books which bring awareness of environmental issues. Suitable for KS1 & KS2 Students.

World Bee Day – Monday 20 May 9:15-9:45am

National Upcycling Day – Monday 24 June 9:15-9:45am

Book [here](#)

Six Inches of Soil + Panel Discussion (PG)

Wed 8 May, 7pm

DIRECTOR: Colin Ramsay, Dragonlight Films

DURATION: 96 mins

LOCATION: Leicester Phoenix Cinema & Art Centre, Phoenix Square, 4 Midland St, Leicester LE1 1TG

The film follows the highs and lows of three new farmers on their regenerative journey: Anna Jackson, a Lincolnshire 11th generation arable and sheep farmer; Adrienne Gordon, a Cambridgeshire small-scale vegetable farmer; and Ben Thomas, who rears pasture fed beef livestock in Cornwall.

As the trio of young farmers strive to adopt regenerative practices and create viable businesses, they meet seasoned mentors who help them on their journey.

They are joined by other experts providing wisdom and solutions from a growing movement of people who are dedicated to changing the trajectory for food, farming and the planet.

The screening will be followed by a Q&A session with a member of the Six Inches of Soil team, plus local soil, food and farming advocates from Leicester and Leicestershire, including:

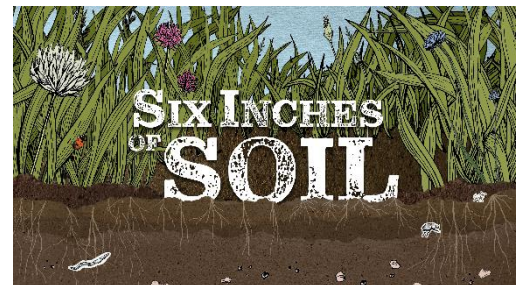
Chris Stoate, Leicestershire farmer and Head of Research at the GWCT Allerton Project research & demonstration farm.

Shiv Amano, Save Soil

Sam Woods, Permaculture teacher, Leicester

Gavin Fletcher, Leicestershire Sustainable Food Coordinator

Link to [book tickets](#)



Clean Air Day – Thursday 20 June 2024

Clean Air Day is the UK's biggest initiative to reduce air pollution. It provides an opportunity to raise awareness about air pollution and take action towards improving the quality of air for a healthier environment. Schools can get involved in a variety of ways from having clean air / green themed activities, special events to even having a street near to the school closed for the day to allow games and activities to take place!

We are in the process of organising this year's events, so please get in touch with matthew.finch@leicester.gov.uk if you would like your school to get involved this year.



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