

# Eco-Schools Awards 2025 Winners



Your charity for Scotland's environment

Climate Action  
Project of the Year



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2025**

# Climate Action Project of the Year: Leverhulme Memorial School, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

Leverhulme Memorial School pupils were very successful in the pocket garden competition last year, and this year focused on the Ocean Friendly School award. They have contributed to a global sea-temperature study! They helped to download data from the 14 sensors placed in the rock at Borge beach to record the temperature as part of a global study led by Portuguese climate scientist Dr Rui Seabra. Rui's pioneering work is making an important contribution to climate science [www.coastalwarming.com/cctbon](http://www.coastalwarming.com/cctbon). -learned about the effects of microfibres on the sea and marine life. One way to reduce microfibres is to reuse and recycle clothes. Thank you to Aosd 'is Ùr (local charity shop) for allowing them to come in to see the amazing range of clothes they have available and allowing the children to take pictures while modelling some of the clothes. The children then used these pictures to create posters persuading people to recycle and reuse clothes and are displayed in the community building, Pupils made an information video about microfibres and their effects and presented this at a community event. Some P4-7 pupils wrote persuasive letters to the Local MP highlighting our concerns about microfibres and advocating for filters to be fitted on all new washing machines. Mr Crichton kindly wrote back to each pupil individually and asked if he could visit the school! The children showed him all the work they have done on SDG 14 Life below water and SDG 12 Sustainable production and consumption. He was so impressed with the letters he has copied them and passed them on to the Environment Minister and others! They also created a Waste Funnel outdoor mural which encourages people to think more sustainably about waste.

# Climate Action Project of the Year: Leverhulme Memorial School



# Climate Action Project of the Year: Braes High School, Falkirk

Braes High School hosted a pupil-led Climate Summit on 18th September 2024, bringing together young people from all high schools across the area. This landmark event aimed to empower young people to shape the future of climate action in their schools and beyond. The summit represented a crucial next step in the journey toward sustainability for Braes High School, following their range of awards and certifications linked to carbon reduction initiatives. The summit celebrated these achievements while providing a platform for students to discuss solutions to the urgent challenges of climate change. The Climate Summit was the product of hard work and determination by an organising committee of pupils from Braes High School. These students have not only designed the structure of the day but have also taken the lead in inviting guest speakers and workshop facilitators to ensure an inclusive and engaging event and included MPs, MSPs, Keep Scotland Beautiful, INEOS and Learning through Landscapes. Committee members drafted invitations, designed graphics, and crafted messaging in the lead-up to the event. They ensured that the summit reflected the voice of young people throughout, from the opening presentation to the final discussion groups. During the event, representatives from schools led the summit with a short film highlighting the schools' environmental achievements over the past year. Throughout the day, volunteers from Braes and Falkirk High facilitated workshops, supported delegates, and lead discussions aimed at producing the "Falkirk Agreement"—a document detailing students' hopes for national and international climate action. The final version of the agreement was shared with key stakeholders, ensuring students' voices were heard at higher levels of decision-making.

# Climate Action Project of the Year: Braes High School



Eco-Committee of  
the Year



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**2025**

# Eco-Committee of the Year: Oban High School, Argyll and Bute

I am honoured to nominate the Oban High School Eco-Committee in recognition of their unwavering contribution to marine litter research and environmental stewardship. The dedication and commitment of a core group of the committee (years S1-S5) to helping the Marine Litter Working Group of the Scottish Islands Federation in tackling the issue of marine pollution in the Scottish Islands has been invaluable and continues to be so. The SIF-MLWG, in collaboration with the Marine Conservation Society, has implemented a robust citizen science project. The Eco-Committee has been instrumental in supporting this project, tirelessly helping to assess marine litter samples collected by our volunteers over the past year and a half. Their meticulous work has helped evidence the abundance and likely sources of litter items washing up on island coastlines, with their results submitted to the Marine Conservation Society's Beachwatch database.

Beyond this, they have helped hold corporate polluters accountable through the submission of brand-identifiable data to the Surfers Against Sewage Brand Audit. This dedication has not only generated vital environmental data but also driven meaningful action in tackling marine litter at both policy and industry levels. In addition, the group has supported advocacy and awareness-raising activities, including participation in the 'Shaping Our Shores' documentary produced by Caledonian Horticulture. This film showcases the vital work of various organizations and individuals combatting plastic pollution along Scotland's coastline. They have also provided interviews to BBC Alba to highlight the pressing issue of marine litter and its impact on Scottish island communities. All of this work is on top of ongoing environmental initiatives within their school, including managing recycling programs and conducting litter picks to promote sustainability at a local level.

The Eco-Committee's dedication, enthusiasm, and hard work exemplify the spirit of environmental activism and community-driven action. Their contributions extend beyond data collection to fostering a greater awareness of marine pollution issues and inspiring others to take action.

# Eco-Committee of the Year: Oban High School, Argyll and Bute



Eco-Coordinator of  
the Year



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# Eco-Coordinator of the Year: Brendan Fox, Auchmuty High School, Fife

Mr Fox has been working hard to promote environmental awareness and sustainability in schools throughout Fife since 2008. He's been involved in creating wildflower meadows, orchards, woodland areas, ponds, raised bed gardens, sensory gardens for ASN pupils, extensive bulb planted areas; building, providing and hanging bird boxes, facilitating leadership within numerous Eco Committees and has generally been an inspiring and enthusiastic teacher who genuinely cares for the environment. Mr Fox has been adept at creating links throughout our communities, this includes Rotary Clubs, community hubs, secondary schools, catchment primary schools, churches, local business, charities, supermarkets, LEA departments and various other outside agencies.

Academically, Mr Fox has also helped many pupils in secondary schools attain Climate Literacy Awards and has introduced the NPA N3/4 Climate Change and Sustainability qualifications. All of these successes led to his being asked to write an article last May for the GTC Scotland magazine, in which he promoted the importance the work Eco Schools Scotland do and the positive benefits it has for students, schools and communities. Last month Mr Fox and the Eco-Committee again attained Eco-Schools status for which they undoubtedly surpassed what was expected of them. In fact, our school's DWP coordinator requested that he apply to LANTRA for the ALBAS (Awards for Land-based and Aquaculture Skills) and after a successful interview procedure we have now been invited to attend the award ceremony later in March. Our category? Best Secondary School in Scotland! Mr Fox has been motivating students and raising the profile of secondary schools for many years now, it would be absolutely wonderful if he were to gain this award.

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# Eco-Coordinator of the Year: Brendan Fox, Auchmuty High School, Fife

