

CLIMATE CONVERSATIONS:

WIGAN BOROUGH SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

climateresponse@wigan.gov.uk

JUNE 2024

Lets Go Zero

Let's Go Zero is the national campaign uniting teachers, pupils, parents and their schools as they all work together to be zero carbon by 2030.

As a school, when you sign up to Let's Go Zero, you'll get support on setting your zero carbon targets and developing roadmaps for delivery, and will help influence our discussions with politicians as we work to get more support for schools. The actions you take today will reach far beyond the school gates, inspiring families and sparking community action to tackle the climate crisis.

Lets Go Zero upcoming webinars:

Hear the Youth Perspective on Climate Education

Wednesday 12 June 2024, 3:45 - 4:30pm

Green jobs, Skills and Careers

Wednesday 26 June 2024, 3:45 - 4:45pm

[Click here to register](#)

**LET'S GO
ZERO
2030**

Schools working together to be zero carbon

Lets Go Zero: Climate Action Countdown

29 days of fun, inclusive, inspiring action!

Every day from **7 June to 5 July**, schools around the UK are taking on a different activity linked to sustainability.

The CAC calendar gives you 29 days of fun, inclusive, inspiring action. Everything you need to make your month of action a success can be found on the [Lets Go Zero website](#). From worksheets to assembly presentations, colouring sheets to manifestos, social media posts to a song to raise your voices to.

Save the date!



Wed 9th October 2024

**9.30am - 2.30pm
The Edge, Wigan**

Booking information to follow...

Eco-Schools Healthy Summer Toolkit

Developed in partnership with the Bupa Foundation, Eco-Schools have launched their FREE Healthy Summer Toolkit, packed with fun activities to boost the health and wellbeing of our pupils and the planet.

The toolkit contains resources to help young people address climate anxiety, get closer to nature and reconnect with their outside world and contain a summer plan of activities that can fit in with your school calendar. [Learn more](#)



St Luke's staff become Climate Aware

Climate Education Officer, Ellen Hardaker, recently visited pupils at St Luke's Primary to talk about the plight of our planet, but next it was the staff's turn to become climate aware!

During the 1.5 hour session, attendees learned about the causes and affects of climate change and the actions that we can all take to tackle it. They also discussed how to address climate anxiety with young people as well as how to bring climate change into the classroom

Natalie Richardson, Eco Lead said,

"Thank you so much for the fantastic staff meeting we had on climate change. The staff commented on how useful it was and it really made us think about how we can contribute to saving the planet both in school and in our home lives.

It also gave us the opportunity to discuss how we can share this information with the children in school. I would highly recommend this training for staff in schools."



To learn more or to book your staff session, [contact Ellen](#)

World Environment Day #GenerationRestoration 5th June

Join the global movement to revive our soils, clean our water and give the earth back to nature. Even your school grounds - whether a small patch of land or a whole school field - has the potential to grow and thrive, leaving a sustainable planet for future generations. [Learn more about World Environment Day here.](#)

Teachers' Environmental Network

Online session 

Thursday 13th June

3.30pm-4.30pm

Microsoft Teams

- Schools' **Climate Strategy** update
- **Lets Go Zero** - free energy saving support for schools
- **Q and A** - opportunity to ask questions and share ideas

To book, please contact
Ellen Hardaker

e.hardaker@wigan.gov.uk

Can you find space for a Tiny Urban Forest?

City of Trees are a charity based in Greater Manchester helping to green school grounds by supplying free trees and delivering planting days with pupils. City of Trees complete an initial site assessment with all necessarily regulatory checks and map a proposed planting design bespoke to the needs of each school. On the planting day school pupils partake in a curriculum linked introduction to trees, followed by a demonstration on how to plant a tree. During the remainder of the session, children plant the trees themselves, becoming actively involved in greening their school grounds.

All trees, tools suitable for children, maintenance, and expertise are provided at no cost to the school! This scheme is open to all schools within Greater Manchester, with planting taking place between October 2024 and March 2025.

To find out if your school grounds are suitable for tree planting, please contact City of Trees to arrange a site visit and find out what could be possible!

Email their team at schools@cityoftrees.org.uk or call 0161 872 1660



Green Week at Wigan & Leigh College

Staff and students put sustainability in the spotlight for Green Week- a campaign to raise awareness of what we can all do to help the planet. For a whole week in April, each day had an environmental theme with activities and give-aways to encourage everyone to get involved.

Activities included sharing meat-free recipes and food shopping tips to avoid waste, encouraging planet-friendly travel such as walking and cycling, litter picking, a focus on sustainable fashion, energy saving advice and even an eco Hair and Beauty online course.

Nature was also given a helping hand as students learned how to make compost, how to make natural soap and given a tree planting workshop and guided tree walk. They were also offered free trees to take home.

Partners who supported the event included Willmott Dixon, Wigan and Leigh Hospice, Wigan Council and Daffodil Dreams.



Will you go 30 Days Wild?

30 Days Wild is The Wildlife Trusts' annual challenge event, where everyone involved does one wild thing a day throughout the month of June.

This year celebrates 10 years of 30 Days Wild and schools that sign up will receive a bumper pack full of inspiration and useful resources to get you started. [You can register your school here.](#)



Buzzing for bees at Standish Library

Following World Bee Day on 20th May, 90 children from Wood Fold Primary visited Standish Library to learn all about the importance of bees and other pollinators. They also made seed bombs to take home which will create more wildflowers to help pollinators.

The sessions were delivered by Ellen Hardaker, Climate Education Officer, as well as the lovely volunteers from Friends of Standish Library.



Cycle Three Sisters

Our popular free cycling event returns to the Three Sisters Race Circuit in Ashton-in-Makerfield on Tuesday 23 July 2024. Families from all across the borough are invited to come along and enjoy a whole host of bike-based activities on and off the track.

We have bikes available to borrow and ride around the course, balance bikes and cycle skills sessions for children, and Wheels For All adapted cycles for people with a range of disabilities.

You can also learn more about cycling and active travel from a variety of partner organisations present on the day. [Find out more here.](#)

Walk or wheel to school this Clean Air Day



Take steps to improve your health
and the planet this Clean Air Day

#CleanAirDay
cleanairday.org.uk



Clean Air Day - 20th June

Air pollution is linked to 43,000 deaths per year in the UK. The World Health Organisation and the UK Government recognise that air pollution is the largest environmental threat to our health.

Free resource packs including lesson and assembly plans, pledge cards and ideas for your school, are all available for schools looking to take part. [Visit the Clean Air Day website](#) for more information.

£2,000 Green Community Grant available for schools

The Bupa Foundation is launching its Green Community Grants programme this June. Schools and Community Groups can apply for a grant of up to £2000 to fund a green project - from outdoor classrooms to tree-planting and community allotments.

Applications open 1-30 June. [Click here to apply](#).

St Philip's Primary Goes Green!

Pupils at St Philip's Primary, Atherton, have been working hard to 'green-up' their school with an impressive green living wall in a once-barren part of their school playground.

Helped by a few grandparents who installed it, the wall is now finished and the Y5 Gardening Club alongside various classes have planted it up with plants kindly donated by Kevin and Michelle at Moss Bank Nursery, Leigh. All the plants are perennial and will be swapped over for summer then returned for winter planting. There is also a whole section dedicated to growing food!



The children have also been very busy planting 120 small variety trees to form two hedgerows. One in the orchard to increase the natural habitat available which will help increase biodiversity. The other hedgerow is at the end of the school field and is to help clean the air, encourage more biodiversity and to put an underground mycelium network in to support the three oak tree saplings waiting to be planted to create a shady oasis for the children to enjoy.



If you have a story you would like to share, email
climateresponse@wigan.gov.uk