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April 2025 / ISSUE 4



Welcome to our April edition

Another incredible half term for sustainability in our schools! Not only have we launched our sustainability programme for primary schools, Our Schools Our World, but we are also in the middle of finalising the arrangements for our first Sustainability in Education conference on 2nd April.

The conference is a fantastic opportunity for schools across Suffolk to discover tools and resources that will support them with their climate action plans. Learn more about the amazing workshops we have planned [here](#). There is still time to sign up if you are quick!

[SIGN UP](#)





Our Schools Our World

Early this month, 15 Suffolk primary schools began their journey on this innovative sustainability programme. The Our Schools Our World (OSOW) training included sessions on:

- Leadership for Sustainability
- Greening the Curriculum
- Climate Action Planning

It was so inspiring to see schools engage with the sessions with so much passion and enthusiasm and leave with a sense of determination to deliver whole-school sustainability action. We look forward to supporting them in their journey over the next 2 years.

If you are interested in joining the next cohort of OSOW schools, please register your interest below.

[REGISTER](#)

NETWORKING MEETING

The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface. The main content is a presentation slide with the following elements:

- FREE ENERGY AUDITS** (Suffolk Sustainable Schools Network logo)
- Energy Sparks** (Lightbulb icon)
- Energy Sparks for a year!**
- Selected schools – reduced energy bills through Solar project**

On the right side of the screen, there is a vertical list of participant video thumbnails with names: Elizabeth Ather, Louise Antbreck, Lily Halbram, Luciana Almeida, Rebecca Emms-Higgins, and Rose Bradbury. At the bottom right, there are icons for 'RR' (mute) and '+6' (participants).

Adaptation & Resilience

Our last network meeting focused on how to support adaptation and resilience in schools. We would like to thank [RAFT](#) (Retrofit Action for Tomorrow (RAFT)), [Thoughtbox](#) and [Let's Go Zero](#) for their fantastic presentations. If you couldn't make the meeting, you can access the presentations below or catch up with our video recording.

[CLICK HERE](#)



IMPORTANT DATES



Biodiversity
Network Meeting
11th June @ 4pm

[SIGN UP](#)

YOUTH
CLIMATE
CONFERENCE
SUFFOLK 2025



Youth Climate Conference
Climate Action Planning Session
2nd July

[SIGN UP](#)



DECARBONISATION



Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel

From 24th March – 4th April 2025, [Sustrans](#) is running its 'Big Walk and Wheel Challenge'. The challenge aims to inspire more pupils to make active journeys to school. It focuses not only on improvements to air quality, as a result of fewer vehicles travelling to schools, but also on the physical health benefits of active travel for children and young people.

[SIGN UP](#)

Everyday Energy Grant

With the support of *British Gas* together with *Team GB* and *ParalympicsGB*, *Get Set for Positive Energy* are offering primary schools the opportunity to win a £5,000 *British Gas* Positive Energy Grant. Pupils aged 5-11 are invited to create a banner that inspires their community to make small, energy-saving changes. It could be turning off the lights when leaving a room, swapping a disposable food wrap for one that is reusable or using both sides of a sheet of writing paper.

The deadline for entries is 25th April.

[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



Climate Resilient Schools

What does an adaptation & resilience plan look like for schools? Mayor Sadiq Khan, the Department for Education, and Thames Water have launched the Climate Resilient Schools project, aiming to help 100 London schools adapt to climate change. Together they have developed a case study plan for a climate resilient school which addresses improvements to water efficiency, reducing flood risks, and educating students. Have a look at see if this example can support your climate action planning.

[CLICK HERE](#)

The Department for Education Sustainability Award

Open to all state schools and colleges, this award celebrates efforts to create a more sustainable future. The award recognises education settings that have taken action to embed sustainability within their curriculum, operations and community. The winning school or college will receive a £2,500 award to support their sustainability initiatives. Click on the link below and scroll to the bottom of the page to find the 'Department for Education Sustainability Award'.

The Deadline for entries is 24th April.

[READ MORE](#)



BIODIVERSITY



Adnams Community Trust

The *Adnams Community Trust* awards grants to worthy causes based within a 25-mile radius of Southwold. Grants are awarded four times a year and range from £100-£2,500. Education centres are eligible to apply. If you are looking to enhance outdoor areas on your school site, or enable more outdoor learning opportunities, this grant may be able to support the capital cost of any equipment or resources required.

The next deadline for applications is 16th May.

[READ MORE](#)

Woodland Trust: Free Trees for Schools

The *Woodland Trust* is offering free tree packs to schools. There are a range of packs available, from 'Hedge' to 'Year-Round Colour' packs; there is something for every setting and every soil type. Depending on the pack you select, you will receive between 30 and 420 tree whips.

Find information on the Free Tree Packs, how to apply and a range of educational resources on trees and tree planting on the *Woodland Trust* website.

[READ MORE](#)

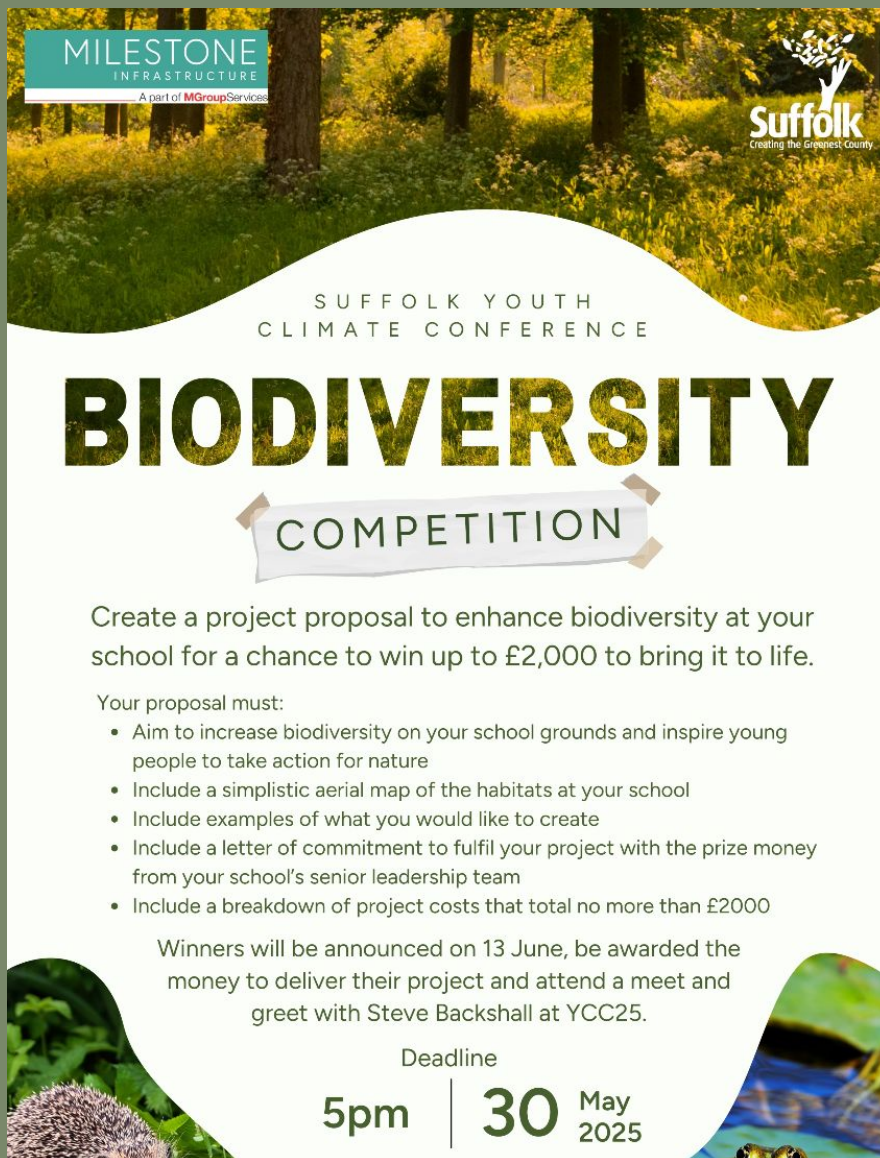
Year 3 Design a Bookmark Competition

Budding designers in Year 3 are invited to take part in the *Children's Bookshop* bookmark competition. Run in partnership with *The British Trust for Ornithology*, the competition asks pupils to design a bookmark featuring their favourite bird. The winning entry will receive printed copies of their bookmark design for every pupil in their school, a bundle of 10 books, a bird feeder, a nesting box and a bird identification kit for their school playground.

The deadline for entry is 4th April.

[READ MORE](#)

Biodiversity Competition for Secondary Schools

The poster features a background image of a lush green forest. In the top left corner, there is a logo for 'MILESTONE INFRASTRUCTURE' with the tagline 'A part of MGroupServices'. In the top right corner, there is a logo for 'Suffolk' with the tagline 'Creating the Greenest County'. The central text reads 'SUFFOLK YOUTH CLIMATE CONFERENCE' above the word 'BIODIVERSITY' in large, bold, green letters. Below 'BIODIVERSITY' is a white banner with the word 'COMPETITION' in black letters. The text below the banner reads: 'Create a project proposal to enhance biodiversity at your school for a chance to win up to £2,000 to bring it to life.' This is followed by 'Your proposal must:' and a bulleted list of requirements. At the bottom, it states '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.' The deadline is given as '5pm | 30 May 2025'. The bottom corners of the poster feature images of a hedgehog and a frog.

MILESTONE
INFRASTRUCTURE
A part of MGroupServices

Suffolk
Creating the Greenest County

SUFFOLK YOUTH
CLIMATE CONFERENCE

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**

Improving Climate Education: Open Letter to Bridget Phillipson MP

[Global Action Plan](#), together with [University College London's Centre for Climate Change and Sustainability Education](#) is sending an open letter to the Secretary of State for Education, Bridget Phillipson MP. The letter is signed by over 700 of the UK's leading climate scientists, economists, academics and educationalists and calls for 'more comprehensive inclusion of climate and environmental sustainability in the National Curriculum.' To find out more and add your signature, click on the link below.

[READ MORE](#)

Student Sustainability Showcase

Organised by [Students Organising for Sustainability \(SOS-UK\)](#), this virtual showcase takes place on Wednesday 9th April from 2.30-4.30pm. Attendees will learn about student-led change and how to transform education for sustainability.

The showcase is part of the 'Student Sustainability Symposium 2025', which is designed to amplify student voices in shaping education for a greener future.

[REGISTER](#)

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 to use the school grounds as a learning environment for all pupils.

The last window to apply for this programme is open from 2nd April-9th May.

[READ MORE](#)



World Earth Day 22nd April 2025

The theme for this year's World Earth Day is 'Our Power Our Planet' celebrating renewable energy. If you would like to mark Earth Day in your school this year, there is a wealth of resources available online, from videos to lesson plans. A sample of these resources is listed below:

- [Twinkl 1,610 Top "Earth Day" Teaching Resources curated for you](#)
- [TES Celebrating Earth Day in the classroom | Tes](#)
- [National Literacy Trust Earth Day 2024 – Teaching Activities & Resources for Schools | National Literacy Trust | National Literacy Trust](#)
- [Cool.org Earth Day Teaching Resources | Cool.org](#)
- [STEM Learning Earth Day resources | STEM](#)
- [WWF Earth day | WWF](#)
- [BBC Teach Earth Day 2025 – Live Lesson: Tuesday, 22 April - BBC Teach](#)
- [Earth Day.org Earth Day 2025 | Activities & Resources for April 22 - Earth Day](#)



GREEN CAREERS



Green Skills: National Education Nature Park

The *National Education Nature Park* has created a range of educational resources that focus on developing the skills and knowledge that will enable young people to plan for and carry out habitat enhancement. The resources have cross-curricula links to a variety of subjects, helping embed green skills across the school timetable.

[READ MORE](#)

WWF: Environmental Leaders Programme

The Environment Leaders Programme (ELP) is a project planning qualification for individuals aged 16 and above. It has been developed in partnership with WWF, the RSPB, and the Leadership Skills Foundation and offers a Level 3 qualification. Students will learn to lead a project for positive change, teaching them valuable leadership and project management skills. Students that complete the programme will also receive 8 UCAS points.

[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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