

Dear subscribers,

Firstly, we'd like to wish you all a happy and sustainable 2010!

Hopefully this issue will inspire some new activity – there are lots of events and training opportunities this Spring, and lots of new and interesting publications around our agenda, including Ofsted's latest offering 'ESD – improving schools, improving lives' and papers from the National College about Sustainable Schools leadership.

NW Sustainable Schools is putting on three Sustainable Schools conferences this Spring: 'Leading the whole school curriculum' is in Cumbria on 1 March; the 'Leading Sustainable Schools conference' for Greater Manchester schools is on 22 March, with a conference for Merseyside to be confirmed soon. For further details for any of these events please don't hesitate to contact us.

Best wishes, Raichael Lock [0161 273 8881, 07515 019284, sustainableschools@dep.org.uk]

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

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

News

Sustainable Schools Teaching Award

Do you know a school that is making outstanding progress in becoming a Sustainable School? If so nominate them for the Sustainable Schools Teaching Award and help give the staff, governors, pupils and community the recognition they deserve.

The DCSF (Department of Children, Schools and Families) Teaching Awards are open to every education establishment in England, Wales and Northern Ireland teaching pupils between the ages of three and 18.

Make your nomination online, for this and all other categories, by 1 March, by visiting the website www.teachingawards.com/home.ukml.

Learning Outside the Classroom

The Council for Learning Outside the Classroom has launched a membership scheme and is inviting individuals and organisations with an interest in LOfC to support its aims by taking up membership.

For an application pack email enquiries@lotc.org.uk.

Free educational trips and materials for schools

FACE, Growing Schools and Learning through Landscapes are pleased to announce their new partnership with Reciproc8™ Recycling.

Reciproc8™ is a recycling company that provides free products and experiences to schools and education organisations throughout the UK. The products include:

- growing and planting range – seeds, vegetables, plants, trees and much more
- husbandry range – hen houses, nesting boxes, hibernation houses and much more
- gardening equipment – a range of tools for children and adults
- outdoor furniture – including compost bins, raised beds, tables and benches

The experiences include:

- visits to venues such as field study and adventure activity centres, museums, historic houses, places of worship and many more
- free transport to these locations and others
- courses on the RHS Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Programme

Further information on the schemes is available at www.reciproc8.co.uk, or phone 0845 194 8288.

Events

Salford Eco-Schools Forum

This forum on Thursday 4 February 2010, 9.30 - 3.00pm at Buile Hill Park Hall, Eccles Old Road, Salford, M6 8GL is aimed at Salford teachers, support staff, governors, parents, and early years support staff. There are a range of exciting workshops to choose from.

To book please phone 0161 922 7351 or email environmentaleducation@salford.gov.uk.

Involving children and young people in policy and practice solutions for a sustainable and climate smart future

The National Children's Bureau is running a free workshop at Penwortham Environmental Education Centre, Preston, on 9 February 2010, 10 – 2 pm, on the theme of involving children and young people in sustainable living and climate change agendas. The aim is to understand children's and young peoples' concerns, gain knowledge of the national context, share good practice and information on further support.

Contact Liz Zachary at lzachery@ncb.org.uk or call 0207 8436330 for further information.

Inspiring Learners, Supporting Teachers: A practical approach to the curriculum

Recent curriculum reforms are intended to offer schools greater flexibility to tailor teaching and learning to meet the needs, capabilities and aspirations of learners. The reforms give greater freedom to innovate and support thematic and cross curriculum approaches. This conference will look at the practical steps that schools can take to design and deliver an inspiring curriculum.

The event, on 11 February 2010 at the ICC, Birmingham, will draw on examples of how the global dimension and sustainability, enterprise, pupil wellbeing, community cohesion, creativity and critical thinking have been developed and embedded across the curriculum.

Speakers include:

Mick Waters, Professor of Education, University of Wolverhampton; and President, The Curriculum Foundation;

Helen Williams, Director of School Curriculum and Pupil Wellbeing, DCSF;

Chris Tweedale, Director of Children, Young People and School Effectiveness Group, Welsh Assembly;

Jane Joyner, HMI, Ofsted;

Chris Keates, General Secretary, NASUWT.

Book online at: www.nasuwt.org.uk, email conferencesandevents@mail.nasuwt.org.uk or phone 0121 453 6150.

Going Up, Growing Up: A conference on easing primary to secondary school transition

An event in Manchester on 25 February, 10 - 4 pm, for transition coordinators, school leaders and others involved in transition from primary to secondary school.

The event, which costs £45 per delegate, will give practical ideas of how to use the global dimension and peer education to ease transition; disseminate the findings from a three year project; through best practice enable schools and staff to share experiences in developing successful transition strategies; explore how transition can enhance links to the Community Cohesion and Sustainable Schools agendas, and to the Every Child Matters outcomes. The new teacher handbook *Peer Education for the Global Dimension - a tool for transition* will be launched.

For more information email events@dep.org.uk, phone 0161 921 8020 or visit the DEP website to download a booking form: www.dep.org.uk.

Sustaining urban green spaces

What do you want from your green spaces?

This conference, on Saturday 20 March 2010 at Norris Bank Primary School, Green Lane, Stockport SK4 2NF, 9.30 – 4.00pm, is an unique opportunity to be inspired by some of the leading figures making a difference to our urban green spaces.

The cost is £10 entrance by advance booking. Proceeds go towards the food and growing project at the school. To become a delegate email: jane@janesebire.com or contact the school office.

Contributors include Nigel Dunnett, Sheffield University,

RHS Chelsea Flower show winner in 2009 who demonstrated ways of future-proofing our gardens; Richard Scott from Landlife, Liverpool, who has successfully worked with local communities to better their environment; John Little, The Grassroof Company, champion of sustainable urban green spaces within social housing and schools and Nik Green, from The Incredible Edibles project whose aim to increase the amount of local food grown and eaten in the town of Todmorden has become a movement of thousands!

On Sunday 21 March is a free community event, Growing Veg, run by the school and allotments together... The Green Lane Club will be promoting healthy eating, making recycled pots, offering lots of free veg seed, with veg experts to answer garden questions, and loads of wonderful activities.

Leading Sustainable Schools: Improving schools, improving lives

All schools are to be Sustainable Schools by 2020 with sustainable development in the curriculum, modelling good practice on the campus and helping to deliver community cohesion. This conference is for Greater Manchester school heads, governors, bursars and administrators on 22 March 2010 8.30 – 1.30pm, and will explore how school leaders can work towards these goals through curriculum development and creating a whole-school community approach.

Contributors include: Liz Jackson from WWF, on creating a whole-school approach; Leszek Iwaskow from Ofsted focused on Education for Sustainable Development as a method for 'Improving schools, improving lives' and David Gardner from the QCDA examining curriculum planning.

Best practice will be shared from Greater Manchester schools and administrators from the National College's Certificate for School Business Management course.

Contact Raichael Lock or Kate Hall on 07515 019284 or 0161 273 8881, or email office@meen.org.uk.

Leading the whole school curriculum

This conference aims to review the national development of Sustainable Schools, including Ofsted's recent

research results. It will identify existing curriculum approaches and build on the local cluster networks, involving the resources of NGOs. We welcome curriculum leaders who are new to this journey, as well as more experienced Sustainable Schools professionals. Participants will learn from practice across Lancashire and Cumbria and make plans and recommendations for CPD and initial teacher training.

Speakers include Liz Jackson, WWF, Professional Development manager; Prof John Ashton, Director of Public Health, Cumbria, Leszek Iwaskow, Ofsted and John Swainston, Head of Service, Schools and Learning, Cumbria County Council.

This conference is for education leaders in Cumbria and Lancashire on Monday 1 March 2010, from 9.30 - 3.00, Rheged, Penrith, CA11 0DQ.

Fee: £50 each or £70 for two from the same school. NGO rate £15.

Please book by 12 February 2010. For more information contact Raichael Lock on 07515 019284 or email events@dep.org.uk. You can download a booking form at www.dep.org.uk/news/leading-sustainable-schools.

Training

Opening the Doorway to Sustainability: An online course for educators

Schools and teachers have a vital role to play in ensuring that the next generation have the skills and knowledge to make lifestyle choices that are sustainable. This philosophy underpins WWF's One Planet Schools® programme.

Opening the Doorway to Sustainability is the popular, and highly regarded, professional development programme from WWF-UK, which is once again being run in 2010 by Sustainability and Environmental Education (SEEd).

Course participants will explore different approaches to sustainable schools, identify and begin to develop key skills, and practise reflection and action learning approaches to ensure new skills and knowledge are applied. At the end of the course, participants should feel equipped to take forward the sustainable schools

agenda with confidence.

To apply to download the supporting course information from se-ed.org.uk/onlinecourse2010. Participant numbers are limited. To request a registration pack please contact SEEd on 020 7420 4446 or email hermione.fricker@se-ed.org.uk.

For more information on WWF's One Planet Schools Programme, visit wwf.org.uk/oneplanetschools.

Environmental and Land Based Sciences Diploma

A day of practical ideas at Outwood Grange College of Technology, Potovens Lane, Outwood, West Yorkshire WF1 2PF on 12 February 2010, to bring the new Environmental and Land-Based Studies diploma to life through teaching in gardens. This workshop will help make the most of your gardens and grounds at school or college and resources in your local area. From working with plants and animals to food production and using the landscape, learning in gardens can inspire students and tutors alike!

Email geoff.fisher@groundwork.org.uk, see the website www.outwoodgrange.wakefield.sch.uk or phone 01924 307 222.

RHS courses in the north west

Setting up a School Garden, 23 February 2010 at Ince Children's Centre, Charles Street, Ince, Wigan, Lancashire, WN2 2AL. 01483212382.

Taking root, composting, conserving, preparation and sustainability, 2 March 2010 at the National Wildflower Centre, Court Hey Park, Roby Road, Liverpool L16 3NA.

School Garden Science, 9 March 2010 at Ince Children's Centre as above.

For information on these courses and others not listed visit the website: <http://apps.rhs.org.uk/SCHOOLGARDENING/teachershome/teachertraining/default.aspx> or email cpd@rhs.org.uk.

ETN spring courses

Getting local people active and involved, 4 February Manchester

How can we genuinely involve local people in our work? How can we make sure people have a good time and want to do more? This session will provide you with methods for increasing the involvement of local people in environmental projects. Using lessons from our own work, the day looks at what encourages people to get involved and helps design involvement opportunities in your own projects and activities.

The event will be of interest to staff working in environmental and countryside situations who work with communities as part of their job as well as volunteers and members of voluntary groups who want to increase their membership. The event is primarily for people at project officer level who have experience, but also those new in post will find plenty to inspire them.

Working with 'Friends of ...' groups, 17 February, Manchester

This event is designed for environmental professionals whose work involves setting up and working with 'Friends of ...' groups, such as community forest staff, rangers, project managers, field and project officers, woodland officers, rural community council and local authority staff. The programme will look at the role of the support officer, setting up a group, constitutions, roles for members, action planning and providing long term support.

The event is most suitable for those who are new to working with such groups, but those with a little experience or who are experiencing difficulties should also find it useful.

Other courses pending are:

8 March, Leeds: Linking environmental education activities to the National Curriculum

9 March, Birmingham: Sustainable development - techniques for raising awareness

10 March, Doncaster: Working with schools on Sustainable Development Education

10 March, Manchester: Arts and crafts activities with an environmental theme

11 March, Doncaster: Become an inspirational trainer

17 March, Bristol: Introduction to community carbon footprinting

18 March, Manchester: Working with secondary schools through the National Curriculum.

Fees for one day events: voluntary organisations £110 + VAT, local authorities, statutory & other non-voluntary organisations £165 + VAT All course fees include lunch and refreshments.

For details and to book visit: <http://shop.btcv.org.uk/shop/level2/107/level>, where you can subscribe to receive regular email alerts.

Publications

Education for Sustainable Development: Improving schools, improving lives

Ofsted has released the findings of a three-year inspection programme looking at improvements in education for sustainable development in a selection of schools. The survey followed the schools over a three-year period and reveals that a focus on sustainable development is not only having a direct impact on the actions of pupils and their families but on the wider community. It also shows that schools themselves are reaping benefits from improved provision through cost savings and better behaviour.

The OFSTED recommendations make for an encouraging read stating that schools should:

- a. make sustainability a priority in their improvement plans to ensure they are meeting their commitment to become a sustainable school by 2020;
- b. develop a whole-school approach to education for sustainability in the curriculum to enable it to become firmly embedded in teaching and learning;
- c. ensure that all pupils have access to out-of-classroom learning to support their understanding of the need to care for their environment and to promote their physical and mental well-being;
- d. provide appropriate training and support to inform and engage teachers so that they understand what is required to make a school sustainable;
- e. ensure that they manage the school estate carefully and become models of good practice for sustainable living and working.

For a copy of the full OFSTED report go to: <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/News/Education-for-sustainable-development-is-making-a-difference>

National College stimulates Sustainable Schools research

The National College has released two documents focused on the Sustainable Schools agenda.

Every Child's Future: Leading the Way, written by Jonathon Porritt and Professor David Hopkins, calls for a new style of leadership in education – one grounded in moral purpose and working with its community to ensure that children and their families actively learn about what needs to be different if we are to survive.

This means making sustainability integral to all aspects of education, including the curriculum and organisational design – changes which only school leaders can achieve. 'Education is uniquely placed to make a significant contribution to a sustainable future for every child, and it has the responsibility to make the difference,' the paper says.

The document is supported by research from the Institute of Education and Forum for the Future, also commissioned by the National College, involving a study of 56 schools who are leading the way in developing sustainability in their school and wider community. Called *Sustainability and renewal*, the research identifies seven characteristics of sustainable schools and the leadership qualities required by school leaders to develop and embed sustainability within their school.

Toby Salt, deputy chief executive of the National College, said: "Taken together, these publications make a powerful case for school leaders to put sustainability at the heart of everything they do. They address a real priority for leadership, as the future generation that can make a difference is in our hands right now. If we are not leading for a sustainable future, what are we leading for?"

Both reports are available from <http://www.nationalcollege.org.uk/index/leadershiplibrary/leadingschools/leading-change/key-initiatives/sustainable-schools/national-college-work-leading-sustainable-schools.htm>

Every Child's Future still Matters

'The evidence compiled in our report suggests that it may not be possible to deliver the goals of ECM at all unless the environment becomes one of its leading considerations.'

To find out what impact the environment has to do with children's well-being go to <http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/pages/children-and-families.html> for an updated copy of the influential report *Every Child's Future Matters*.

Church of England launches 7-year climate change action plan

The Church of England has committed to reduce its carbon footprint by 42% by 2020 and intends to do so by supporting their 4,700 schools to become sustainable schools by 2016. Put into a global context there will also be 'Eco-twinning' with church communities in the developing world.

This environmental strategy, *Church and Earth*, outlines policies on climate change mitigation and adaptation for the next seven years. They will be overseen by C of E's *Shrinking the Footprint* campaign, and implemented by the Church's 43 dioceses, 16,200 churches and 4,700 schools across the UK, in an effort to cut the combined annual carbon footprint of around 330,000 tonnes CO₂.

The plan puts education and young people at the heart of the Church's climate change strategy, with all 4700 church schools nationwide aiming to be sustainable schools by 2016.

The Bishop of London, Dr Richard Chartres, who leads for the Church of England on climate change and the environment, said: "The challenge facing the human race in the 21st century is in our relation with the earth and in particular how we are going to help one another to adapt to the reality of rapid climate change."

For the full report go to: <http://www.cofe.anglican.org/news/pr10009.html>

Resources for schools

Sustainability Matters in Design & Technology

This pack from Practical Action aims to help teachers deliver the increased emphasis on sustainability within new GCSE courses. The pack contains a CD-ROM with six presentations covering electronics, food technology, graphics, product design, systems and control and textile design. Each section includes linked teachers' notes and photocopiable sheets for students on the topics around inspirational products and designers, the four dimensions of sustainable design, product lifestyle analysis and the 6 Rs.

The pack is well laid-out and easy to work through, with plenty of tips and guidance for teachers. There is also lots of inspiration for students to do independent research and think critically about sustainable design.

ISBN: 9781853397080. Price: £11.95 from <http://developmentbookshop.com>.

Sustainable food?

For a set of interactive resources on sustainability and food go to:

<http://www.yorkshireandhumber.net/esd/food/>.

Visiting a Dairy Farm

This CD for KS 1 & 2, produced by Farming and Countryside Education (FACE) in partnership with Waitrose and DairyCrest, introduces primary aged children to what goes on at the dairy farm where milk is produced and the land is cared for. The CD provides an excellent accompaniment to a visit to a dairy farm, helping children to get the most out of this experience.

A visit to a dairy farm can be an unforgettable experience for a child, a chance to discover where milk comes from and to begin to understand the work of farmers. This resource contains activities for pupils to prepare for a visit to a farm, to complete afterwards or used as a stand alone resource for one-off lessons on farming.

The activities encourage the pupils to:

- increase their knowledge and understanding of dairy farming and animal welfare

- develop an understanding of where milk comes from
- learn about environmental stewardship and biodiversity
- ask questions and seek informed answers
- enjoy carrying out a range of cross-curricular activities
- work both collaboratively and independently.

For your free copy go to <http://www.face-online.org.uk> then click onto Resources.

Recycle Now

Recycle Now has produced a range of resources to engage pupils of different ages in the issues and practicalities of recycling. The resources include assembly presentations, lesson plans and pupil activities.

Visit the website, www.recyclenow.com/schools which also has a comprehensive section on composting.

FE and HE

2010 Green Gown Awards

This is an exciting opportunity for you to network with the who's who in university and college sustainability. Now in their sixth year, the Awards recognise the exceptional initiatives being undertaken by universities and colleges across the UK to become more sustainable. The application deadline is 12 noon, 19 February 2010.

With sustainability moving up the global agenda, the Awards have become established as the most prestigious recognition of sustainability excellence in the further and higher education sector.

The categories for 2010 are:

- Carbon reduction
- Colleges and smaller institutions
- Continuous Improvement - institutional change
- Continuous Improvement - specific area
- Courses
- Green ICT
- Research and development
- Skills
- Social responsibility

- Student initiatives and campaigns
- Sustainable construction and refurbishment
- Sustainable procurement

For full details please visit www.eauc.org.uk/categories1.

Sustainable Development and the Curriculum

18 January in Manchester, 20 January in London, 2 February in London, 3 February in Stourbridge, 4 February in York.

Organised by the Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges for Principals, Vice Principals, Curriculum Leaders, Sustainable Development Champions, staff interested in understanding Education for Sustainable Development.

As sustainable development is included in the Ofsted inspection framework from September 2009, this event provides a great opportunity to ensure your staff have the necessary information and knowledge to be ready to take on this new challenge. The team delivering this programme has a wealth of experience and look forward to sharing this with you.

The workshops are free to attend (funded by the Learning and Skills Council) and lunch is included.

Places are very limited so book early to avoid disappointment!

For further information, and to book, visit www.eauc.org.uk/sustainable_development_and_the_curriculum_work.

People & Planet online learning course for students

People & Planet are offering a new, free, five-week online learning course that aims to empower 16-18 year-old students to become active global citizens. The course will provide participants with opportunities to develop their knowledge and skills through engaging learner voice activities. It will enable participants to think more critically about the world and their impact on it; increase their political literacy; improve their research skills; make links between individuals, local and national actions and inspire them.

The course will help meet Ofsted's assessment criteria on sustainability. It aims to empower students online,

with two follow up workshops on what the students can do in their own college/school if they want to. It is suitable for students studying the AQAAS and A level citizenship especially with paper 2 CIST2, the Active Citizenship element. It aims also to increase learner voice and student engagement in school or college issues.

Start date: Week beginning 11 January 2009. Each week students will need to log in to peopleandplanet.org for one hour. Once there they will be able to access their tasks for the week and their learning blogs. The course is free as it is part of a pilot project to engage more students in global active citizenship. The focus is on the environment and how to create positive change.

For further information, visit peopleandplanet.org/online-learning.

Integrating Education for Sustainability into Initial Teacher Training

Y and H ESD briefing for teacher-trainers in conjunction with TDA

Wednesday 24 March 2010, Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber, Lateral, 8 City Walk, Leeds, from 1 – 4pm.

This session is about how to build education for sustainability into initial teacher training to encourage new teachers to feel confident in raising the relevant issues. Themes covered will include how to link ESD to TDA standards; out of school learning; exploring how these issues can be built into the curriculum and the DCSF Sustainable Schools doorways.

The keynote speaker is Paul Clarke, Provider Link Advisor, TDA for schools.

The event facilitator is James Pitt, coordinator of Y & H ESD Initial Teacher Trainers Group/Research Fellow, Dept of Educational Studies, University of York.

For further information and to receive a registration form contact catherine.heinemeyer@googlemail.com.