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**SUFFOLK
SUSTAINABLE
SCHOOLS
NETWORK**

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2025 / ISSUE 5



Welcome to our June Edition

Just before the Easter holidays we held our first [Sustainability in Education Conference](#) at St Joseph's College. This event supported school leaders, teachers and operational staff to hear from organisations supporting sustainable initiatives in schools and gave them a head start with the development of their climate action plans. 100% of participants strongly agreed or agreed that their experience at the conference will positively impact their sustainability practice in school with one participant adding:

"This was a really well organised event and was inspirational - as a school that are just starting to think about our sustainability plan it was incredibly useful in many ways."

Following the success of this event, we are now starting to plan the 2026 Sustainability in Education conference and we would love to hear from you! [Drop us an email](#) if you have any thoughts of what you would like to be included at next year's event. For some inspiration, check out our conference highlights reel.

[CLICK HERE](#)

SUSSN Biodiversity Meeting

Our next network meeting will be held on [Wednesday 11th June 4-5:30pm](#) and will focus on how schools can enhance biodiversity on their estate. We will be joined by the [National Education Nature Park](#) and our [Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#) team who will be sharing tools and resources that can support you to engage your students with nature. We will also have a case study of what good biodiversity practice looks like in school. This session is relevant for both primary and secondary.

[REGISTER](#)



IMPORTANT DATES

**YOUTH
CLIMATE
CONFERENCE**
SUFFOLK 2025

The logo features the text 'YOUTH CLIMATE CONFERENCE' in bold black letters, with 'SUFFOLK 2025' below it in green. To the right, there is a graphic of a hand holding a green leafy branch.

Youth Climate Conference
Dedicated Teacher CPD
Climate Action Planning Sessions
2nd July

[SIGN UP](#)



**Waveney Valley Sustainable
Education Alliance**
Climate Action Planning Meeting
7th July @ 9am

[SIGN UP](#)



ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE



Coping with Extreme Heat

Temperatures are rising in the UK as a result of the climate emergency which means more buildings and communities are vulnerable to overheating. To address this concern, Shade the UK, an organisation commissioned by the British Red Cross, has produced a guidance document for adaptation of buildings to prevent overheating. This guidance is applicable to a variety of buildings and can be used to consider the practical implications on the climate action planning of your school estate.

[READ MORE](#)

Assessing Flood Risk

Flood risk is one of the three highest priority risk areas identified in the Climate Change Committee's independent assessment of UK climate risk. Together with the Environment Agency, the Government have developed prompts to help you prepare for flooding in your school. These prompts guide you through how to assess flood risk for your school, how to add flood risk to your emergency plans, how to scale up for a flood, how to respond to a flood and how to recover from a flood.

[READ MORE](#)

UK Schools Sustainability

Operational Network

The UK Schools Sustainability Network has created a network for all school-based operations professionals. The network brings together school business, finance and operations leaders to discuss and collaborate on promoting and strengthening climate action and sustainability in schools.

The next UKSSN Ops Network meeting will be on 22nd May 4pm and will focus on action on food waste.

[CLICK HERE](#)



BIODIVERSITY

Biodiversity Competition



Our biodiversity competition deadline is fast approaching! Your students are invited to create a project proposal to enhance biodiversity at your school for a chance to win up to £2000 to bring it to life. Winners will be awarded their prize money and the chance to meet Steve Backshall at our Youth Climate Conference on 2nd July. For more information and to download the entry form click below.

The competition is open to all secondary schools in Suffolk and deadline for entry is the 5th June.

[SIGN UP](#)

SIGN UP

Habitat Heroes

Explore your outdoor spaces and connect to nature this spring! Discover the homes for wildlife around your school, nursery or college site by following the prompts in this quick and fun activity. It's a great way of getting to know your outdoor spaces better before you start [mapping your site](#), with the [National Education Nature Park](#). Plus, if you're registered for the programme, have created your site boundary and take part in Habitat Heroes between **22 April – 22 May 2025**, you'll be entered into a prize draw to win a bundle of outdoor learning prizes!

[READ MORE](#)

Local Nature Recovery Strategy

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) will provide a blueprint for how Suffolk's communities and organisations can work together to broaden protection, restore, and recover nature on the ground. The LNRS team have also developed an interactive map that can be used to discover areas of importance for biodiversity near to your school setting.

[LEARN MORE](#)

A public consultation on the LNRS is now open until 11th June 2025. Have your say on nature recovery in Suffolk!

[READ MORE](#)

30 Days Wild

June marks the return of the Wildlife Trusts' annual '30 Days Wild' initiative. 30 Days Wild encourages people of all ages to complete activities throughout the month of June that develop their connection with nature. Whether it's having your lunch outside, listening to birdsong or building a bug hotel, there are lots of wild activities to choose from.

Visit the Wildlife Trust website to find out more and to register for free resources.

[SIGN UP](#)



DECARBONISATION



The Playground

Eco-Schools, in partnership with Let's Go Zero, have created 'The Playground' an interactive resource to use with pupils and to inform your Climate Action Plan. 'The Playground' is an educational tool that allows pupils to engage with their school's carbon footprint calculation. It allows pupils to model different actions and assess their impact on school carbon emissions.

To access 'The Playground' your school needs to have completed a carbon footprint calculation with Count your Carbon.

[READ MORE](#)

Free Carbon Literacy Training

Let's Go Zero are offering free carbon literacy training for school staff. Boost your knowledge around climate change and decarbonisation and increase your confidence discussing these topics with your pupils, colleagues and school community. The online course is accredited by the Carbon Literacy Project. Starting in June, it will be delivered over four two-hour sessions.

[SIGN UP](#)

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.

[SIGN UP](#)



**CLIMATE
EDUCATION**

Environmental Heroes: Free lesson resources for Primary Schools

Suffolk and Norfolk County Councils, in collaboration with Natural England, have produced the Environmental Heroes programme. The programme focuses on environmental issues and actions young people and their families can take to protect the natural world. Lessons focus on four key areas: Wildlife Wise, Climate Change, Water Quality and Air Quality.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Suffolk Wildlife Trust Youth Action Day

The Suffolk Wildlife Trust Youth Board are organising a Suffolk Youth Action Day on Saturday 6th September 2025. It will be an opportunity for youth groups from across Suffolk to come together and learn what other young people are doing to take positive action for nature and climate in their school or community. The day will include workshops to help young people develop the skills necessary to become changemakers for nature.

If your school has an Eco committee or Eco Council that would be interested in taking part, please get in touch with Suffolk Wildlife Trust.

[CONTACT US](#)

Climate Misinformation

Social media is driving a proliferation of climate disinformation and misinformation. To combat this worrying trend, the Met Office has developed a toolkit to help tackle misinformation, to help enable individuals to form opinions from information based on peer-reviewed science, the latest climate science from their own research as well as internationally agreed science collated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). This toolkit includes excellent resources for promoting evidence-

based climate conversations in the classroom.

[LEARN MORE](#)



This video is part of the introductory climate change resources created by WWF for students aged 7-11.

[LEARN MORE](#)



**GREEN
CAREERS**



New Level 3 Qualification in Sustainability

OCR have created a new Level 3 Certificate in Sustainability for students aged 16 to develop applied subject knowledge and transferable skills for their future. The course focuses on the basics of sustainability and how it integrates with business and economic topics and is ideal for students who want to learn specialist subject knowledge and transferable skills that complement core studies in a similar way to an EPQ.

This qualification can pave the way for employment in the environmental conservation sector or higher education programmes where sustainability modules are becoming increasingly more common.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Youth Activators Network

For students aged 14+ who want to create change and tackle big issues for people and the planet, the environment charity 'Global Action Plan' has created a Young Activators Network.

Joining the network will enable young people to receive a monthly newsletter. The newsletter advertises opportunities to get involved and make positive change happen and showcases and celebrates inspiring stories about change making.

Share information about the Youth Activators Network with your students.

[LEARN MORE](#)

**SMALL CHANGES
BIG IMPACT**

Have you joined our network?

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](#)

Our mailing address is:

susn@suffolk.gov.uk

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