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**SUFFOLK
SUSTAINABLE
SCHOOLS
NETWORK**

NEWSLETTER

February 2025 / ISSUE 3



Welcome to our February edition!

This half term has been very busy so far with many exciting sustainability initiatives taking off in Suffolk schools. Over the last couple of weeks we have been meeting with schools to review their report following their free energy audit from Groundwork and giving them templates and guidance on how to write and improve their decarbonisation plans.

The deadline for our Primary programme, **Our Schools Our World**, is fast approaching and we have many primary schools excited to get started with this whole school approach that will support climate & nature action amongst their students and staff.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Sustainability in Education Conference



Finally, the agenda for our first **Sustainability in Education Conference** has been finalised! Organisations such as the Department of Education, Teach the Future, Lets Go Zero and the National Education Nature Park will be there to support you with your climate action plans.

The conference is being held at **St Joseph's College in Ipswich on the 2nd April** and for Primary, Secondary & Further Education Leads, Teachers, School Improvement Directors, Operations/Facilities Directors & Governors. Book your place today!

[LEARN MORE](#)

NETWORKING MEETING



SUFFOLK
SUSTAINABLE
SCHOOLS
NETWORK



NETWORK

Our last meeting dealt with the tools and support available for helping you further develop green skills and careers. A big thank you to WWF, Climate Education and Suffolk New College for an informative and inspiring session! If you couldn't make the meeting, you can watch the video and download the presentations below.

[CLICK HERE](#)



IMPORTANT DATES



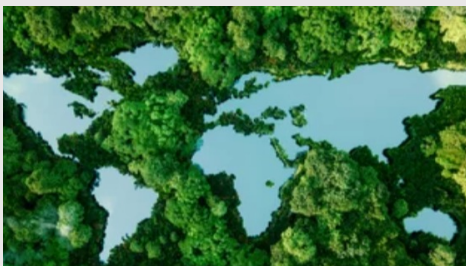
Adaption & Resilience
Network Meeting
19th March @ 4pm

[SIGN UP](#)



Sustainability in Education
Conference
2nd April

[REGISTER](#)



Biodiversity
Network Meeting
11th June @ 4pm

[SIGN UP](#)



Youth Climate Conference
Climate Action Planning Session
2nd July

[SIGN UP](#)



DECARBONISATION



Decarbonisation Guidance

Did you know that all schools are required to have a sustainability lead and a Climate Action Plan in place by the end of 2025? A Climate Action Plan covers four themes, with 'decarbonisation' being a key pillar.

You may ask what is decarbonisation? Essentially it's about reducing schools green house gases, through changing things like insulation, improving energy efficiency and moving to renewable energy. The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero have put together a document to help schools on their journey, and how to implement decarbonisation into their Climate Action Plan.

Download the guide: [Climate Action Plan: Decarbonisation](#).

[READ MORE](#)

Free School Energy Audits

We are funding free energy audits to support secondary schools to develop effective climate action plans, now required by 2025. Our energy audits will support you to identify significant carbon saving opportunities whilst providing payback calculations. Following your energy audit, we will support you to help formalise your climate action plan. Get in touch today!

[SIGN UP](#)



ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE



Beat the Flood

'**Beat the Flood**' is a teaching resource that teachers can use to help pupils learn about the impact of flooding due to climate change, and the effects it can have on communities. Utilising their real-life STEM skills, pupils can design and create a model home to withstand flooding to help communities be better prepared. **Beat the Flood** is accredited for the CREST award scheme and can be integrated into both Science and Design & Technology lessons. Download the teacher guide at [Beat the flood - Practical Action](#).

[READ MORE](#)



BIODIVERSITY

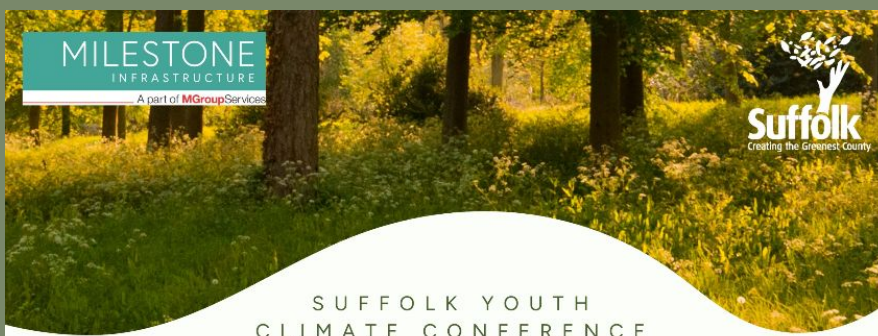


Conservation Changemakers' Toolkit

Together with other young changemakers, Chester Zoo has created a Conservation Changemakers' Toolkit for aspiring young changemakers. The toolkit is in a few parts to help break down the steps needed in manageable chunks. It will provide young people with everything they might need to start or continue your own individual or collective changemaking journey. For school teachers, there is also a "Leader's Guide" to walk you through delivering the programme in a group setting. You can find out more about the project at [Conservation Changemakers' Toolkit](#).

[READ MORE](#)

Biodiversity Competition for Secondary Schools



BIODIVERSITY

COMPETITION

Create a project proposal to enhance biodiversity at your school for a chance to win up to £2,000 to bring it to life.

Your proposal must:

- Aim to increase biodiversity on your school grounds and inspire young people to take action for nature
- Include a simplistic aerial map of the habitats at your school
- Include examples of what you would like to create
- Include a letter of commitment to fulfil your project with the prize money from your school's senior leadership team
- Include a breakdown of project costs that total no more than £2000

Winners will be announced on 13 June, be awarded the money to deliver their project and attend a meet and greet with Steve Backshall at YCC25.

Deadline

5pm | 30 May 2025

For submission details,
see entry form



Thanks to our sponsors, Milestone Infrastructure, there will be multiple winners of the competition. Two representatives and one teacher from each winning school will be presented with a certificate by Steve Backshall at a private meet and greet at the Suffolk Youth Climate Conference 2025. Your prize money may also be spent on your school staff's time and resource.

Please note this competition is only open to Secondary Schools attending the Youth Climate Conference on 2nd July.

[READ MORE](#)



CLIMATE EDUCATION





Climate School 180

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

The scheme challenges your school to embed climate change across the curriculum, and use the school grounds as a learning environment for all pupils. The process will also allow pupils to audit your outdoor space, creating the opportunity for learners to use their school grounds to consider the impact of our changing climate and nature-based solutions to implement.

Find key information about the project and links to the application at [Climate School 180](#).

[READ MORE](#)

The BIG Climate & Nature Survey

Take part in The BIG Climate and Nature Survey and find out what your students think about climate and nature in their education - inside the classroom and out!

Schools and colleges (KS2 to KS5) across the UK can take part and receive the data for their students, as well as contributing to a national survey. There's also the chance to win £1000 towards sustainability work. The survey runs from January to April 2025 and you can sign up and join in at any time during that period. Find out more about the survey, run by Students Organising for Sustainability UK, and sign up below.

[SIGN UP](#)



GREEN
CAREERS



Tomorrow's Climate Scientists

'**Tomorrow's Climate Scientists**' funds schools researching climate change and biodiversity, giving pupils the opportunity to address climate and biodiversity issues themselves. Schools can apply for grants of up to £3,000 to run an investigative project, in partnership with a STEM professional, developing green skills for your pupils. Teachers can go to an online training session at **Tomorrow's Climate Scientists**, covering the partnership, grants and application process.

[READ MORE](#)

**SMALL CHANGES,
BIG IMPACT**

Please share and forward this email to your colleagues interested in sustainability. Anyone working in a school can join, including both teaching and operational staff, and membership is free!

[SIGN UP](#)

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