



**SUFFOLK  
SUSTAINABLE  
SCHOOLS  
NETWORK**

# NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025 / ISSUE 7

## Welcome to our October Edition!

### Highlights this Edition

- [Bookings now open for 2026 Sustainability in Education Conference](#)
- [Last chance to secure free energy audits for secondary schools](#)
- [Recording of our latest network meeting on waste](#)
- [WWF's new Happy by Nature Programme](#)
- [Cut Your Carbon Campaign from Keep Britain Tidy](#)
- [SOS-UK are creating a National Union for students](#)
- [Free teacher resources for Green Careers Week](#)



Some of the participants of the *Our Schools, Our World* Programme taking part in Climate Basics Training

## Bookings now open for 2026 Sustainability in Education Conference!

Join us next year for the Sustainability in Education Conference on 22 June 2026, 9am–4pm at The Food Museum, Stowmarket. Designed for educators and school leaders, the day features expert keynotes, hands-on workshops, and case studies to support climate action planning, nature recovery, and curriculum development. Details of the conference including the agenda can be found [here](#) or on the event registration page below.

**SIGN UP**

## Our Schools, Our World update

At the end of September, nine Suffolk primary schools joined the Our School Our World sustainability programme, expanding the Suffolk Hub to 23 schools. This whole-school initiative strengthens climate education, fosters nature connection, and supports Climate Action Plans. Collaboration across schools brings shared ideas and resources. We're excited to support their journey toward a more sustainable future.

We hope to secure funding for another year of Our Schools, Our World and we need your help! Please register your interest to help us demonstrate the need for the programme.

**REGISTER**

## Last chance at securing free energy audit worth £1800!

Groundwork is offering fully funded energy audits to Suffolk secondary schools to help cut carbon emissions and reduce costs. Each audit includes a site visit, usage review, detailed report, and decarbonisation planning support. This project will be ending in February 2026 and therefore all participating will need to have booked in their site visit before the Christmas holidays. Register your school today!

**CONTACT US**

**NETWORKING  
MEETING**



Last week, we launched our first network meeting of the academic year, focusing on waste and consumption. [The Suffolk Waste Partnership](#) led a session on upcoming recycling changes, Babergh & Mid Suffolk's [school waste management toolkit](#), and behaviour change strategies. [SUEZ](#) and [RECOUP](#) also shared free educational resources and support for schools. Presentations from the event are available below.

[CLICK HERE](#)



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

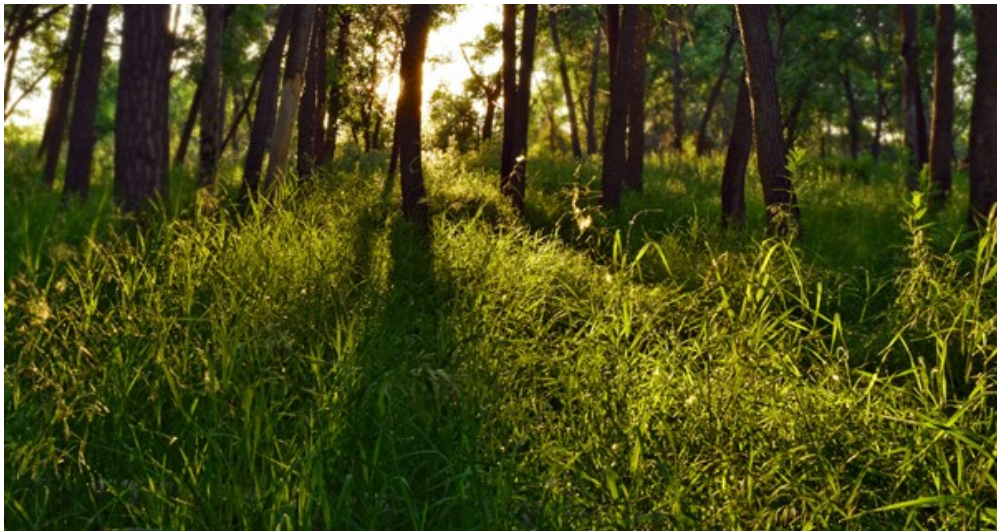
[SIGN UP](#)



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

[SIGN UP](#)





## Stobart Sustainability Fund

The Stobart Sustainability Fund offers funding for school-led projects that tackle climate change, reduce carbon emissions, or enhance the environment. Open to educational facilities, community groups, and small businesses, the fund supports initiatives with a clear sustainability focus. If your school has a green project in need of financial support, apply now to help transform your local community. Visit the Stobart website to learn more and submit your application.

[READ MORE](#)

## Nineveh Charitable Trust Fund

UK schools can apply for funding to the Nineveh Charitable Trust for projects that promote a better understanding of the environment or of the countryside. Previous grants have been awarded to schools to support the purchase and installation of sheds to store gardening equipment, to create a wildlife and nature hub, to expand a Forest School scheme and to develop a kitchen garden. Visit the Trust's website to learn more about projects which have received grants to inspire your own application.

[READ MORE](#)

## Take Action for Nature

As we settle into Autumn, there are actions you can take across your school site to support nature after the hot, dry summer. If your site benefits from deciduous trees, where possible, leave some leaf litter on the ground. Leaf litter is an important habitat for butterflies and moths at different stages of their life cycle. If you have flowerbeds, you can use leaf litter to help suppress weeds. If you have a wild area or an orchard, leave out some rotting fruit. This will provide a food source for butterflies who fly later in the season like Red Admirals and Commas.

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# BIODIVERSITY



## UK Community Tree Planting Grants

The International Tree Foundation's 2025 UK Community Tree Planting Programme offers grants for tree planting and tree conservation. As well as financial support, the Foundation can provide advice and consultation and can supply young trees. To ensure new trees get the best start, the Foundation also offers small maintenance grants to cover the first two years. Schools, parks, rights of way and community group sites are all eligible to apply.

[READ MORE](#)

## Our Local Nature Grant

The Linnean Society of London are offering grants to improve Green Spaces. The 'Our Local Nature Grant' scheme is designed to offer young people the opportunity to lead on projects that involve their local nature and natural spaces. It enables participating young people to be changemakers. The maximum amount awarded by the grant is £1,000. The Society welcome innovative and ideas. Previous submissions have included running a school festival about nature, creating murals depicting local nature species, building a community garden and creating a nature walk.

The deadline for applications is 25th October.

[READ MORE](#)

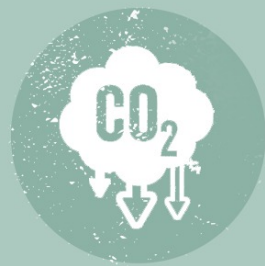
## Happy By Nature Programme

WWF's *Happy By Nature* programme helps primary schools embed nature into everyday learning and play. Free resources include a classroom pack, curriculum-linked activities, and live interactive lessons with guest presenters. This is a fantastic opportunity to enhance outdoor learning and connect children with the natural world.

[LEARN MORE](#)

In partnership with Learning Through Landscapes, ten pilot schools will also have the chance to receive £10,000 and expert advice to create nature-rich grounds as part of their [Happy by Nature Fund](#).

Applications for the fund are open from 13 October to 9 November.



## DECARBONISATION

## Cut Your Carbon Campaign

Eco Schools is inviting people to join their month-long November campaign, Cut Your Carbon. The campaign is designed to encourage young people and their families to consider how everyday activities can generate carbon emissions and contribute to the climate crisis. The campaign is free and provides lots of resources, including a pupil checklist challenge with simple activities that can help reduce carbon emissions. At the end of the campaign, schools can use the Cut Your Carbon website to calculate the carbon savings from pupils' completed activities

[SIGN UP](#)

## Online School Uniform Marketplace

School uniforms help reduce social and economic differences, limit distractions, and foster a sense of community and school pride. However, they also carry environmental costs, from synthetic fibres and water use to textile waste. They can also be expensive for families. It's great to see more schools offering second-hand

uniform shops. If your school doesn't yet have a second-hand uniform shop, or if families need generic items, direct them to Uniformly, an award-winning online marketplace for pre-loved school uniforms.

[CLICK HERE](#)

## The Workplace Charging Scheme

State-funded schools can now apply for the Workplace Charging Scheme, offering up to 75% off the cost of purchasing and installing electric vehicle (EV) chargepoints, capped at £2,500 per socket and up to 40 sockets per institution. This grant supports schools in promoting sustainable transport and reducing emissions. Applications are open across the UK.

[READ MORE](#)



**CLIMATE  
EDUCATION**



## The Harmony Project Resources

The Harmony Project has released new, free resources on its website following a successful pilot in UK schools. These include science lesson plans for Years 1–3. These plans are inspired by nature, focused on sustainability and designed to support schools' Climate Action Plans. Harmony has also published Autumn Term Learning Overviews for Years 1–6, each centred on a key enquiry linked to a Sustainable

Development Goal. Each enquiry spans a half term, includes weekly focuses, and offers cross-curricular links and suggested sustainable actions. All resources are available under the Harmony in Practice section on the Harmony Project website

[LEARN MORE](#)

## National Union of School Students

The Students Organising for Sustainability (SOS-UK) is helping to establish a National Union of School Students to connect secondary and sixth form student councils across the UK and represent their views to government. The union will also support students in running local and national campaigns. SOS-UK is inviting teachers to complete a survey about how school councils currently operate. This will help shape how the new union is structured and functions.

[CLICK HERE](#)

## The Young Green Briton Challenge

The Young Green Briton Challenge is now open to students in Years 7–10. Whole year groups explore sustainability topics—like biodiversity, food, transport, energy, and fashion—then work in teams to design local solutions. Top ideas are brought to life, with one team per school competing for further investment and the chance to showcase their project locally and nationally. The challenge helps students deepen their understanding of climate change while building key skills.

[LEARN MORE](#)



**GREEN  
CAREERS**

## Green Careers Week

Green Careers Week celebrates jobs that support sustainability, climate action, and environmental protection. It helps students explore pathways into green industries, from renewable energy to conservation. Schools can inspire future changemakers by showcasing green roles and skills. Get involved to connect learning with real-world impact and prepare young people for a greener future.

The 3rd – 8th November is Green Careers Week.

[LEARN MORE](#)

READ MORE

## Green Careers Hub Teacher Resources

The Green Careers Hub offers free resources to help teachers introduce sustainability-focused careers. From lesson packs and job profiles to webinars and expert interviews, the site supports educators in inspiring students to explore green jobs. Visit the hub to access tools and get involved...

READ MORE

## Ministry of Eco-Education

Join the Green Careers Week Panel Discussion to explore the future of green jobs with experts from WWF, Green Britain Foundation, and more. Plus, access the Ministry of Eco-Education's free [guide to hosting Green Careers Week activities](#) in your school—packed with ideas for assemblies, tutor time, subject lessons, and community engagement. Inspire students and embed sustainability into your careers education.

The Panel Discussion will be hosted on 3rd November at 4:30pm

REGISTER



# IMPORTANT DATES



### Transport

#### Suffolk Sustainable Schools Network Meeting

Tuesday 10th March 4-5:30pm  
(online)



### 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**

**SIGN UP**



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

**SIGN UP**

# 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:

[sussn@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:sussn@suffolk.gov.uk)

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