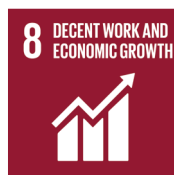


# Climate Action Schools



## Six-month impact report

April - September 2023



# Climate Action Schools framework

In 2022 - 2023 we successfully refocused our programmes and activities together under the banner of Climate Action Schools, ensuring that both supporting schools and young people to develop an understanding of the climate crisis, and the skills required to take positive action, were priorities.

We have witnessed an increased demand for our live pupil engagement activities and have enjoyed the strengthening of partnerships with a range of agencies to support these learning opportunities. We see this approach as a key strength of the programme and one that will allow us to continue to develop and deliver a programme that is inclusive of all sectors of education. Climate Action Schools creates a network of schools across Scotland and provides support to help learning establishments, educators and pupils in the transition to a Net Zero Nation, the restoration of nature and biodiversity, and the ongoing implementation of Learning for Sustainability. [Our first year Impact Report](#) demonstrated reach and impact and this, our six-month report for 2023, provides an update on the fantastic action across Scotland's schools and particularly focuses on the developments and newer initiatives that we are implementing.



**Catherine Gee**  
Deputy Chief Executive

Activity	Learning for Sustainability	Climate Action	Biodiversity Loss	Litter and Pollution	Pupil Voice
Eco-Schools Scotland	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Learning About Forests (LEAF)	✓	✓	✓		✓
Young Reporters for the Environment	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Climate Ready Classrooms	✓	✓			✓
Live Lessons	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Professional Learning and Training	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
One Planet Picnic	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Pocket Garden	✓	✓	✓		✓
STEM the Flow	✓	✓		✓	✓
Wrigley Litter Less	✓			✓	

# Our climate education impact

During the six months from April to September, we aimed high, reached more people and inspired more environmental action. Here are some of the numbers:



**1,500**

schools involved in Climate Action Schools activities.



**3,225**

people engaged with in-person over **21** events.



**8,000**

pupils took part in our Climate Action Week and Natural Scotland Week Live Lessons.



**98**

schools in **25** local authorities are registered to take part in the LEAF programme during 23/24.



**1,901**

students across **77** schools and **5** Local authorities have taken part in our Climate Ready Classrooms for Primary course.



**86%**

of feedback respondents agreed that CRC Primary supported their teaching for Learning for Sustainability and Climate Education and was helpful and relevant to the curriculum.



**98**

hours of direct teaching, not including resource development and prep time.



**8,400**

litter picks reported as part of Green Flag applications.

# Understanding and communicating climate change



In May we started delivering our **Climate Ready Classrooms** course to primary schools, organised via local authorities. Designed to support learning about climate change and biodiversity with a focus on solutions, actions and hope, each course is adapted to the requirements of the authority and includes local examples of how climate change is affecting the local area.

Our **Climate Ready Classrooms** primary offering includes a global citizenship and climate justice teacher training session, developed in partnership with WOSDEC/Scotdec.



We continue to provide our established **Climate Ready Classrooms** workshop to high school students and have rolled out our **SQA accredited Climate Emergency Training course**.

During this year's week of lessons for **Climate Action Week** we delivered five workshops, with a storytelling session for early years to P3, and four sessions for upper primary/junior secondary school pupils focussed on becoming a net zero nation by 2045.



**Màiri McAllan MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition** was able to join us for our Climate Action Week live assembly and gave an inspiring speech to pupils to finish the week.

Our partnership with the West Partnership RIC saw us present live lessons on Climate Education and STEM to **3,000** pupils over **5** sessions.



**148**

teachers have joined **10** CLPL sessions, including one session on the Eco-Schools Climate Action Topic.



**1,900**

students across **77** schools and **5** local authorities have taken part in our Climate Ready Classrooms for Primary course.



**86%**

of feedback respondents agreed that CRC Primary supported their teaching for Learning for Sustainability and Climate Education and was helpful and relevant to the curriculum.



**4,750**

pupils from **29** local authorities took part in this year's Climate Action Week.

*"Liked that [Climate Ready Classrooms for Primary] taught us something that is important to the world, and that change needs to happen now. Gave us the tools to solve the climate change problems in our school."*

Loudon-Montgomery Primary School educator



# Enabling and increasing participation in climate action



The **Eco-Schools** programme encourages hands-on action to combat the climate emergency. This year has seen us celebrate schools' fantastic achievements through our first **Eco-Schools Awards** and **Celebration Week**.

We continue to work closely with local authorities. This year we linked with East Ayrshire Council allowing all schools participating in their own sustainable award programme to use their work towards an **Eco-Schools Green Flag Award**. As a result, **60%** of East Ayrshire Schools are now current **Eco-Schools Award** holders.



Over **50** schools across Scotland have been contacted regarding **Gaelic** medium materials available and to invite teachers and students to training sessions with our new Gaelic Officer.

After a very successful pilot, the **LEAF (Learning about Forests)** programme is being rolled out across the country, advocating outdoor learning and hands-on experiences, encouraging pupils to reconnect with the natural environment and learn about forest-based ecosystems.

A national **STEM the Flow** marine litter competition was launched in August. This pupil-led STEM project encourages participants to investigate 'source to sea' litter in their area and create an engineering solution to help tackle the issue.



**853** current Eco-Schools.



**81%** of Eco-Schools are working to create and enhance wildlife habitats.



**3,650** pupils from all **32** local authorities came to our Natural Scotland Week lessons.



**37** schools from **20** local authorities were awarded a LEAF Award during the pilot.



**457** pupils from **19** classes participated in the first STEM the Flow competition online workshop.



**36** educators from **21** local authorities attended an information webinar about STEM the Flow.

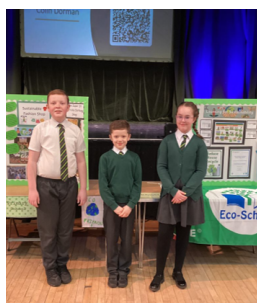
*"The students have a greater respect for their forest and staff have greater confidence in leading structured outdoor learning opportunities. Although "another thing" to consider in a busy curriculum, the structure and support improved the quality of learning and in a way reduced workload by lots of suggestions and an improvement in pupil behaviour and engagement."*

Applegarth & Hutton Primaries

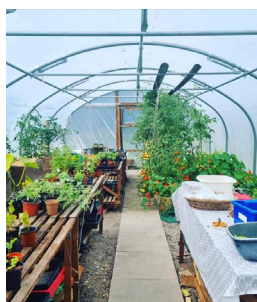
# Encouraging action on climate change in schools and communities



Our first **Eco-Committee of the Year**, from St Bernard's Primary and Nursery School, Coatbridge, and the winners of our **Climate Action Project of the Year**, Crawforddyke Primary School, joined us to inspire other Eco-Committees across Scotland by telling us about their work in a live session.



Schools are asked to work with their local communities as part of their Eco-Schools applications and our new **Heritage topic** will encourage learning about local communities and customs. Currently being piloted in selected schools, heritage themes are being explored through a range of activities from creating a local heritage trail to growing their own fruit and veg.



As part of **Climate Action Week** pupils were invited to create a poster imagining how their school or nursery will look in 2045 when Scotland reaches net zero and has restored **biodiversity**. These messages of hope for our future were showcased during our assembly, which was joined by Scottish Government, and are displayed in a virtual gallery.

Our **Upstream Battle®** educational activities saw us arrange several in-person engagement events for schools, families and communities across Scotland, to raise awareness and take action on **'source to sea' marine litter**.



**1,595** pupils have taken part in **7** Eco-Schools pupil training sessions.



**8,514** people voted in our Pocket Garden showcase viewing miniature gardens from **43** schools across **28** local authorities.



**1,300** pupils from **12** schools were visited as part of Eco-Schools and Litter League celebrations.



**1,900** pupils, families and wider members of the public met with over **9** engagement events.

*"Here at West OS, we were delighted to be joined by KSB for range of live lessons exploring Climate Action and STEM. We had three superb lessons that covered greenhouse gas emissions, food and the impact on the environment and explored experiments to spark thinking. Nicola and Joe expertly brought the learners with them on the learning journey and asked them to think critically on how their daily actions impact the planet."*

Samantha-Jane Hewitt, West OS Development officer

# Plans for rest of the year:

Launch of our SQA accredited Biodiversity Action course

Ministerial net zero Q&A event timed to coincide with COP28

Rollout of the Stem the Flow national competition and West Partnership schools exhibition

Launch of the 2024 Pocket Garden competition

## Upcoming Live Lessons:

- Sustainable Living Week
- Spring Clean Week
- Lessons from Sustrans, ASH Scotland and Scottish Fair Trade Forum

Promoting Eco-Schools Scotland Awards and Celebration Week 2024

Engagement with UNESCO Greening Education Partnership

10 further training sessions for educators and pupils

# Conclusion

This six-month impact report demonstrates how we are building on the success from last year to increase and widen participation in the whole framework whilst developing further opportunities for pupil and teacher learning and action. This has included an increasing focus on **nature and biodiversity** to recognise the immediate urgency to tackle this alongside the climate crisis. In addition, we are developing new initiatives and learning programmes on the issues of **circular economy, pollution and waste** and in doing so are creating a comprehensive programme of materials and initiatives that address the main environmental and sustainability issues that we face.

Our wide range of continued professional learning opportunities for educators, Live Lessons for pupils and our accredited programmes provide a vital platform for schools to take action to respond to the emergency and progress ambitions within the Scottish Government's **Climate Change Plan and Public Engagement Strategy** and to engage with the revised **Learning for Sustainability Action Plan**. This integrated approach ensures that we can support educators and learners to **Understand, Participate and Act** on the climate, nature and pollution emergencies.

We are very much looking forward to the next six months, developing new partnership's and strengthening existing collaborations, launching new SQA accredited training, and rolling out refreshed activities and programmes which will help us inspire more young people and educators to play their part in keeping Scotland beautiful.



We support the Sustainable Development Goals.

Keep Scotland Beautiful is your charity for Scotland's environment. We work with you to help combat climate change, tackle litter and waste, restore nature and biodiversity and improve places.



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