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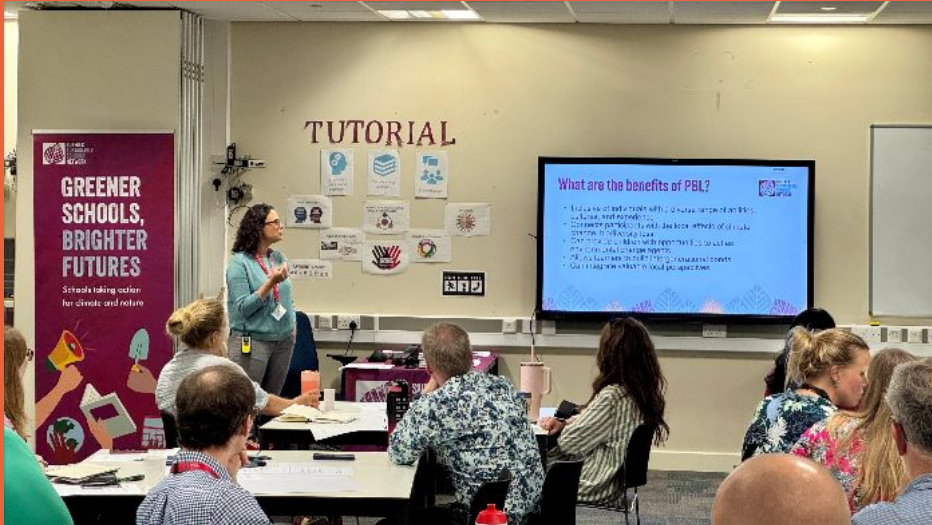
**SUFFOLK  
SUSTAINABLE  
SCHOOLS  
NETWORK**

# NEWSLETTER

JULY 2025 / ISSUE 6

## Welcome to our July Edition!

This summer term has been packed full of climate and nature action in our schools!



## Our Schools, Our World

Over the past few months, the Sustainable Schools Team have been visiting all the primary schools taking part in *Our Schools, Our World* programme to see some of the amazing work that is going on to support sustainability in their operations and curriculum. We are now recruiting for our second cohort for the programme and would love for you to join us!

[REGISTER](#)

[2025 Youth Climate Conference](#)

This month we delivered our first in-person event on *Place-Based Learning* and *Climate Action Planning* at the 3rd annual Suffolk Youth Climate Conference. This event was part of a fantastic day to support students and teachers to engage in sustainability initiatives and empower them to take action. This year, the keynote speech was delivered by naturalist and broadcaster, Steve Backshall, who shared powerful first-hand accounts of the impacts of climate change he's witnessed around the world. 17 secondary schools, 200 pupils and 40 teachers attended this inspiring event.

## Looking to Next Year

In the last few days of this academic year, I hope you can find time to reflect on how far you have come this year in terms of your engagement and understanding of sustainability. I would also like to applaud all of you that have thought about, started or finalised your school climate action plans. These documents have the potential to drive a better future for your school community!

If you would like any support with sustainability training for your school staff, please get in touch with us. We can deliver training for your school on a range of topics including:

- *Carbon Literacy*
- *Biodiversity & Nature Connectedness*
- *Place-Based Learning*
- *Climate Emotions & Promoting Resilience*

Wishing you a wonderful summer break and looking forward to working with you in the next academic year!

[CONTACT US](#)



# IMPORTANT DATES



**Our Schools, Our World  
Sustainability Programme for  
Primary Schools**



**Waste  
Suffolk Sustainable Schools  
Network Meeting**

30th September-2nd October  
(in-person)

**SIGN UP**

Tues 14th October 4-5:30pm  
(online)

**SIGN UP**



**Energy**  
**Suffolk Sustainable Schools**  
**Network Meeting**  
Wed 26th November 4-5:30pm  
(online)

**SIGN UP**



**Food**  
**Suffolk Sustainable Schools**  
**Network Meeting**  
Thurs 29th January 4-5:30pm  
(online)

**SIGN UP**



**Transport**  
**Suffolk Sustainable Schools**  
**Network Meeting**  
Tuesday 10th March 4-5:30pm  
(online)

**SIGN UP**



**Nature**  
**Suffolk Sustainable Schools**  
**Network Meeting**  
Wednesday 29th April 4-5:30pm  
(online)

**SIGN UP**



**Water & Adaptation**  
**Suffolk Sustainable Schools**  
**Network Meeting**  
Thursday 9th June 4-5:30pm  
(online)

**SIGN UP**



**Suffolk Sustainability in**  
**Education Conference**  
Food Museum, Stowmarket  
Sustainability CPD  
22nd June 9-4pm

**SIGN UP**



# ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE



## HEATWAVE

### HOW WE DEAL WITH HOT WEATHER IN SCHOOLS

## Feeling the Heat?

With warmer weather becoming more common, it's vital schools take steps to protect children, who are more vulnerable to heat-related illnesses. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has published updated guidance to support schools and early years settings. Key advice includes how to adapt uniform rules, daily activities, and learning environments to cope with higher temperatures as well as hot spot signs of heat stress, exhaustion or heatstroke. You can also [sign up for weather-health alerts](#) and find full guidance, including symptoms and first aid tips.

[READ MORE](#)

## Free Resources for Climate Ready Schools

Did you know, climate change has made June heatwaves in south-east England 10 times more likely than in pre-industrial times? [Learning Through Landscapes](#) have put together a number of resources to support adaptation and resilience planning on school grounds, including how to adapt for hot weather and heatwaves. Visit 'Climate Ready Schools Grounds Project' to learn more and access their free operational and curriculum resources for school adaptation to climate change.

[READ MORE](#)



Runners up were: Debenham High School, King Edward VI and Hadleigh High School. A big thank you to M Group Highways and Barnes Construction for sponsoring the

## Summer Holiday Wilding Activity Ideas

Looking for fun, meaningful outdoor activities this summer? Discover *Wilding* - a creative way to support nature while kids explore the outdoors. Green Schools Revolution have provided a range of ideas of easy projects that your students can engage with like making pine cone bird feeders, building mini ponds, launching seed bombs, spotting fungi, and creating hedgehog highways. These activities help young people reconnect with local wildlife, build confidence, and spark environmental curiosity. Whether at school or home, there's something for everyone. Ready to get wild this summer?

[READ MORE](#)

## Citizen Science with the National Pollinator Count

Summer is peak season for pollinators - and a great time to engage students in real-world science. The National Education Nature Park is running its first biodiversity survey, designed especially for schools. With two versions of the pollinator count (for KS2-3 and KS4-5), students can help researchers learn which plants and habitats best support pollinators. To take part, simply map your school grounds using their online tools and ensure you have some flowering plants in place. Free resources and guidance are available on their website - perfect for a summer science adventure that supports nature and learning!

Deadline for the Pollinator Count is 30th September.

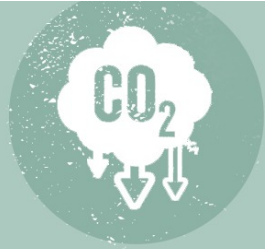
[READ MORE](#)

## Tree Planting Grant

The Tree Council have reopened their Branching Out Fund to provide payments of £250-£2500. This grant is available to schools, community groups, charities, tree wardens to support community-led tree planting projects across the UK. Projects must be based in the UK and planting must be completed by **15 March 2026**. Funds are paid after planting and submission of receipts, photos, and a claim form. Visit the Tree Council website for more information on selecting, planting and caring for trees.

The deadline for application is 14 November 2025.

[READ MORE](#)



# DECARBONISATION



## Decarbonisation: First Steps

The Church of England has set an ambitious target to reach net zero by 2030 across its estate. Schools are a significant part of the estate, so the Church of England has put together a helpful guide to support schools in tackling their carbon emissions. The recommended actions in the guide are structured into three categories: quick wins, short/medium term and longer term. The variety of actions means the guide is helpful to all schools, wherever they are on their sustainability journey and in their climate action planning.

[READ MORE](#)

## Grants for Climate Action Projects

Schools and community groups in England can apply for £300-£20,000 (over up to 2 years) from the National Lottery Community Fund, and cannot fund curriculum-based activities, school facilities, or staff training. Projects must go beyond school-only benefits that benefit the wider community. This funding supports activities that help people connect with and care for nature, make a positive environmental impact, or respond to local challenges. For example, projects could include rewilding schemes, forest schools, food growing projects, tree planting or energy saving measures such as solar panels. Applications can be submitted at any time until 17th December 2025.

[READ MORE](#)

## Free School Energy Audits

We are funding free energy audits to support secondary schools to develop their climate action plans. Our energy audits will support you to identify significant carbon saving opportunities whilst providing payback calculations and cost-saving suggestions. Following your energy audit, you will receive free support from our Schools Sustainability Team in Climate Action Planning and may have the opportunity for a free year of [Energy Sparks](#). Sign up now!

[SIGN UP](#)



**CLIMATE  
EDUCATION**

## New Sustainability Book for Primary Schools

Edd Moore - multi-award winning primary teacher and eco-coordinator - has written a book published by Bloomsbury and foreword by Dr Jane Goodall DBE called '100 Ideas for Primary Teachers: Greener School'. Edd led his school to Jane Goodall's Educational Institution of the year and last year was named as Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) teacher of the year. His new book is to support teachers and schools to start their eco journey or carry it on towards zero carbon. Due out 11<sup>th</sup> September but you can pre-order now.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## Environmental Education Programme: The Pod

The Pod is an environmental education programme led by not-for-profit [Wastebuster](#). The Pod offers free curriculum-linked resources for ages 4–16, including lesson plans, games, assemblies, and exciting national campaigns like Switch-Off Fortnight and Waste Week. Through fun characters and multimedia content, they aim to empower young people and their communities to take action on energy, waste, and biodiversity. One year-round initiative your school might like to join is the Recycle to Read programme, a fun and rewarding way to teach sustainability while earning free books!

[READ MORE](#)

## Plastic Free July

There is still time to support your students go plastic free this summer! Join millions of others this Plastic Free July and pledge to refuse single-use plastic. Plastic Free July is a global movement that helps millions of people be part of the solution to plastic pollution – so we can have cleaner streets, oceans, and beautiful communities. The global movement is run by the [Plastic Free Foundation](#), a charitable organisation driven by a vision of a world free from plastic waste. Will you pledge to refuse single-use plastics this summer?

[READ MORE](#)



**GREEN  
CAREERS**

## Protecting Our Planet Day

Protecting Our Planet Day (POP) is a free, live-streamed event for schools, run by ESERO-UK at STEM Learning in collaboration with the UK and European Space Agencies. Returning this year in November, POP25 brings leading scientists, space experts, and environmental champions directly into your classroom to explore how we protect Earth—from space and on the ground. To find out more and register your interested, click on the link below.

The 2026 POP day will be hosted online on Thursday 27th November.

[READ MORE](#)

## Climate & Nature Storytelling Careers

Are your students interested in exploring a career in environmental communications? This report from [BBC StoryWorks](#) explores how storytelling can influence real-world climate action by combining audience data, creative strategies, and expert insights. By showcasing global innovators and connecting stories to impact, the report offers a roadmap for understanding and measuring the role of media in addressing climate and nature challenges.

[READ MORE](#)

## Technical Innovation Fund

Calling all budding inventors, innovative thinkers and creative designers! The "I've Got an Idea" Fund is a UK micro-grant (up to £3,000) supporting individuals, small groups, or organisations testing novel, technically inventive ideas with social or

environmental benefits. Inspired by Peter Williams, a lifelong experimenter, the fund values creativity, hands-on building, and fun. Applications are accepted via email and reviewed by technical advisors, with responses typically given within two weeks.

Grants are limited so early applications are advised.

[READ MORE](#)

# NETWORKING MEETING

## Webinar Recordings

This year we have run 5 online network meetings on the key areas of climate action planning. All network meetings have been recorded and are available to watch online.

### Climate Education



[CLICK HERE](#)

### Decarbonisation



[CLICK HERE](#)

### Green Careers



### Adaptation



[CLICK HERE](#)

### Biodiversity





[CLICK HERE](#)



[CLICK HERE](#)

# 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](mailto:susn@suffolk.gov.uk)

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