

# Eco-Schools Leicester Monthly Bulletin



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## December 2018

Dear Colleague,

Welcome to the **December Eco-Schools Leicester eBulletin**. Things to take a look at:

- **POWER** Water poster competition – deadline extended to 14 December 2018 – please see below.
- **Information and photos about our Eco-Schools Roadshow and Sustainable Schools Celebration** earlier this term.

If I don't speak to you before, have a great Christmas break and look forward to working with you in the new term. **As always, if you need any help or support email or contact me, many thanks, Lee**

### [Grow Your Own Grub](#) and [Sunflower competitions](#)

The deadline to participate in both competitions has now passed but if you missed the deadline please email [GrowYourOwnGrub@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:GrowYourOwnGrub@leicester.gov.uk) by the end of this week (Friday 14 December) and we will endeavour to sign you up!

**Leicester's Mealbarrow Extravaganza**  
Incorporating the Grow Your Own Grub Competition

Combining creative culinary skills and gardening, your school is challenged to design a three course menu and grow a minimum of 3 ingredients in your Mealbarrow. A wheelbarrow is provided if you don't already have one along with your own growing area. Finally, showcase your wheelbarrow at Langton Park as a celebration day on Saturday 26 June 2019.

Training course: Wednesday 27 February 2019 1.00pm-4.00pm  
Graceworks, URC, The Common, Leicester LE5 6EA

Light refreshments will be provided

Who would benefit from this project: all schools interested in growing and cooking

Why participate?

- Take advantage of free training and catering in your school. Use as part of your Food for Life and Eco-Schools Awards.
- Opportunity to showcase food growing in a fully visible school garden.
- Enter the Mealbarrow competition for an opportunity of free, second or third place.
- Receive recognition with Bronze, Silver or Gold Green your Own Grub Award for your school's entries on your intended growing area.

School commitments

- Attend training in February 2019
- Culinary skills workshops under-18s only and completed on-site at the training event on 27 February 2019. School will need to purchase their own seeds and/or plug plants.
- Grow at least 3 of your ingredients in the Mealbarrow.
- Design and submit a healthy menu by 31 May 2019.
- Enter at least 5 of your ingredients in the Mealbarrow.
- Display and utilize the Mealbarrow from Langton Park for the celebration day - Saturday 26 June 2019.
- Host the judging team during your site visit to view your Mealbarrow and intended growing area (where possible). Visits will be arranged for schools on 17-18 June 2019.
- Keep the wheelbarrow for next year or return to Leicester City Council.

Support your Eco-schools healthy living, school grounds and biodiversity by growing your own food for the award challenge. This free event is free and open to all schools in Leicester.

Deadline for entries is Friday 7 December 2018 and will be filled on a first come basis. Email [GrowYourOwnGrub@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:GrowYourOwnGrub@leicester.gov.uk) as soon as possible to confirm.

**Sunflower Growing Competition**

The sunflower growing competition has been running since 2001 and has proved to be very popular with pupils and staff alike. This year we have expanded the competition to include the opportunity for all primary children as well as children in SEN schools.

Who would benefit from this project: all primary and SEN schools interested in growing

The finer details...

- Please sign up by 7 December 2018 by emailing [GrowYourOwnGrub@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:GrowYourOwnGrub@leicester.gov.uk) stating your school, number of key year groups that are participating.
- Schools will receive seeds and compost pellets via the post by the end of April 2019. All resources will be put on the extranet and emailed to schools.
- Schools can order a maximum of 50 '60cm' per school. Children are encouraged to take plants home to grow over summer, however they can also be grown at school.
- In October 2019 you will need to take your sunflower heads to Abbey Pumping Station where they will be officially weighed. Exact details will be shared nearer the time.
- There will be prizes for first, second and third place.

Support your Eco-schools healthy living, school grounds and biodiversity. This free event is free and open to all primary and SEN schools in Leicester.

Deadline to participate is Friday 7 December 2018. Email [GrowYourOwnGrub@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:GrowYourOwnGrub@leicester.gov.uk) as soon as possible to confirm.

### [Sustainable Schools Celebration](#)

Our first Sustainable Schools Celebration evening, an opportunity to celebrate the dedication and commitment of staff, students, parents, and volunteers to improve our environment, health and wellbeing in schools in Leicester, took place on Tuesday



30 October 2018. See all the winners and photos on the [schools extranet](#).

### [Eco-Schools Roadshow](#)

Last week we completed our Eco-Schools Roadshow at Moat Community College. Thank you very much to all our host schools (Soar Valley College, Rushey Mead Academy, Fullhurst College, English Martyrs' School and Moat College) and all the school staff that have helped making them run so smoothly.



Photos of all the roadshow dates are now on the [schools extranet](#). **Why not see if you can spot yourself?**

### **Food for Life, news and events**

The latest Leicester Food for Life Newsletter can be downloaded from the [schools extranet](#).



There is also a [programme of training](#) and network meetings which started earlier this term and will run into the January term.

### [EDI Net Schools competition – November-December 2018](#)

- Thank you to all the schools who have been taking part in the EDI\_Net school competition over the last few weeks. We have had lots of positive stories from schools about how they have been saving energy and water.

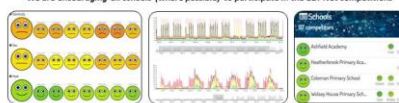
All the winners and league tables from the start of the competition can be found on the [schools extranet](#).

If you have been taking part (or would just like to see the league tables in action take a look at the [EDI Net website and league tables](#).

**School EDI-Net Competition**  
**Monday 19 November – Friday 14 December 2018**

Energy and water is one of the biggest spends for schools after staffing. Leicester City Council has been working closely with De Montfort University to develop tools to empower staff and students to take control of their energy.

We are encouraging all schools (where possible) to participate in the EDI-Net competitions



**Why participate?**

- Use the EDI-net tools to save energy and money
- Use as a way to engage the whole school and Use as a launch pad for other energy saving campaigns such as: Switch Off Fortnight (taking place in November 2018)

Supports your Eco-Schools energy topic: Eco-Schools


**Competition 1 – World cup style** – compete in week 1 with up to 7 other schools, top 2 move into the next week. Overall winner is top of the final league table (week 3)

**Competition 2 – Over the entire month**, gain points on a daily basis. Winner is the school with the least points at the end of the month.

**Competition 3 – 3 energy saving days!** Whoever appears at the top at the end of the day will be the winner (results can be found the next day) Energy saving days are **Thursday 29 November, Tuesday 4 December, Friday 14 December**

EDI-net uses smart energy and water data to show improvements in usage based on your own historical data. A reduction since this time last year will show greener faces, an increase since last year will show redder faces. External factors such as external temperature are taken into account.

Smiley faces are calculated on a daily basis and so any changes will be seen the following day



This event is free open to all schools in Leicester City who have access to smart meter data  
To check go to <https://dashboard.edi-net.eu/p/a/leicester-city-council/tbl/51>

To participate please email [eco-schools@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:eco-schools@leicester.gov.uk)

**FREE printed copies of Wild About Learning available to every Leicester city primary school**

Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust's outdoor learning teachers' pack is now available in printed format.

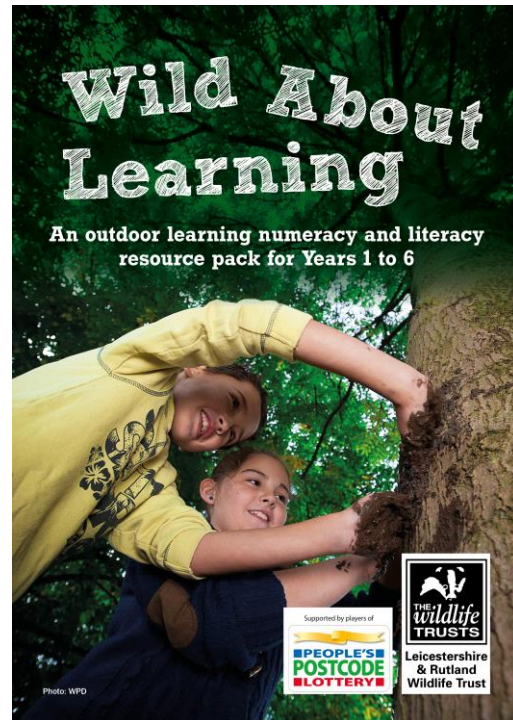
Wild About Learning is designed to support and encourage busy teachers to take their lessons outdoors.

It consists of 2 hour numeracy and literacy lesson plans for each KS1 and KS2 year group, plus links to other packs and resources.

Lesson plans have been designed to:

- Work in any school grounds
- Use commonly found natural materials
- Need minimum preparation time

We have two printed copies for every Leicester city primary school. To order your pack, please email your name and the name of your school to: [mrose@lrwt.org.uk](mailto:mrose@lrwt.org.uk)



### [Fairtrade at Scraftoft Valley Primary School](#)

**Congratulations to Scraftoft that recently achieved their Fairtrade Fair Achiever Award, the highest level available.**

They are holding a Fairtrade Tea party/sale on Thursday 28th February at 2-3.30pm. The children will be selling Fairtrade goods, teas, coffees and cakes amongst other produce that they have made. Whilst you sit back, relax and enjoy your 'afternoon tea' the children, led by the Fairtrade group, will share their learning through performances, songs, dances and talks. Help support us in guaranteeing a fair price for workers! If you are interest in attending (with students) please contact Mrs Richardson via the school email [admin@scraftoftvalley.leicester.sch.uk](mailto:admin@scraftoftvalley.leicester.sch.uk)



### **Free trees for schools planting**

Enstruct Training is working in partnership with Trees for Cities this Winter, involving children with planting trees in school grounds. Would you like your school to be involved? It won't cost the school anything at all – the trees and instruction are fully funded and all tools, equipment, and risk/benefit assessments will be provided.

Planting days start with an assembly about the importance of trees then each class comes outside

for about 40 minutes and every child can be involved with the planting. The trees are currently about 20cm tall and will “wear” plastic guards for the first 3 years or so.

If your school already has a wooded area which is used regularly, you may like to consider extending it to allow for rotation in the future. If you can set aside a tennis court-sized area (of any shape, including a row along a fence line,) to be a Forest of the Future and commit to leaving it there then do let Enstruct know ASAP by e-mailing [bethan@enstructtraining.co.uk](mailto:bethan@enstructtraining.co.uk) or calling 07398 777691.

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## Water POWER poster competition

The POWER project competition for primary schools in Leicester is still live! All you have to do is ask children to design a poster which will be used to promote water awareness.

*The poster will be used to encourage primary school children to save water, understand flooding and reduce littering*

Further information can be found by downloading the flyer. **Deadline for entries extended until 21 December 2018**



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**Our mailing address is:**  
Leicester City Council - Environment Team  
Phoenix House  
King Street  
Leicester, Leicestershire LE1 6RN  
United Kingdom

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