

Dear subscribers

The Summer term is here again and we hope you find this term's newsletter useful. As usual there are lots of training opportunities and conferences to attend. Thank you to everyone for forwarding your information.

Given the potential changes we all face, whether within the economic sphere, and it would seem more than likely from government, it should be an interesting period ahead. No doubt we will have challenges, and hopefully lots of opportunities, in our work towards creating a more sustainable future.

Best wishes, Raichael

See sections on News, Events, Training, Publications and Resources for schools.

Check out the Higher and Further Education section on pages 7 and 8 for those involved in that sector.

News

Oxfam's Youth Board

Oxfam is looking for people aged 16-18 to join their North West Youth Board in Manchester. Determined, passionate and full of ideas, you'll play a key part in developing fun campaigning projects aimed at making a fairer world possible.

Young people who are interested don't need to know anything about campaigning already. They just need the enthusiasm to learn about it, and the get-up-and-go to put ideas into action.

Please pass this on so that young people can find out more and get an insider's experience of a big UK charity, the chance to meet like-minded people, and the opportunity to sharpen skills in communication and teamwork. Apply via www.oxfam.org.uk/youthboard by Sunday 2 May 2010.

Contact Jo-Anne Witcombe, Oxfam's Regional Youth and Schools Campaigner on 0161 234 2793, 07786660497 or email jwitcombe@oxfam.org.uk.

Evidence of the impact of sustainable schools

Evidence of the impact of sustainable schools is supported by growing research, policy, and practitioner literature, in the main from the UK but also internationally. Multiple sources of evidence now show that being a sustainable school raises standards and enhances well-being.

The publication sets out the educational and social benefits to young people of learning in a sustainable school. It is written for leadership teams in primary and secondary schools and other educational settings across England. Under five themes, it sets out 15 top tips based on the impact of sustainable schools and education for sustainable development on school improvement and young people's well-being as defined by Every Child Matters outcomes. It is hoped these will be useful in the context of schools striving to enable learners to become successful, confident individuals, and responsible, caring citizens.

More information from http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools/about/about_detail.cfm?id=213&levelselected=3.

A carbon management strategy for the school sector

A carbon management strategy for the school sector has been issued by DCSF. It is the first document of its kind, and seeks to provide a roadmap by which those working and studying within the school sector can begin to radically reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases from schools and school-related activity. It builds on the 2009 carbon reduction options consultation and DCSF is grateful to all those who responded.

The strategy is not just about what the Government will do: it sets out proposals for what local authorities, schools and others can do to reduce emissions, reflecting the fact that action is required by all those working in the sector.

For more information go to <http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-00366-2010&>.

Zero Carbon Task Force

The DCSF appointed a task force in 2008 to advise on how new school buildings can be zero carbon by 2016. Their work came to an end with the production of their final report.

On 28 January, Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families Ed Balls set out a plan of action to help schools join the fight against climate change — and at the same time save money. This news came as the Government accepted the recommendations included in the ZCTF's final report, published on the same day. This report includes recommendations on how and when zero-carbon schools can be built, as well as advice on the potential to reduce carbon emissions in existing schools, including measures taken as part of refurbishment. Ministers have thanked the task force for their invaluable contribution.

The full report, which also includes an implementation plan detailing how the recommendations should be taken forward by the Department and other key stakeholders such as Partnerships for Schools and Becta, can be found at <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/resourcesfinanceandbuilding/schoolbuildings/sustainability/zerocarbon/>.

Green Day 2010

CABE's Green Day on 4 June is an event for primary and secondary schools and aims to help make schools more sustainable. It's a fun way to learn serious lessons about the connections between climate change and the places we live and learn. CABE (Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment) hopes that over 1000 schools will take part in Green Day 2010.

Green Day is for pupils in Key Stages 1, 2 and 3. It launches on 4 June and schools can timetable their event any time in the following month. To support the delivery of this project, CABE publishes a free teachers' activity kit that includes over 100 curriculum-linked lesson ideas.

CABE is also running 16 free half-day training workshops in various locations. These will help school staff to plan an event and to develop their own confidence to make changes to the way their school runs, helping to improve its sustainability. Online training is also available on the CABE website from the end of March.

To find out more, download resources or to see how Green Day ran in 2008 and 2009, visit the Green Day section of the CABE website at <http://www.cabe.org.uk>. If you would like to hold a Green Day in 2010, follow the link on the website to register your interest and book a place on a training workshop.

News for Cumbria Schools

Resource Cumbria would like local schools to help them to share the valuable eco-knowledge they have gained. They want students to donate hints, tips and recommendations which have helped to make schools that little bit greener.

They don't mind how large scale they are - it could be an account of a school's new wind turbine or just a suggestion to use old Christmas cards in arts and crafts lessons. And they don't mind who they come from - they'll take suggestions from primary and secondary schools, independent or state.

All they ask is you give the student's name and age to put next to the tip and, if possible, a digital image or illustration to go with it. They'll upload the best ones we receive to this website.

Send your sustainable school tips by using the online form. You can complete and return your form electronically or you can print it off and post it to the address below. Any digital images should be emailed to ian.garrow@cumbriacc.gov.uk.

Ian Garrow, Senior Waste Education Officer, Cumbria County Council, Barras Lane, Dalston, Carlisle CA5 7NY.

Training

Climate Change: Strategies for use in the classroom

This free course on Thursday 27 May 2010 in Chester, 9.30am – 3.00pm, will start to equip educators with the knowledge and skills to effectively teach about climate change in schools and colleges. It will explore the evidence for climate change, analyse different viewpoints and make links between science and society, whilst introducing methodology suitable to investigating complex controversial issues with pupils.

The course has been developed by Manchester Development Education Project and Science Learning Centre NW, funded by the North West Development Agency

To ensure your place please book by 4 May by email to info@cheshiredec.org or phone 01244 347880. A course flyer can be downloaded from www.dep.org.uk/news.

Learning Outside the Classroom, Inspiring Farm Visits

Run by (FACE) at Cobblehey Gardens, Garstang on Tuesday 27 April. Come and find out how farm visits can bring learning to life in a safe and inspiring way. Cobble Hey Farm Gardens is run by Edwina, a secondary teacher, who understands what teachers want out of a visit in terms of safety, curriculum links and value for money. Tour the farm and gardens, discuss curriculum ideas and pick up resources. Future sessions include School Grounds on 19 May, Forest Schools on 3 June and the Global Dimension on 6 July.

If you book three or more you'll get a 10% discount. To book or for more details please contact Leanne at Irimmer@lancswt.org.uk or phone 01772 752930.

The World From Our Doorstep

This twilight session, held at Low Furness CE School, near Ulverston on 5 May is bursting with ideas for taking learning outdoors. The course investigates practical ways of taking learning outside and shows how through stories, play and experiential learning children can explore links between ourselves, our environment and

the wider world. Course links include EYFS curriculum, Sustainable Schools, Community Cohesion and LOtC.

The course will be of particular interest to those working within Foundation Stage and KS1.

For further information contact Claire on 015394 30231, email office@cdec.org.uk or visit www.cdec.org.uk.

The Global Outdoor Classroom

The course, aimed primarily at Key Stage 2 practitioners, is a one day course providing ideas, inspiration, confidence and a resource pack to draw on the urban and rural outdoor environment as a stimulus for global education. The course is linked with the Sustainable Schools agenda and Every Child Matters. The course will be held on 16 June at the Crosthwaite Centre, Keswick.

For further information contact Claire on 015394 30231, email office@cdec.org.uk or visit www.cdec.org.uk.

The P2P Project: Poverty and climate change

Key Stage 3 Citizenship teachers are invited to join a free training opportunity relating to the citizenship curriculum at KS3 offered by Cumbria Development Education Centre (CDEC) and the Field Studies Council. We will work with 50 schools across Cumbria and the north west, selected on a first come basis. You will attend a training day in summer term 2010 and we will give you materials relating to the two challenge packs Climate Change and Economy and Biodiversity and Poverty. Each pack contains resources and guidance for five lessons. In return you will trial the challenge packs with students and you will also take part in a student conference in March 2011. You would also be entitled to some in-school support from the project team as part of this offer.

For further information about this great opportunity please contact beki@cdec.org.uk.

Environmental Trainers Network

Working with schools and communities on climate and energy, 28 April, Manchester.

There is ever increasing concern about climate change - its potential impacts and what we can do about it. There

is also growing interest in actions to promote energy efficiency, affordable warmth and the use of renewable energy. This event will explore approaches to teaching and learning about these issues and how schools might work together with the community, voluntary sector, local authorities and business to explore these challenges and opportunities in the wider context of sustainable development – and also the potential for developing practical community based responses. The event will be of interest to teachers, local authority and voluntary sector officers either engaged or interested in working with schools and the community on these issues.

Enhancing sites for natural play, 13 May, Birmingham

This event will explore the process of enhancing sites for children's natural play in parks, country parks, heritage sites, school grounds, play areas and other open spaces. It will examine current research on natural play and introduce techniques for the design process, focusing on using natural elements to provide informal opportunities for play rather than on designing formal play spaces and play equipment. The event will be of interest to environmental and countryside staff and volunteers who have responsibility for or who are involved in sites and similar facilities that could be enhanced naturally to provide innovative play opportunities. This may include countryside officers, millennium green staff, community forest staff, rangers, urban rangers, play workers, play development workers, landscape architects and planners, teachers wishing to enhance school grounds provision.

A creative approach to environmental education, 19 May 2010, Manchester

Combining environmental discovery with creativity, this event includes a range of innovative activities to enrich your education sessions and reinforce your message. You will also have the opportunity to try out simple (craft based) ways to encourage the groups you work with to find a new understanding of the world around them. The day will feature ways in which you can link in to aspects of the National Curriculum other than science and geography, for example literacy and drama. The activities covered during the day can be adapted for work with any age group on the whole.

The event is designed for anyone involved in environmental education; it will provide new practitioners with ideas and confidence, and will give those who are more experienced some refreshing new approaches to enhance the work they already do.

For further details or to book a place on the events go to <http://shop.btcv.org.uk/shop/level3/557/stock/7647>.

Fees for one day events: voluntary organisations £110 + VAT, local authorities, statutory and other non-voluntary organisations £165 + VAT.

All course fees include lunch and refreshments.

Events

Children's Sustainability Conference

Primary schools in Lancashire are invited to send 4 - 6 pupil delegates (from Y4 and Y5) to this free children's sustainability conference on Friday 21 May 2010 at Chipping Village Hall and Brabin's Endowed School, 9.45-2.30pm. There will be a presentation by the pupils of St Michael's on Wyre CE School (winners of Lancashire Green Awards).

There will be workshops for both children and adults delivered by Bowland Forest AONB, Brabin's Endowed School, F.A.C.E., Global Renewables Lancashire, Groundwork, Lancashire Global Education Centre, Lancashire Travel Plan, Lancashire Wildlife Trust and lots more.

Contact head@brabins.lancs.sch.uk for more information.

National Sustainable Schools conferences 2010

This year's national Sustainable Schools conference from SEEd, DCSF and WWF-UK is being held at four venues across the country; on 4 June at Losehill Hall, in the Peak District; 8 June at the Life Science Centre in Newcastle; 18 June at the Wellcome Exhibition Centre in London, 25 June at the Pavilion Centre at Bristol Zoo.

The keynote speaker at Losehill Hall is Dr David Dixon.

The conference workshops will be interactive and participatory and the themes have been specially designed to demonstrate the National Framework for

Sustainable Schools, help you plan to achieve the Sustainable Schools national target of 2020 and highlight new guidelines for Local Authorities to support Sustainable Schools, including the Carbon Reduction commitment.

For further information for all the conferences please go to http://www.se-ed.org.uk/conference2010/resources/NSSC_Supporting_Information2010_COVER.pdf.

Resilience, Engagement, Future Employment workshop

An Action for Children workshop on 29 April, Warrington, for the Sustainable Development Commission.

A regional workshop in late April concerned with achieving practical outcomes for young people from sustainable development. This is an important area of work for the whole youth sector in both commissioning and practitioner roles.

The workshop will share current best practice tools from a range of settings in work with young people aged 14-19 and focus also on sustaining the environment and community.

You will also hear learning from a research project undertaken by Action for Children on behalf of the Government's Sustainable Development Commission.

For a description of the workshop, and a booking form please contact mariam.akhtar@actionforchildren.org.uk.

Building Greener Schools

Greenbuild Expo, 26 - 27 May 2010 at Manchester Central (formerly GMex).

Focusing on the opportunities of the biggest ever school rebuilding and modernisation programme, Building Greener Schools is new for Greenbuild Expo 2010, created to promote sustainable construction in the education sector. Building Greener Schools will have its own section of the exhibition, with a specialised conference programme looking at Building Schools for the Future projects. Topics will include zero carbon schools, sustainable school design, BREEAM Education, green roofing and post-construction monitoring.

For more information about the event and to book go to: <http://www.greenbuildexpo.co.uk/>.

The World Outside the Classroom

This conference runs from 9 June to 1 July and will inspire teachers, designers, artists, educationalists – in fact all those interested in helping children get the best possible experiences from their grounds. Day one will be full of practical, outdoor experiences at the internationally renowned Coombes Primary School.

On day two participants will be able to visit innovative schools in the south east of England to see how they make the most of their grounds. Day three will be a celebration of school grounds around the world as speakers from Europe, the Americas and Australasia tell us about what is happening in their part of the globe. Delegates may participate for one, two or three days. For more information and booking details visit www.ltl.org.uk.

Embracing Outdoor Learning

Friday 11 June Ragley Hall, Alcester, Warwickshire.

This is a one day conference focusing on the positive impact outdoor learning has on children and practitioners using Forest Schools as an ideal model to ensure it is fun and a positive experience for all.

There will be expert speakers - Marjorie Ouvry, Christina Dee and Jane Williams-Sieghfredson, and a choice of workshops including an introduction to Forest Schools and advanced skills for Forest Schools leaders, Flora and fauna considerations in developing your outdoor learning, Putting outdoor learning into practice and Outdoor learning in Denmark.

Cost £180 plus VAT to include lunch and refreshments. For further information go to Forest School Learning Initiative and email fsl@hotmail.co.uk.

Switching on to the World: engaging pupils in their learning

27 May 2010 9.30 – 4.30 The Global Conference Centre, Watson Street, Oswaldtwistle, Lancs.

A conference to celebrate and share the activities, methodologies and issues used by Lancashire schools involved in the LGEC's project Engaging the disengaged through Development Education. For more information phone Matthew on 01772 252299.

Resources

Into Hot Water!

Groundwork Pennine and Lancashire have this new workshop on offer. Rising temperatures and greenhouse gases are changing the planet that we live on. Join us on a journey through the water cycle and discover how climate change is increasing evaporation and rainfall, melting ice-caps, affecting our drinking water, and increasing sea levels.

It covers the Sustainable Schools Doorways Energy and Water and Global Citizenship

This workshop is also available at Key Stage 3.

By booking this workshop you can win £1000 as you will be eligible to enter the Cool Climate Challenge. To find out more and how to enter go to our Competition pages. Entries must be in by the 30th of September 2010.

Shocking the Earth!

Shocking the Earth! is another workshop offered by Groundwork Pennine and Lancashire. Climate change is the biggest threat our society has ever faced. Higher temperatures, rising sea levels, flooding and droughts are already a cause for concern both locally and globally.

Explore the concept of global warming, discover how your everyday activities contribute to climate change, find out how you can take action to help slow climate change, and spread the word about the positive changes we can all take.

It covers the Sustainable Schools Doorways Energy and Water and Global Citizenship

This workshop is also available at Key Stage 3.

If you are interested in booking or finding out more about any of the workshops please contact:

Suzi McPherson, Education and Training Manager

Phone: 01254 669 057 / 01254 265 163 / 07939 524 793

Email: suzi.mcpherson@groundwork.org.uk.

Water, water everywhere...

Konflux Theatre Company have been working on a tour with Severn Trent Water on a brand new environmental based Play in a Day workshop called Water Water –

Everywhere. This new Play in a Day has been touring throughout the spring term.

The script explores water efficiency in general, particularly focusing on FOG (fats, oils and greases) and what to bin, rather than flush down the toilet! Water, Water – Everywhere is a very funny script - ending with a humorous and visually fantastic piece of drama produced by the students at the end of the school day.

Play in a Day is an effective way of empowering a group of children or young people by giving them the tools to absorb, understand and share key messages about important issues such as the environment. These themes are approached in a fun and humorous way giving children and young people the chance to enjoy what they are learning. This experiential approach means that the learning stays with the participants long after the event. Play in a Day gives the participants the chance to perform for peers in the school, and also parents, sharing the messages for an audience to take home.

For more information contact Rebecca Freeman, Konflux Theatre in Education on 01904 611355 or 01904 672357 or email rebecca@konfluxtheatre.co.uk. For further information go to www.konfluxtheatre.com.

All about food

A brand new Growing Schools resource for early years practitioners, packed with information and ideas for activities and visits for young children, all linked to growing, eating and exploring food.

Visit <http://www.growingschools.org.uk/earlyyears>.

RSPB Wild Square

Find out more about the wildlife in a kilometre square near your school through a variety of activities and surveys, then add your discoveries to a national, online database.

To read more go to <http://www.rspb.org.uk/wildsquare>.

School Global Gardens Network

A global garden is designed to minimise its environmental impact in a world facing climate change and increased demand for limited resources such as

water and oil. The website has links to a cornucopia of resources to help you use your school garden to explore global issues.

Read more at <http://www.risc.org.uk/gardens/globalgardens.php>.

Foodshare

The Foodshare Growing to Give project is encouraging every school in the UK and around the world to create a Foodshare Bed and grow fresh produce for a local charity. The Growing to Give project originally started as an idea at Milton Primary School in Cambridgeshire.

The children decided to create a Foodshare Bed on their school allotment to grow for the children at the Milton Hospice half a mile away. The school will be setting up a Donation Station for parents to bring surplus produce from their garden too.

Read more at <http://www.foodshare.co.uk/school>.

Beagle Project

Join a Europe-wide scientific research project by monitoring seasonal changes in your local trees. A detailed teachers' guide, ideas for linked activities and identification resources are all available on the website <http://www.beagleproject.org>.

Potatos for Schools new website

Grow Your Own Potatos, organised by the Potato Council, has a new website for primary school teachers. www.potatoesforschools.org.uk.

The website is now easier to use and features downloadable resources including worksheets, PowerPoint presentations and factsheets. In addition, videos, recipes, games and colouring sheets provide interactive ideas for classroom activities. The Potato Council has also produced a downloadable teachers' guide, which includes 12 lesson plans for Key Stages 1 and 2.

Fruit-Full Schools

This new, four-year programme from Learning Through Landscapes will enable schools to establish heritage fruit orchards within their school rounds in partnership with their local communities. It aims to stimulate children's

knowledge of the UK's rich fruit culture engaging them in hands-on learning about the benefits of local fruit.

65,000 children will run and take part in cultural festivals such as Wassailing and Apple Day and schools will also be able to share experiences and access learning resources through Learning through Landscapes' interactive site, the Core, which will include details of all the Fruit-Full Schools' activities.

To find out more email fruitfullschools@ltl.org.uk, email fruitfullschools@ltl.org.uk or call 0208 850 3112.

FE

NIACE's new ESD tools

NIACE ran regional seminars on ESD in November/December 2009, where participants identified a number of key tools that were urgently needed to support the sector to take forward ESD. NIACE were asked by the LSC to work with Adult Community Learning and Third Sector learning providers to develop the following resources:

- an audit tool;
- example structure and content for an organisational ESD strategy and action plan;
- example structure and content for a curriculum strategy for ESD;
- a template to support curriculum managers and tutors to embed ESD in the curriculum.

A working group met in January to design the draft tools and throughout February and March they were trialed by providers across the sector. The final tools are now ready and available to download from the Excellence Gateway ESD Workroom at <http://www.excellencegateway.org.uk/>

and a new workspace has been created - ESD Tools.

They have also produced a list of useful websites, compiled from the findings of desk research and suggestions from project partners and participants in the regional ESD seminars. The links cover a wide range of types of materials and sectors. Not all relate directly to adult learning and skills, but they are included because they contain materials that can be adapted for specific purposes, eg schools resources to support Family

Learning, materials from other sectors that can support embedding ESD in the curriculum.

HE

Tomorrow's Sustainable Universities

A conference at the University of Bradford, 15-16 July, focusing on current experience and future challenges and opportunities this unique, free, event will examine current best practice in achieving institution-wide sustainability in higher education; and consider the challenge of achieving even more - for example, HEFCE's target of an 80% reduction in sector carbon emissions by 2050, compared to 1990 - in the light of likely changes in funding models, student expectations, and technology and other innovation opportunities.

It is being organised by the University of Bradford's Ecoversity initiative, in collaboration with the Higher Education Academy (HEA) and the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE). Their UK experience will be supplemented by inputs from North America, and the global experience of several UNESCO collaborators.

The key topics - which will be addressed within a variety of ways during the event - will be:

- Leadership - what are the required roles and competences of institutional (eg PVCs, Directors), academic (eg Deans, Heads of Department) and other leaders in driving sustainability within institutions? Are these common to all universities and colleges, and the same as those required to drive any kind of change within higher education?
- Campus - is a more virtual higher education model the most sustainable one, by reducing building and travel requirements, and supporting increased inclusion both within the UK and internationally?
- Curriculum - how can sustainability best be embedded in curricula on a faculty- or institution-wide basis?
- People - how can engaged staff and student communities be created and maintained, especially during times of economic difficulty and consequent pressures on time and trade-offs with other objectives such as employability?

For more information and booking go to <http://www.brad.ac.uk/sustainable-universities/>.