

# CLIMATE CONVERSATIONS:

## WIGAN BOROUGH SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

[climateresponse@wigan.gov.uk](mailto:climateresponse@wigan.gov.uk)

March 2024

### Teachers' Environmental Network

In February, Climate Education Officer, Ellen Hardaker, hosted the first Teachers' Environmental Network meeting at Hindley Library. During the session, we discussed the new DfE requirement for schools to have a Climate Strategy in place by 2025, as well as hear about the exciting [National Education Nature Park](#) project. Attendees also had the opportunity to share stories and explore ideas.



#### Teachers' Environmental Network

Online session

**Tuesday 23rd April**  
3.30pm-4.30pm

Microsoft Teams



- How to create a **Climate Strategy** for your school
- **Good Life Schools Charter** - Dealing with the pressures of consumerism on young people
- **Q and A** - opportunity to share stories and ask questions

Please contact **Ellen Hardaker**  
[e.hardaker@wigan.gov.uk](mailto:e.hardaker@wigan.gov.uk)

### Free Climate Awareness Training for school staff

In order to comply with DfE requirements, all schools must have a Climate Strategy in place by 2025. To help schools meet this, the Climate Education Officer can deliver training to all school staff. This can be delivered at any time convenient to your school.

- **What is climate change? Causes and effects**
- **How educators can embed climate action in school**
- **How to discuss climate change with young people and address climate anxiety**
- **Actions you can take as an individual**

Approx 2 hours (can be amended if necessary)

Contact [climateresponse@wigan.gov.uk](mailto:climateresponse@wigan.gov.uk)



### Better connected community fund



BETTER CONNECTED  
COMMUNITY FUND

Do you have a great idea for a community (or school) project? Up to £2,000 is available to local tenant and residents community groups and organisations for projects which benefit local communities. [Learn more](#) or contact the [Tenant Voice and Engagement Team](#)

### Wigan Warriors - Learning Curve' Renewable Energy Programme

In partnership with Mitsubishi Electric, the Learning Curve focuses on eco sustainability, with learning based on the theme of "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" and educating tomorrow's generation about renewable energy. The programme can be delivered at school or at Robin Park Arena and provides a fun, interactive approach to understanding sustainability issues.

email [community@wiganwarriors.com](mailto:community@wiganwarriors.com)



### Schools Climate Action Plans: Latest news

Schools from across Greater Manchester are starting to create their own Climate Action Plans ahead of the DfE's 2025 deadline. Some schools are even working collaboratively to make the most of their ideas. The [GMCA website](#) has lots of resources for schools to help get you started, including the Schools' Climate Action Planner and Count Your Carbon Calculator.

And remember, [the Climate Education Officer, Ellen Hardaker](#), is available to offer advice and support.





## Join the Great British Spring Clean

15 March - 31 March

Wigan Council  
KEEP IT CLEAN!

As a school, you can take part in the Great Big School Clean 2024. Keep Britain Tidy's annual campaigns reminds us all that litter picking is a simple action that anyone can do to make an immediate and visible difference- and help you to feel more pride in your neighbourhood and even improve your mood.

The Council's Keep It Clean campaign is working to reduce litter across our borough and the Great British Spring Clean is a great chance to get involved. If you would like to organise your own litter pick, Wigan Council can provide a package of support including equipment for litter picking. Simply complete the registration form.

If you are doing a litter pick and are sharing the photos on social media, please use the hashtag #KeepItClean so we can share the amazing work of volunteers across our borough on our channels.

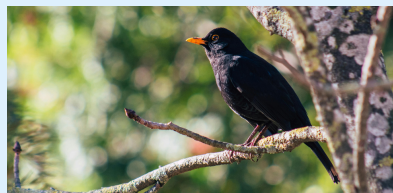
### Have your say for nature!



Greater Manchester Combined Authority is currently developing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy, a new plan for nature, to set out our local ambitions to help nature recover.

To get the plan right for Greater Manchester, GMCA would like to hear your views on priority actions for nature recovery for the city-region. **This could include actions you would like to see for your school.** Complete the survey here.

**Deadline 30th April**



## Shevington High School Youth Travel Ambassador success!!

Shevington High School recently attended the Youth Travel Ambassador campaign pitch event in Manchester where a group of around 10 students presented to a panel on their ideas to help reduce traffic around their school and to support more students to travel to school actively.

The youth group have developed plans to setup a 'Park and Stride' at a local pub where parents can drop students and they can walk the final 0.5 miles to school. To encourage students to take part in the initiative the school will be providing a range of rewards that will hopefully support long term behaviour change

The school were awarded £500 to develop the scheme. Shevington High School are the only Wigan School currently taking part in the Youth Travel Ambassador scheme, which is evidence of the schools commitment to supporting the clean air agenda. For information on sustainable travel for your school contact [b.baldwin@wigan.gov.uk](mailto:b.baldwin@wigan.gov.uk)



## Is your school Fair Trade?

Becoming a Fair Trade School offers a great opportunity to look at global issues such as where our food comes from and how we are connected to people around the world. Students can also learn a range of skills, from teamwork and co-operation to persuasive writing to running a stall or tuck shop.

Teaching about Fairtrade fits different curriculum areas, especially Geography, Citizenship and PSHE.



## Remembering the Holocaust through nature

Creating your own green memorial, whether it be a small plant on a windowsill or in a dedicated space in a school garden, is a creative and impactful way of marking Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD), either individually or collectively.

The RHS Campaign for School Gardening works to give children and young people opportunities to grow and connect with nature.

Connecting with nature can bring us a moment to pause and remember, and the very act of growing illustrates hope for the future.



## Refill shop for schools

Schools from across Greater Manchester have joined an exciting new scheme setting up refill shops within their schools. Delivered in partnership with Pupil Profit, the scheme is an ethical enterprise delivering personal, social and health education.

The school shops will sell refills of household products such as body wash and hand wash, with pupils encouraged to bring in containers to refill. The products are made in the UK, cruelty free, vegan, closed loop and environmentally responsible, and crucially they are also affordably priced.

The aim is to give young people the skills and tools to play a part in tackling the climate and ecological emergency and be part of the UK's low-carbon circular through a school eco refill shop. The school shops will also tackle so much more than reusing old plastic containers and refilling with a great product, they also support learning workplace skills, building good habits and taking responsibility for the success of the shop.



# Save the date!



**9th October 2024**

**More info coming soon...**

## Schools Good Life Charter

The Schools' Good Life Charter supports students to co-design their own Good Life Charter to help their whole school community break the spell of excessive consumption, which makes children feel inadequate, judged and unhappy, and is a major contributor to our climate and ecological crisis.

Young people taking part in Schools' Good Life Charter will learn about the harmful impacts of over-consumption and about what influences people to consume excessively.

The programme aims to nurture compassionate values and wellbeing within students, as well as create a space for everyone to discuss why and what we buy, encouraging low-consumption behaviours within the school community and beyond.



**schools'  
good life  
charter**

## Earth Day 2024 - 22nd April

The Earth Day theme for 2024 is 'Planet vs Plastic' which focuses on bringing about an end to the demand on plastic and a 60% reduction on plastic production by 2024. There are lots of ways to address this issue when dealing with young people, from looking at the plastic in our lunch box to fast fashion.

Wigan Council's Climate Education Officer, Ellen Hardaker, can provide advice, workshops and assemblies to all schools looking to raise awareness and take action in school.



**If you have a story you would like to share, email [climateresponse@wigan.gov.uk](mailto:climateresponse@wigan.gov.uk)**