

# Sustainable Schools Newsletter



April 2025



## What is Sustainable Schools Leicester?

Leicester City Council has a dedicated Sustainable Schools team who provide 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 #EcoTeachMeets, staff training, resource planning & workshops, assemblies, Eco-Schools Roadshows & celebration events. You can keep up to date through dedicated social media, monthly eBulletins and termly newsletters. Schools are actively encouraged to achieve recognition through the Eco-Schools award scheme.

The Eco-Schools Green Flag programme provides opportunities for students to take an active role in their school community and work on environmentally minded projects that matter to them. Each schools' journey with Eco-Schools will be unique but the Sustainable Schools team are here to support you in any way that we can.

Welcome to the April 2025 Leicester Sustainable Schools newsletter.

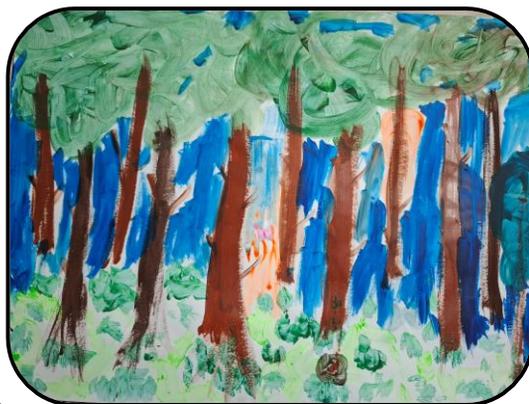
We hope you all had a well-deserved break over the Easter holidays!

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

Take a look at our updated calendar for the 2024/25 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 2025** 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 and Laura.



## How to find out more Sustainable Schools Team

City Hall, 115 Charles Street, Leicester LE1 1FZ

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

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

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

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

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

☎ 0116 454 6746



A selection of entries from our Tree Art Competition . The full results can be seen on page 12!

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
<b>Big Walk and Wheel 2025</b>	24 March – 4 April	March/April
Deadline for Newsletter submissions	Friday 18	April
<b>Earth Day</b>	Monday 22	April
Eco-Schools training session 3 (1-3:30pm)	Tuesday 29	April
Carbon Literacy Training	Friday 16	May
World Bee Day virtual assembly	Tuesday 20	May
<b>World Environment Day</b>	Thursday 5	June
<b>Great Big Green Week starts</b>	Saturday 7	June
<b>World Oceans Day</b>	Sunday 8	June
<b>Clean Air Day</b>	Thursday 19	June
Eco Schools Celebration (all day)	Thursday 26	June
Deadline for Newsletter submissions	Friday 28	June
<b>Plastic bag free day</b>	Thursday 3	July
Grow your own Grub, Mealbarrow Extravaganza	Saturday 5	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 27 June 2025**. We ask for around 200 words, at least 1 photo, and contact details e.g. name and email address to:

[SustainableSchools@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:SustainableSchools@leicester.gov.uk)

# Eco-Schools Updates



The window for applying for your Eco-Schools Green Flag award is fast approaching, with the submission window opening on Thursday 1 May. You are then able to submit your application through until the end of July. If you have not yet finished your actions, don't panic! There is still plenty of time to complete various steps within the application.

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 you have any questions about the award, funding, or require any support in the final couple of months, please contact [Laura.Barke@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Laura.Barke@leicester.gov.uk).

Don't forget to sign up for our annual Eco-Schools Celebration! See the flyer later on in the newsletter for more information or [sign up here](#).



## New to Eco-Schools?

Schools can register for Eco-Schools for free at [www.eco-schools.org.uk/register](http://www.eco-schools.org.uk/register)

Applications are **completed online**. They are designed to showcase your environmental efforts across the academic year. You can have **multiple staff** members working on the application form at once. When renewing your application from the previous year, the process is streamlined to support schools in applying annually.

More information on the award is available online at [What is Eco-Schools? - Eco Schools](#).





# Eco-Schools Training

**FREE in person training course:**

**Tuesday 29 April 2025  
1.00 – 3.30pm  
Taylor Road Primary  
School**

[Sign Up Here](#)

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

**This training will:**

- Go through the application process in more detail
- Consider what has already been done in schools, and what needs to happen next
- Provide individual support from the Sustainable Schools Team
- Share examples of good practice from schools across Leicester
- Answer any questions you may have
- Looking forwards to the next academic year



**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.



**For more information please contact:**

**Laura Barke on [laura.Barke@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:laura.Barke@leicester.gov.uk)**

**Sustainable Schools Team**

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

 [EcoSchoolsLCC](#)

 [EnvEducationLeicester](#)

 0116 454 7156



# 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:

Friday 16 May 2025 9am – 4pm at City Hall,  
Charles Street, Leicester. Complete the [eForm](#) to sign up.

**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 -  
2024/2025



*The cost of the training course is £50 for school staff/governors or £70 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](mailto:Laura.Barke@leicester.gov.uk)

**Good Life  
Schools**

Prioritising wellbeing. Connecting communities. Creating change.

# Eco-Schools and Good Life Schools Celebration 2025



**Eco-Schools**

**Thursday 26 June 2025 • City Hall, Leicester**

Celebrate the work that your school has completed this year by attending our annual Eco-Schools Celebration, this year a joint celebration with Global Action Plans' Good Life Schools programme. Bring along up to 6 students to display your Environmental and Eco-Schools projects! Please note that you do not have to have completed or submitted an Eco-Schools application or been part of the Good Life Schools Programme to attend the celebration event.



Schools can display 2 projects that they have worked on throughout the year. Often, schools choose to relate these to the Eco-Schools topics, as listed below.

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



All schools will be entered into three categories:

- Eco-School of the Year
- Judge's Special Award
- Eco-factor Award (voted by students)

Prizes will be awarded to top scoring schools, including tickets to Twycross Zoo for a year group of your choice (transport not included), and vouchers to be confirmed.



**The event will run from 9.30am – 2.15pm.**

*Students and staff 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



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**Leicester  
City Council**



**Book your place now  
via our [eForm!](#)**

For more information contact:  
[Laura.Barke@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Laura.Barke@leicester.gov.uk)  
**0116 454 7156**



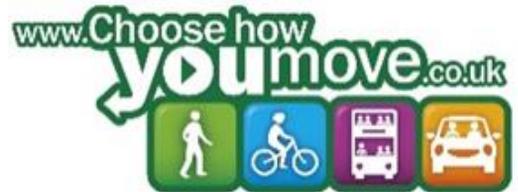
# Clean Air Day

**Clean Air Day needs your school  
Join in – Thursday 19 June 2025!**

Clean Air Day is back, and it's bigger and better than ever! This national initiative supported by the city council and Leicester schools since 2018, is all about raising awareness and taking action against air pollution. This year, we're aiming for even more schools to get involved and show their support for cleaner, healthier air. It's time for us to make a real impact!

To get your school involved, follow these three steps:

1. Save the date - Thursday 19 June 2025. 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 using this [form](#)



## Do you want to:

- Re-frame tired active travel messages with a clean air focus
- Take the next step to continue active travel (e.g. if you have joined in with Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel, Walk to School Week or BikeAbility)
- Re-inspire use of an existing Park and Stride, or promote it with a twist: Boot and Scoot – park, pop the boot and scoot to school

If so – to learn more, express your interest and access educational resources on the [schools extranet](#)



## If you have any questions, please contact:

Danni Kennel, Education Officer (Air Quality) [Danielle.kennell@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Danielle.kennell@leicester.gov.uk)

Sally Slade, Active Travel Neighbourhood Team Leader, [sally.slade@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:sally.slade@leicester.gov.uk)



# Leicester's Mealbarrow Extravaganza!

(part of the Grow Your Own Grub competition for schools)



## Saturday 5 July 2025

### 11 am – 3pm



FREE event at **Abbey Pumping Station Museum**  
Corporation Rd, Leicester, LE4 5PX



Come and view the mealbarrows created by local schools and vote for your favourite!

Railway Day – enjoy a ride on the train!

Visit the new electric book bus and enjoy some free activities!



Free entrance to the museum

# Join the Good Life Schools programme in Leicester

Fully funded opportunity for secondary schools  
limited places available!



## What's it all about?

Good Life Schools is a student-led, project-based learning journey that supports young people to reflect on what it means to live a good life in a world consumed by 'stuff'.

The project is funded by the National Lottery and delivered by Global Action Plan.



“We want students to focus on being physically healthy, to care for others, to be creative, to feel empowered that they can impact on the world around them and to have the best chances of being happy in the future. Good Life Schools shares all of these goals. Its brilliant!”

*Sally Gough, Assistant Principal, Head of Post-16, Ellesmere College*

## Real-world impact

Students will design and deliver hands-on projects that challenge excessive consumption and promote community wellbeing. Projects might include:

- A fix and repair shop for bikes and electronics
- A swap shop for second-hand clothes
- A campaign for homemade or pre-loved gift giving
- A sustainable school prom

## What your school will receive:

- Teacher training and a launch assembly from the Good Life Schools team
- A full programme pack with step-by-step guides and ready-to-use classroom resources
- Funding of up to £2000 to help you deliver the project
- Ongoing support and inspiration through the Good Life Schools community

## Why get involved?

- Empower students to lead change
- Support mental health and wellbeing
- Boost student voice, confidence, and leadership
- Strengthen school-community connections

## Ready to get started?

Become a Good Life School in the 2025/2026 academic year.

Email Sian Buckley [sian.buckley@globalactionplan.org.uk](mailto:sian.buckley@globalactionplan.org.uk) to find out more.

Places are allocated on a first come, first served basis.

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# SuDS in Schools



SuDS or Sustainable Drainage Systems, mimic natural processes to reduce the risk of flooding. They include rainwater planters, rain gardens, tree pits and swales

With funding from Department for Education and Trees for Cities, Leicester City Council and Trees for Cities have installed SuDS features in 3 Leicester Schools this year. These schools were all identified as being at risk from surface water flooding.

The Sustainable Schools team also ran education sessions with the year 2 classes which involved a mixture of learning in the classroom, science experiments and practical outdoor learning such as tree ID and wildflower seed sowing.

These SuDS features will reduce the risk from flooding, provide habitat for wildlife and provide places for the children to play. The pictures below show some of the completed work – we can't wait to see them when the plants start to grow!



Left and top, **Imperial Avenue Infant School** – Raingarden with bridges, attenuation feature and rainwater planter

Right, **Merrydale Infant School** – Tree pits (and what is happening below ground), scrape and mount

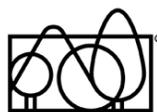
Bottom, **King Richard III Infant School** – Raingardens and play features



# Tiny Forests in Leicester



Leicester  
City Council



**tinyforest**  
earthwatch  
EUROPE

We are up to 31 Tiny Forests in Leicester, 28 in schools and three in public sites. These forests, made up of 600 trees in a space the size of a tennis court, provided multiple benefits for the sites including carbon storage, flood management, thermal comfort and biodiversity. Tiny Forests provide a fantastic educational resource for the schools with an outdoor classroom space built in.

For those of you who do not have a forest on site, there are still lots of different ways for you to get involved!

## Tiny Forest Sites in Leicester

Alderman Richard Hallam Primary School

Barley Croft Primary School

Beaumont Leys Specialist Science School

Braunstone Frith Primary School

Buswells Lodge Primary School

Ellesmere College

English Martyrs' Catholic School

Fullhurst Community College

Gateway College

Hope Hamilton CE Primary School

Inglehurst Junior School

Judgemeadow Community College

Linden Primary School

Merrydale Junior School

Montrose School (NEW)

Mowmacre Hill Primary School

Nether Hall School

New College Leicester

North Mead Primary Academy (NEW)

Queensmead Primary School

Rolleston Primary School

Scraptoft Valley Primary School

St Mary's Fields Primary School

The City of Leicester College

Tudor Grange Samworth Academy

West Gate School

Whitehall Primary School

## Recent Updates

We've been hugely grateful to the lovely people from Leicester's Environmental Volunteers who have supported with the planting at both Nether Hall Open Space and Featherstone Drive Open Space! They have been instrumental in getting the trees planted, with Featherstone Drive being planted in record time for Earthwatch nationally as well as here in Leicester!

## Park Sites

Featherstone Drive Open Space

Nether Hall Open Space

Willowbrook Park

Leicester  
Environmental  
Volunteers



You can find out more about the work happening in Leicester by reading the [BBC article](#) published all about our 30<sup>th</sup> Tiny Forest!

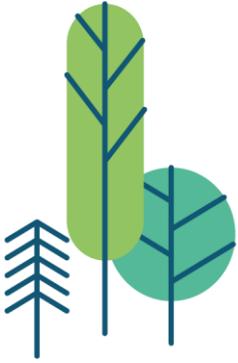


Supports the Eco-Schools School grounds and biodiversity topics



# Tree Art Competition Results!

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With the upcoming Tree Strategy Launch, we ran a 'tree art' competition last term. We were blown away with the standard of the 150 entries we received! Councillor Dempster and Councillor Pantling had the hard job of selecting the Top 3 prize winners, and the runners up from a shortlist of 30 entries. A huge thank you to everyone who took the time to submit their artwork to the competition!



**First Place – Dharmik Bridge Junior School**



**Second Place – Evelina Shaftesbury Junior School**



**Third Place – Lara Stokes Wood Primary School**



**Runner Up – Ariana Shaftesbury Junior School**



**Runner Up – Lexie Glebelands Primary School**



**Runner Up – Leandros Hazel Primary School**



**Runner Up – Gioia St John The Baptist C Of E Primary School**



Sustainable  
Schools  
LEICESTER

# Virtual Assemblies

The Sustainable Schools team have one final virtual assembly for the academic year. This time, we will be focusing on World Bee Day!

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

- [World Bee Day – Tuesday 20 May](#)**

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!



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City Council



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

## Litter Picking Equipment



Thanks to funding from local ward councillors last year, we now have 7 litter picking kits that we can lend out to schools who would like to borrow them. This is a FREE service for schools in the city.

Litter picking is a great action to take as part of your Eco-Schools Green Flag action plans! Lots of schools also use it as a way of engaging with their local communities.

To register for a kit, simply sign up through the [eForm](#).



# Climate School 180 Funding

Climate School 180 is Learning through Landscapes' climate-focused initiative. The project aims to develop and share a better understanding of how schools can implement quality climate change education in their setting.

Working collaboratively with Learning through Landscapes', the process will challenge your school to embed climate change as a theme across the curriculum and use the school grounds as a learning environment for all pupils. The process will also audit your outdoor space, creating the opportunity for learners to use their school grounds to consider the impact of our changing climate and the nature-based solutions we can implement.

The training and advice from the team will support a small group of staff to develop a whole-school approach to climate change education.



[Apply for Climate School 180](#)  
[| Learning through Landscapes](#)



# Just One Tree Day

Join **JUST ONE Tree Day – Friday 17th October 2025**  
(or do any time of the year)

Inspire your students to take climate action and grow a greener future with JUST ONE Tree Day – a fun, educational non-uniform day where every £1 raised plants a tree.

It's **free** for schools to take part, comes with **curriculum-linked resources**, and helps children feel empowered rather than anxious about the planet.

Run by non-profit JUST ONE Tree – proud partner of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and Eco-Schools England – the initiative tackles climate change head-on by growing forests, regenerating oceans and educating future generations.

Over 240,000 students have already taken part, helping plant 380,000+ trees.

We've met the team at JUST ONE Tree and believe this is a fantastic and high-impact project for all schools to get involved in.

JUST ONE TREE.



Unite with schools across the world and make sure your school is part of this growing movement. Sign up today at [justonetree.life/schools-sustainability](https://justonetree.life/schools-sustainability)

## Examples of 'Good Work' happening in Leicester!

If you have a good news story or something similar that you would like to highlight in our newsletter, please do get in touch! We love finding out about work taking place in schools and being able to share these with other schools. Simply drop us an email and we can discuss more.

[SustainableSchools@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:SustainableSchools@leicester.gov.uk)

# Millgate Eco Takeover Day

On Friday 21 January, Millgate School prefects organised an eco-takeover day. This day involved wearing green and carrying out activities to win points. Each class competed against other classes to win prizes!



Millgate  
School

Transforming lives and inspiring futures

Activities included making a bug hotel, cycling and scootering, den building, map making, nature walk, scavenger hunt, and nature art.

Prizes to be won included garden centre vouchers, picnic in the park, a zoo or museum trip, and Tropical Bird Land.

It was great to see all the brilliant activities taking place throughout the day. Jas particularly enjoyed seeing all the animals they have at school!



# Dogs Trust Inspires Pupils at Sacred Heart Leicester



Sacred Heart Catholic Voluntary Academy recently welcomed Dogs Trust for an inspiring visit that left our students excited and informed. The visit was part of our ongoing commitment to fostering kindness and responsibility among pupils, while also linking to our sustainability and well-being goals.

During the visit, the Dogs Trust representative Sarah Saunders engaged students with interactive workshops, teaching them the importance of responsible pet ownership and animal welfare. Pupils learned how to care for dogs, understand their needs, and even practiced how to safely interact with unfamiliar animals.

One highlight of the day was the discussion about sustainability and reducing waste in pet care. The representative shared tips on using eco-friendly pet products, which resonated with our students as part of our Eco Area initiatives.

The children were enthusiastic and asked thoughtful questions, demonstrating their growing awareness of caring for all living beings. Many of them reflected on how these lessons could extend to their daily lives, showing the impact of this session on their attitudes toward animals and sustainability.

Thank you to Dogs Trust for an unforgettable experience! It was a fantastic way to combine education, sustainability, and compassion into a single event.



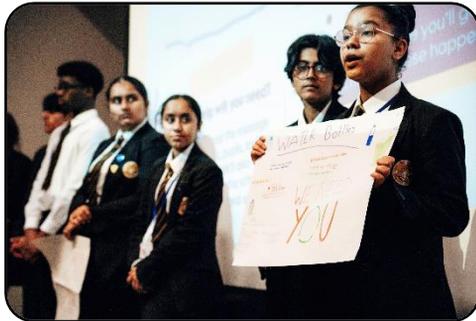
# Plastic Clever Schools



We are really pleased to say that there are over 40 schools in Leicester currently registered on the Plastic Clever Schools website. This means we have a huge opportunity to reduce problem plastics in Leicester!



Inspire



Investigate



Act



## What does Plastic Clever Schools involve?

There are three stages to the programme:

1. Inspire – hold a litter pick 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 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 school's plastic waste now!

All of the work you do for Plastic Clever Schools can be used to support your Green Flag application!

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



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

# Built Environment School Service (BESS) Energy Academies 2025-26 Annual Energy and Carbon Report



From 1 April 2020, academy trusts will need 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 2024 to 31 August 2025.

[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 also subscribe to BESS Energy Core or BESS Energy Enhanced will receive a discounted rate of £170 (instead of £185) per academy.**

## What is included in the service?

### Reports which covers:

- Annual carbon and energy usage reports
- Analysis of energy trends/patterns of usage
- Identifying the impact of energy 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 £185 per academy  
£170 for Leicester BESS Energy schools**

**For more information please contact:**

- ✉ [Marc.tench@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Marc.tench@leicester.gov.uk)
- ☎ 0116 454 6746
- 🌐 [schools.leicester.gov.uk/BESS-Energy](http://schools.leicester.gov.uk/BESS-Energy)

***This service is available from September 2025***

Sign up to BESS Energy by 31 July 2025 by completing our [online form](#)



# BESS Energy Core 2025-26 12 Month Subscription



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

**Energy makes 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 use.

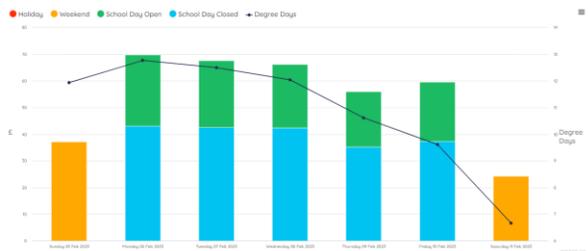
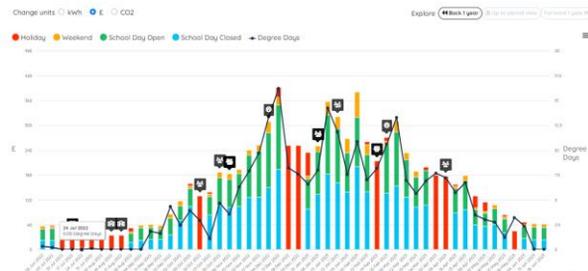
**This offer is open to all schools in Leicester City at cost price as part of our Climate Emergency Declaration commitment**

## What is included in the service:

- **Online monitoring of gas and electricity via Energy Sparks.**
- **Wrap around support** by the Sustainable Schools' team for onboarding, general advice, educational and energy specific support
- **Provision of data** for school's preferred DEC provider

## About Energy Sparks

- An online energy analysis tool and energy education programme specifically designed to help schools **reduce their electricity and gas usage through the analysis of smart meter data.**
- Using a school's electricity, gas and solar data, shows staff (and pupils) how much energy the school is using. The online tool presents bespoke analysis of the energy data **with suggestions of actions the school could take to save energy and reduce carbon emissions.**
- **Provides adult and pupil dashboards** tailored to meet the specific needs of the students and staff at a school.
- **Automated alerts** to let schools know when energy use changes



Adult Dashboard

Summary of recent energy usage

		Use (kWh)	CO2 (kg)	Cost (£)	Potential savings	% Change
Electricity	Last week	1,450	154	£218	n/a	+58%
	Last year	64,900	3,850	£9,750	£4,270	-43%
Gas	Last week	3,100	655	£35.60	n/a	-25%
	Last year	270,000	56,800	£8,310	£2,770	-46%

Act on your energy usage

Well done, you are making progress towards achieving your target to reduce your electricity and gas usage!

On Hot Year schools' weekly electricity use in the Easter holidays increased by 17% compared to the Spring half term holidays. This has cost an extra £20 which can be switched off to save energy in the next holiday!

**For more information please contact:**

**Marc Tench**

✉ [marc.tench@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:marc.tench@leicester.gov.uk)

☎ 0116 454 6746

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

**This service will start in September 2025  
Priced at £820**

Sign up to BESS Energy by 31 July 2025 by completing our [online form](#)



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

# BESS Energy Enhanced 2024-2025

## 12 Month Subscription

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

**Energy makes 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 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:*

- **Online monitoring of gas and electricity via Energy Sparks.**
- **Wrap around support** by the Sustainable Schools' team for onboarding, general advice, educational and energy specific support
- **Regular updates** via email
- **Provision of data** for school's preferred DEC provider

### About Energy Sparks

- An online energy analysis tool and energy education programme specifically designed to help schools **reduce their electricity and gas usage through the analysis of smart meter data.**
- Using a school's electricity, gas and solar data, shows staff (and pupils) how much energy the school is using. The online tool presents bespoke analysis of the energy data **with suggestions of actions the school could take to save energy and reduce carbon emissions.**
- **Provides adult and pupil dashboards** tailored to meet the specific needs of the students and staff at a school.
- **Automated alerts** to let schools know when energy use changes



### 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 on next page**

*"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**

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**Priced at £1195**

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# Individual support in BESS Energy Enhanced



Schools and academies that sign up for BESS Energy Enhanced will receive 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

## 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 Energy Sparks data and 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
  - Energy Sparks 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 Energy Sparks graphs (daily, weekly, monthly, annually)
  - Energy Sparks training
  - Campaign and/or national awareness day activities
  - Energy walk around using thermal imaging camera/s (iPad and Android tablet)
  - Audits and competitions (class or department focused)



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