

North West Sustainable Schools aims to encourage and support schools, organisations and Local Authorities (LAs) to work with the Sustainable Schools framework, the S3 Self Evaluation Tool for schools and the new S3+ toolkit for LAs.

This latest toolkit, the S3+, was launched in Southampton with considerable interest from LA officers in Children and Young People's Services and Environmental Services, wanting to know how the toolkit could help their authority map and help deliver Sustainable Schools. The session was an opportunity to look at the S3+ in detail, involved case studies and activities examining how Sustainable Schools helps to meet Local Area Agreements.

We wanted to take this opportunity to ask LA officers whether you thought a similar event in the north west would be useful. Please email Raichael Lock at sustainableschools@dep.org.uk if you have any comments, or go to <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools/> to see a copy of the S3+.

**See sections on News, Events, Training and Jobs.
Check out the Higher and Further Education section
on page 7 for those involved in that sector.**

News

Consultation

DCSF has been working with the Sustainable Development Commission to identify ways in which the greenhouse gas emissions from the school sector can be reduced. A consultation has been launched, and will be open through until 20 November, to gather views from schools, Local Authorities, and the many other stakeholders whose action affects the level of emissions in the sector. This is a complex and difficult task, but an urgent one if we are to play our part in reducing global emissions. If you have the time please go online at <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/> to pass your views onto the Department.

10:10

If you want to take some action please join 10:10 today. By committing to cut your emissions by 10% in 2010, you will join thousands of individuals, schools, hospitals, businesses and organisations all actively helping to combat climate change by making simple changes to their lifestyles, homes and workplaces. More importantly, your voice will help to put pressure on politicians to cut Britain's emissions as quickly as the science demands.

Go to <http://www.1010uk.org/>

Tree o'Clock ...

Saturday 5 December, 11 - 12 noon... if you want to be a record breaker...

If you are planting trees or hedges this wintertime then why not plant them at Tree o'Clock, Saturday 5 December 2009, 11am - 12 noon? Join in the BBC Breathing Places challenge to plant 1 million trees at tree o'clock, and break the world tree planting record for the most trees planted in one hour (obviously this is a multi partner multi-location effort).

Register your event at: www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces/treeoclock/pledgeform.shtml

CountDown to Copenhagen

Join CountDown to Copenhagen so your students' voices are heard. Signing up costs nothing and you'll receive a copy of the CountDown to Copenhagen starter pack, a DVD with film clips, images, case studies, activities, lesson ideas, stickers and posters, instructions for holding your own climate summit.

Help your students get to grips with the climate change debate and understand why this December's meeting in Copenhagen is THE key moment in the fight to stop runaway climate change.

Sign up for your pack now at http://www.actionaid.org.uk/index.asp?page_id=102001

Climate Change hero: Lamia's story

Lamia Akter was seven when Cyclone Sidr hit her village in November 2007. It was the worst storm to hit Bangladesh in 16 years - 4,000 people were killed, but not one from her village, Char Bangla. Watch her story to find out why.

Climate change is causing more and more extreme weather: vulnerable communities like Char Bangla need support to help them prepare. The right deal in Copenhagen will limit greenhouse gas emissions and provide support for communities like Lamia's.

<http://www.actionaid.org.uk/101117/blog.html?article=503>

A Few Small Steps

AfSL's innovative schools programme, A Few Small Steps, is launching across Greater Manchester and around the north west this September.

Delivered by sustainability mentors, education officers and trained volunteers it will provide an inspiring learning experience and effective action programme for the whole school community. Schools signing up to the project will be provided with a twelve-month support package helping staff and students to reduce energy consumption, increase recycling rates and improve their school's food culture.

A Few Small Steps is pleased to offer the first 20 schools signing up to the 2009/10 programme a 30% discount and £700 worth of energy saving light-bulbs.

To find out more about how A Few Small Steps can work with your school please contact Josh Steiner at schools@afsl.org.uk or for more general information, please visit: www.afsl.org.uk

Re-framing the great food debate: The case for sustainable food

This report by the New Economics Foundation highlights that the notion of sustainable food can serve as the basis of an agenda for action with the objective of re-orienting the food system so that its explicit objective is to enhance well-being, and as such is both fairer and greener. The proposition underlying this agenda for action is that the transition towards more sustainable food must go hand-in-hand with fundamental changes in

where and how we live and work, our family and neighbourhood interactions and consumption patterns. The report argues that overnment at all levels needs to develop and implement a coherent and integrated food policy that is directly and explicitly articulated with relevant economic, social, environmental, climate change and security policies. Specifically, a new food policy must mount a full-scale attack on 'cheap food disease' which is now endemic to the food system and which manifests itself through labour exploitation, environmental degradation and diet-related ill-health.

More from <http://www.neweconomics.org/gen/uploads>

Download from

[2unme055sn2prt2blsql5ga212082009182406.pdf](http://www.neweconomics.org/gen/uploads/2unme055sn2prt2blsql5ga212082009182406.pdf)

A new campaign, launched by the Carbon Trust

This new campaign offers students and teachers an opportunity to combat climate change by cutting the energy they use in school. The scheme could save schools and further education (FE) colleges in England with high energy bills up to £20 million on their collective energy bill each year – unlocking vital cash for extra resources for students and staff.

Alongside the cash saving, the Carbon Trust's new campaign is set to cut the carbon footprint of these schools and FE colleges in England by up to 200,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions every year – equivalent to the entire annual emissions of the City of Durham.

The Carbon Trust is calling on schools and FE colleges to save up to 20 per cent on their energy bill by adopting its easy, no and low cost energy-saving steps. For organisations with an annual energy bill of more than £50,000, the Carbon Trust is also offering a free site survey with tailored advice on how to cut energy use.

Schools and FE colleges that want to take action can benefit from free advice and support from the Carbon Trust via its advice line (0800 917 3030) and website (www.carbontrust.co.uk/schools). Advice ranges from simple changes such as turning off lighting and heating and introducing student awareness projects, through to installing energy-saving equipment, including timers and

insulation. The Carbon Trust will also provide free and practical design advice to schools as part of the government's Building Schools for the Future programme. Organisations planning large scale refurbishment or re-build projects can benefit from opportunities to become more energy-efficient.

Growing Gardens grants scheme

The Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens has launched this grants scheme which is being funded by money raised through the Blue Peter Mission Nutrition appeal.

The grants scheme aims to:

- give children a chance to learn more about where their food comes from
- create/develop gardening areas at schools (or other educational settings)
- allow children with the most need to benefit from hands-on experience of food growing

There are a limited number of small £250 grants available. These grants are intended to act as seed funds to buy tools or help develop land where children can grow their own food. The scheme is open to all, but where possible FCFCG is hoping the grants will be used to involve children who are 'disadvantaged' by reason of health, economic background or learning/physical disabilities.

The scheme is open to both schools and other educational venues, including city farms and community gardens. The scheme is UK-wide. A very simple application form is available via the FCFCG website at: www.farmgarden.org.uk/mission-nutrition

Organic fortnight, 2009

5-20 September, 2009

Organic Fortnight is a nationwide campaign highlighting all the great things about organic. Up and down the UK, people in shops, schools, cafes, churches, farms and schools will be hosting events and raising awareness about why organic is the healthy choice, the best for animal welfare and the right thing for the planet.

Why not host an organic school dinner one day during

Organic Fortnight for pupils, parents and the possibly the local community or hold an assembly about the benefits of organic food?

Email fflp@soilassociation.org us with your name and address and we'll send you our leaflet called So what's organic all about?.

We also have short films like The Adventures of Mole and One Planet Food, you can watch on our website <http://www.foodforlife.org.uk/foodtube> or use for teaching or assemblies.

Events

People and Planet First; EU leadership for a green and social strategy for post 2010

28 September, Brussels

This one-day conference will bring together civil society actors with key decision makers to discuss the new Spring Alliance manifesto. The Spring Alliance is a participatory movement that aims to ensure that the European Union puts people and the planet first, exploring how the EU can reconcile environmental, social, economic and development policies and create win-wins for people and the planet. Over the last six months, a manifesto has been created and agreed following discussion among civil society partners, and this will be launched at the conference. Keynote speakers and workshops will consider how the proposals in this manifesto can be translated into action. Speakers will include José Manuel Barroso (President of the European Commission) and, though yet to be confirmed, Maud Olofsson (Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden and Minister for Enterprise and Energy).

More at <http://www.springalliance.eu/documents>

Oxfam's Active Global Citizenship conference

19 October 2009, Manchester

Oxfam is hosting a regional conference in Manchester for young people and are inviting 25 schools across the north of England to get involved. Each school is asked to bring up to four young delegates and one teacher.

Attendance is free of charge so book your places asap. The conference is one of a series that will focus on the human impact of climate change, and the significance of the forthcoming UN climate change conference to be held in Copenhagen this December. Students will have the opportunity to learn from, and express their concerns to political decision makers, and key Oxfam policy and programme staff.

All delegates will have the opportunity to participate in four workshops on the following topics:

- Understanding the issues – Meet Oxfam staff working in developing countries affected by climate change
- Campaigning to get what you want – How to run a successful climate change campaign
- Inspiring action in your school and community – Developing an action plan to take back to your local community.
- Influencing decision makers – What's the best way to influence those in power?

Go to http://www.oxfam.org.uk/education/resources/regional_conferences/

To book your place contact Jo-Anne Witcombe, 0161 234 2793 07786660497 jwitcombe@oxfam.org.uk

Arks Apostle Action, Manchester

8 October 2009, 9.30 – 4pm Manchester Cathedral

The Archbishop of York is commissioning Green Apostles and in the lead up to Copenhagen the aim is to green up the churches. This event is for clergy and Wardens, Church school governors, teachers and pupils, congregations and communities:

- learn from young people about energy auditing
- hear from Mark Dowd of Operation Noah
- develop networks of environmental support
- respond in worship to participate in the care of creation.

To be involved contact John Hughes 0161 872 0500, or john_dhughes@yahoo.co.uk

Cheshire and Warrington Sustainable Schools conference 2009

12 November 2009, 9.30am – 3.30pm

This years annual conference will be held at Crewe Alexandra Football Club (a locally sourced hot buffet lunch is provided). The event will feature both national and local keynote speakers on Sustainable Schools. There will be the opportunity to gain practical ideas from workshops on:

- Growing food in you grounds/Allotments
- Energy awareness and management
- Sustainable Community Leadership
- School transport
- Recycling
- Eco Schools

The conference is suitable for teachers, headteachers, governors and teaching assistants, providing a wealth of ideas on how to improve the sustainability of your school.

To book your place contact Stefania Isbell, Cheshire West & Chester Council, tel 01244 402287, email stefania.isbell@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk Places cost £20 per person for the day and will be booked on a first come, first served basis.

Training

Courses from Environmental Trainers Network

Cross curricular minibeasts

23 September, The Arboretum Trust, York

Join us on this one day event and enter the amazing world of minibeasts! Gain confidence in collecting, handling and identifying minibeasts. Learn where to look for different creatures and how to create habitats to attract minibeasts. Experience how working outdoors can be used to enhance the delivery of the National Curriculum and gain hands-on experience in a wide variety of cross-curricular minibeast activities you could use with schools or community groups. This event is suitable for Key Stage 1, 2 & 3 teachers and teaching assistants in primary, secondary, special and independent schools, community group leaders, youth

workers, and organisations working with schools to encourage out of the classroom learning. No previous experience of outdoor learning is required.

For further details contact

<http://shop.btcv.org.uk/shop/level3/557/stock/7305>

Education outside the classroom

1 October, Birmingham

Launched in November 2006, the Learning Outside the Classroom manifesto aims to set out a shared vision for out-of-the-classroom learning that schools, youth groups, local authorities and other providers can sign up to, underpinned by practical actions. This event will look at the barriers to out of classroom learning, including Child Welfare and Safety issues and how these might be overcome. It will also look at the opportunities for partnerships between schools, youth groups and other providers to support Learning Outside the Classroom and links with other initiatives, including Extended Schools, Every Child Matters, Youth Matters and the DCSF Sustainable Schools Action Plan. This event will be of interest to those working with schools to encourage out of the classroom learning.

For further details go to <http://shop.btcv.org.uk/shop/level3/557/stock/7313>

Philosophy for Children (P4C) Level 1 accredited course

6 and 7 October 2009, YHA Manchester. Cost: £250

Through active workshops participants will:

- learn practical ways of developing good thinking, questioning and communication skills in the learning environment
- discover how to develop the potential of their class as a community of philosophical enquiry
- have experience of P4C as a participant, and be able to reflect on its process and effects.

This two day course, hosted by Cumbria DEC, will give the basic qualification in P4C, an approach to teaching and learning developed over the past 30 years.

For further information please visit www.cdec.org.uk or telephone 015394 30231.

SEEd Facilitation for Sustainability

1 and 2 October in London, plus eight weeks online learning and follow-up 1 and 2 December 2009

Sustainability requires us to live and work differently and this involves social learning in facilitated groups where new ideas and practices can be created together.

This facilitation course is about being able to run creative facilitated events and workshops that help people develop new ideas that they can sustain by engaging in a learning process. It is designed for teachers, educators, local authority staff, NGO staff and environment / sustainability champions in all organisations.

You may be finding yourself grappling with the need to make personal and organisational changes that are intended to lead towards a more sustainable future. But how do you engage others in this?

As a pioneer or champion you may be working in isolation but know you need to engage other groups to work effectively for change. You can't do it on your own! This course shows you how!

Provisionally there will be two days of experiential learning held in South Kensington, London on 1 and 2 October with eight weeks of subsequent action learning utilising continuous online support. This will be followed by two days of follow up experiential learning held again in London on 1 and 2 December.

More information <http://www.se-ed.org.uk/events/facilitation-for-sustainability.html> or download the guide http://www.se-ed.org.uk/resources/SEEd_Facilitation_for_Sustainability.pdf

Alternatively please contact Michael Cutts on michaelcutts@se-ed.org.uk

Organic Farm School: Learn a new skill!

The Soil Association's Organic Farm School, supported by the Daylesford Foundation, is a series of over 300 hands-on courses in growing your own food, rearing animals, cooking and rural crafts, to run over the next two years.

The courses provide the opportunity to learn practical skills from organic farmers with personal experience.

The Organic Farm School offers courses for all levels - from a one-day basic introduction to more professional expertise.

Discover for yourself the precious knowledge our grandparents took for granted, and the life-enriching experience of a closer connection with the soil.

These courses may be of help for teachers and parents if you are considering growing produce or keeping livestock, eg chickens, in the school grounds.

For information and to book online, visit <http://www.soilassociation.org/Takeaction/Learning/Organicfarmschool/tabid/239/Default.aspx>

Education for Sustainable Development training days

October and November, Centre for Alternative Technology, Machynlleth

Day course fees are £70 including lunch and refreshments. The residential course fee is £350 (concessionary rates £240/ £180).

- 16 October - ESD(GC) for Mathematics teachers
- 23 October - ESD(GC) for Humanities teachers
- 26-28 October - Teaching Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship, residential course
- 2 November - ESD(GC) for Science
- 3 November - ESD(GC) for Arts and Languages teachers
- 4 November - ESD(GC) for D&T teachers
- 9 November - ESD(GC) for PSE teachers

These courses are suitable for teachers from across the UK. Staff from the Centre can also visit schools or colleges to provide staff training and CPD sessions.

Contact Anita Schwartz education@cat.org.uk, where you can also subscribe to email/eflyer updates, or by phone on 01654 705983.

Closing Loops, Opening Minds: Educating for a greener future

2-6 November 2009, Schumacher College, Dartington
Teachers: Ken Webster, Blake Bower, Craig Johnson
Climate change meets the recession and energy

resource limits. A low carbon future is promised. How do we educate for sustainability, beyond the personal responsibility context? Which frameworks for thinking will most assist schools, colleges and young people to find their place in an era of transition?

This course will help participants to look at the sustainability challenges in the context of education and within a wider world view. Participants will have the chance to explore existing dynamic models that can be of use in transforming ESD (education for sustainable development) practices. This is an opportunity for participants to undertake inquiry into their own practice which they can take back and use within their educational community.

The course is intended for: ESD coordinators, eco-schools coordinators, curriculum deputies, trainers and middle management in schools, further education and higher education, as well as those who work with these institutions.

To book, visit:

www.schumachercollege.org.uk/courses/closing-loops-opening-minds-educating-for-a-greener-future.

Philosophy For Children level 1

9-10 November 2009, Burnley

Lancashire Global Education Centre are offering a two-day Philosophy For Children level 1 training course, fully accredited by SAPERE, to be held at the Burnley and Pendle Faith Centre in Burnley.

Through active workshops participants will:

- Learn practical ways of developing good thinking, questioning and communication skills in the learning environment
- Discover how to develop the potential of their class as a 'community of philosophical enquiry'
- Have experience of P4C as a participant, and be able to reflect on its process and effects.

This training event is aimed at both primary and secondary teachers. For further

information visit www.lgec.org.uk/main/training/ or email training@lgec.org.uk.

Higher and Further Education

ESRC research - Coordination needed to support Green Fingereed youths

Young people working on conservation projects are often coerced into 'grunt' activities like digging holes or picking up litter and gain little from environmental volunteering, according to research at the University of Exeter. This project, which was funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), found that many young volunteers travelled long distances from cities to short-term projects in rural areas and felt they were being punished for being disruptive or naughty at school. They saw the conservation work as having no relevance to their future employment, or educating them on green issues. 'The problem lies in the mismatch between youth services and environmental education,' says Dr Michael Leyshon, who led the project. 'Environmental conservation is largely organised by people with a background in environmental science, but no training in youth work and youth workers have no training in conservation.

The result is that young people and the environment both lose out. We need more coordination in the voluntary sector and an effective interface with youth services.' Dr Leyshon acknowledges that many young people do volunteer because they are enthusiastic about conservation, but he says that environmental skills should not be seen in isolation. 'There is a need for more certificated courses, in a variety of 'rural' skills, such as those run by the National Trust. But we also need to think more holistically, and try to connect skills-building with supporting local transport, training and business support as part of an overall regeneration policy.' The report says that properly managed volunteer work in conservation could offer young people the opportunity to live and work locally. Latest figures suggest that each year 100,000 young people are leaving rural areas of England.

More... (http://www.esrc.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/PO/releases/2009/august/green_fingereed_youths.aspx).

SORTED launches new website

The Sustainability Online Resource and Toolkit for Education aims to help staff in further education and work-based learning understand sustainability and how it relates to their organisations. Funded by the Learning Skills Council (LSC) and managed by the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC), SORTED is the one-stop-shop for sustainability issues in further and higher education.

The website has been developed following a detailed review of its content and structure based on user evaluation. As a result, SORTED has been completely rewritten, restructured and simplified.

SORTED covers issues for the sector across the UK, such as Ofsted's new inclusion of sustainable development in inspections and the upcoming Carbon Reduction Commitment and carbon reduction targets.

To view news, case studies and guidance material visit www.eauc.org.uk/sorted/home.

Contact Helen Exton, 01242 714321, hexton@eauc.org.uk

Sustainable Skills project

Lancashire Global Education Centre (LGEC) announces a new three-year. This project is working with colleges in the North West to support tutors in embedding the concepts of Sustainable Development into the teaching of four vocational courses. LGEC is working closely with two partner colleges to provide training and to develop contextualised activities, which will be distributed to colleges throughout the region later in the project. Additionally, LGEC is establishing a sustainable development network for tutors, administrators, and facilities directors at North West colleges. To learn more about the FE sustainable development network, register your interest at <http://www.lgec.org.uk/main/?p=subscribe> (Be sure to check the box for further education!). For more information about the project, email brian.johnson@lgec.org.uk.

Jobs

EMERGE Recycling

EMERGE Recycling is a Manchester based social enterprise promoting the ideas and practice of the 3Rs: Reduce, Re-use, Recycle. They collect recyclable materials from businesses and schools across Manchester.

They are looking to employ an enthusiastic person with experience of delivering workshops to school children. Environmental awareness is essential for this role. They will promote EMERGE and sustainable waste management to the wider community through the delivery of 3Rs waste education in primary schools and some secondary schools in the Manchester area.

The successful applicant will be required to work two days a week, within school term time until 01/04/10, subject to further funding.

The deadline for applications is 12 noon, 21 September 2009. Email applications to realskills@emergemanchester.co.uk or by post to Units E1-E4, New Smithfield Market, Openshaw, M11 2WJ.

References will be required.

Interviews will be held on the 24 and 25 September 2009 and the projected start date is 28 September 2009.