



Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of the SEEd e-newsletter! We aim to keep in touch twice a month with news on SEEd's development, sustainable development and ESD, jobs, funding and notifications of any useful upcoming events, courses or consultations. Please let us know what you think!

If you would like to send us an article to include for the next newsletter please email news@se-ed.org.uk.

In this edition:

SEEd News	2
Member News	2
1. RHS Campaign for School Gardening celebrates its 1 st Birthday	2
2. Minister for Schools and Learning and Mayor Unveil London School's 'Green-Zone'	3
3. RSPB: Big Schools' Bird Watch	3
SD & ESD News	4
1. Ofsted launch their own Sustainable Development Action Plan	4
2. LSC Publishes Latest Action Plan - 'From Here to Sustainability'	4
3. Hundreds of primary schools in England will be rebuilt, as ministers release £1.75bn for approved building work.	4
Resources and Guidance	5
Launch of 'Towards Whole School Sustainability' Report	5
National Award Schemes	5
1. Change to Permanent Green Flag – Eco Schools	5
2. Reminder: Ashden Awards for Sustainable Energy 2009 – deadline for applications is 2 nd December	6
Research	6
We would still like your views on Climate Change resources you have used	6
Events and Courses	7
1. Opening the Doorway to Sustainability: An online course for educators	7
2. School Grounds National Conference	7
3. Head teacher Breakfast Event: Sustainable Schools	7
4. Communicating Sustainability: how to reach mainstream schools	8
Jobs	8
1. Kent Downs Landscape Education Officer - Kent County Council	8
2. Environmental Youth Worker - Groundwork Luton & South Bedfordshire	8
Subscription	9



SEEd News

We are pleased to announce that the date for the next Sustainable Schools Forum workshop will be held on the 15th December. This workshop will focus on *Communicating Sustainability* – how to reach out to mainstream schools with the learning for sustainability message. Please see Events for further information.

Interest in the 2009 online course, which we are offering in partnership with WWF UK, has been extremely positive. *Opening the Doorway to Sustainability: An online course for educators* will offer participants the opportunity to explore different approaches to sustainable schools, identify and begin to develop key skills, and practise reflection and action learning approaches to ensure new skills and knowledge are applied. For more information please visit our website:

www.se-ed.org.uk/onlinecourse2009

SEEd now have a short-term office base at the Kensington Charity Centre on Kensington High Street:

SEEd, c/o London 21
Kensington Charity Centre
4th Floor, Charles House
375 Kensington High Street
London W14 8QH

Member News

1. RHS Campaign for School Gardening celebrates its 1st Birthday

The RHS was launched in September 2007 by Blue Peter gardener, Chris Collins. Since then 6,000 schools, nearly one million pupils, across the UK have signed up to get their hands dirty and fingers green. The campaign teaches children about plants and gardening, while providing resources and lesson plans to help all teachers make the most of their school garden, teach the National Curriculum outdoors and inspire their pupils. The campaign celebrated its first birthday at the end of September with schools across the UK baking cakes.

Campaign for School Gardening:

<http://www.rhs.org.uk/schoolgardening/teachershome/news/campaignsfristbirthday.aspa>

Benefits for Campaign members include:

- Rewards for your progress on the new benchmarking.
- Access to resources including lesson plans and information on growing vegetables that will help you use your school gardens to greater effect.
- Regular electronically updated news and items of interest
- Discounted rates on RHS CPD days.



2. Minister for Schools and Learning and Mayor Unveil London School's 'Green-Zone'

The Under-Secretary of State for Schools and Learners- Sarah McCarthy-Fry MP and the Mayor of Newham (Sir Robin Wales) were among the special guests visiting Lathom Junior School last week for the unveiling of the school's new 'Green Zone'. The new 'greener' grounds has been developed by pupils, staff, parents and the local community to change the school's drab tarmac space into an area that will enable the children to enjoy nature, grow their own food and learn more about the environment.

The celebration of the new 'Green Zone' marked the opening of the school's new garden, trees, flower beds, recycling zone and an area for the children to grow their own vegetables, herbs and fruit. The zone has also inspired the pupils to form a gardening club.

The transformation within the grounds is thanks to the John Laing School Grounds Awards run in partnership with national school grounds charity Learning through Landscapes.

To celebrate the unveiling the children launched seed rockets, planted garlic cloves and dressed the trees with their messages of hope for the new green grounds.

Sarah McCarthy Fry commented on the day, "Gardening, growing vegetables and getting your hands dirty is a fantastic way to bring lessons to life. Learning outside the classroom is not some optional extra. It should excite young people, deepen their understanding of classroom subjects and is vital for young people to become independent, confident and motivated."

To read the full article visit: <http://www.ltl.org.uk/news.htm?t=1&item=228>

3. RSPB: Big Schools' Bird Watch

The Big Schools' Bird Watch takes place from 19 and 30 January 2009 and is a week when the RSPB will be asking children and their teachers to look out for and count the birds that share their school environment. The activity involves a simple bird survey that can be carried out in school and aims to encourage children to identify and take an interest in the birds visiting their school grounds.

Participation in the survey is free and works across a wide age and ability range. The survey can be used as a standalone project, part of a curriculum course or become more embedded as part of a whole school approach to pupil well-being and access to natural green space.

In 2008, 1,500 schools, involving more than 48,000 participants, took part in the survey counting 46,000 birds.

For more info visit: www.rspb.org.uk/schoolswatch



SD & ESD News

1. Ofsted launch their own Sustainable Development Action Plan

Ofsted have launched their own Sustainable Development Action Plan, with a range of targets and plans to embed more sustainable practices across the department. These include 'A Sustainable Approach to Inspection and Regulation' and also an indication that Ofsted will be utilising the Sustainable Development Commission's report *Every Child's Future Matters* to 'extend our understanding and interpretation of SD in relation to Every Child Matters outcomes'.

Ofsted's action plan for 2008-09 aims to build upon sustainable development work that Ofsted has been pursuing over the last year, setting ambitious but achievable new targets that they will report against annually, and that will inform the way they integrate sustainable development into their core business activities in the future.

To view the plan, visit:

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Documents-by-type/Miscellaneous/Ofsted-s-Sustainable-Development-Action-Plan-2008-09>

2. LSC Publishes Latest Action Plan - 'From Here to Sustainability'

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has now published its latest sustainability Action Plan and Progress Report, 'From Here to Sustainability'. The Plan sets out the actions the LSC will take to support sustainable development in 2008/09 - a mix of internally and externally focused actions, designed to deliver change both within the LSC and in the wider further education (FE) system. The updated Progress Report provides a review of developments since 2005, and also highlights some of the challenges currently facing the LSC and the FE system in the field of sustainable development.

View the Action Plan on the LSC website: <http://www.lsc.gov.uk/publications>

View the Progress Report: www.lsc.gov.uk/publications

3. Hundreds of primary schools in England will be rebuilt, as ministers release £1.75bn for approved building work.

Over 1,500 rebuilding or refurbishment projects will begin across 133 local authorities over the next two years. The remaining 15 local councils in England will be offered advice on how to bring their plans up to speed.

The projects are part of the Primary Capital Programme, which is investing £7bn to rebuild or refurbish half of all primary schools by 2022-23.

While the Department for Children, Schools and Families has contributed £1.75bn towards work over the next two years, local authorities are matching the funding to bring the overall cost of this stage of the rebuild programme to £3.55bn.

To read the full article visit: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/7722119.stm>



Resources and Guidance

Launch of 'Towards Whole School Sustainability' Report

Ann Finlayson, SEEd Director, officially launched the new Government Office for London publication by and for members of the London Sustainable Schools Forum (LSSF), *Towards Whole School Sustainability – A View from London Schools*, at the LSSF workshop on whole school approaches last month. The new booklet has been produced in response to a commonly expressed challenge for London schools: how can the enthusiastic individual or 'lone zealot' in a school engage the whole school community to work towards becoming a sustainable school?

Towards Whole School Sustainability is full of ideas and tips from London schools, on who you can involve, and how. It also contains a long list of links and resources, organised around the 8 Doorways of the National Framework for Sustainable Schools.

Ann, who has worked in the environmental field for nearly 30 years in the UK and abroad, noted that it has been a long term challenge to get 'everybody talking the same language', but that this is what is needed, both within and outside the school community, to really embed sustainability and take meaningful action for change.

To download the publication from GOL's sustainable schools webpage:
http://www.gos.gov.uk/gol/Children_youngpeople/Sustainable_schools/

Or you can request a hard copy from: sustainableschools@gol.gsi.gov.uk

National Award Schemes

1. Change to Permanent Green Flag – Eco Schools

There has been a slight change regarding the way schools renew their green flag. From September 2008 permanent green flags will now no longer be awarded and all green flags will need to be renewed two years after the date they were received.

Renewing the green flag regularly keeps environmental issues immediate and fresh and also gives new pupils the chance to be involved in the application process and to celebrate the school's achievement.

Schools that received the permanent flag more than two years ago and would like to continue the programme will need to submit an application for their next flag within the next twelve months. The criteria for green flag are available at www.eco-schools.org.uk.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this change in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Eco-Schools team on 01942 612621.

Or you can request a hard copy from: sustainableschools@gol.gsi.gov.uk



2. Reminder: Ashden Awards for Sustainable Energy 2009 – deadline for applications is 2nd December

The Ashden Awards celebrate and reward champions who are finding solutions to climate change and bringing real social and economic benefits to their local communities.

Schools that have been practising sustainable energy for more than a year and integrating it in their culture can apply for the Schools Award. They must be able to demonstrate they've made actual energy savings, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and possibly generated renewable energy.

The competition awards prize money of up to £15,000 per project. Deadline for UK schools applications: 2nd December 2008.

For more information go to: www.ashdenawards.org

Research

We would still like your views on Climate Change resources you have used

SEEd is looking to develop an accessible base of research on EE/ ESD related education resources. We aim to make this information available on our website and structured in a way that is as easy-to-use and navigable for teachers as possible but we need your help in reviewing these resources.

Initially we have done research into Climate Change education resources and some of the main Climate Change resources we have found are listed below. If you have used or been involved in using any of these resources, or others not listed, we would love to hear from you.

NAME OF RESOURCE OR PROJECT:	PROVIDED OR RUN BY:
Power Down - Climate Change action tool kit for secondary schools	Action Aid
Climate Champions Programme	British Council
Generation Green Website	British Gas
Green day: A climate change activity kit for schools	CABE
Cutting carbon footprints in schools' Guide	Carbon Trust
Saving energy in schools' Guide	Carbon Trust
Climate Change speakers provided	Climate Change Speaker Network
Carbon Detective kit	DCSF
Defra Climate Change Champions Programme	Defra

For a full list of resources, please visit our website:

www.se-ed.org.uk/news/teacher-resources.html

Please email and tell us, in about 200 words, which of these (or other) resources you have used, how you have used them, and how useful they have been. Emails of your reviews (stating which school you are from) can be sent to Hermione Fricker: Hermione.fricker@se-ed.org.uk



Events and Courses

1. Opening the Doorway to Sustainability: An online course for educators

Description: *Opening the Doorway to Sustainability: An online course for educators* is a professional development programme from WWF-UK, which is being run in 2009 by SEEd. Using the DCSF's National Framework for Sustainable Schools as a starting point, it offers an opportunity to explore how taking a sustainable schools approach can benefit pupils, teachers, the wider community and of course the health and wellbeing of the planet on which we all depend.

Course participants will explore different approaches to sustainable schools, identify and begin to develop key skills, and practise reflection and action learning approaches to ensure new skills and knowledge are applied. At the end of the course, participants should feel equipped to take forward the sustainable schools agenda with confidence.

Date: 12th January – 20th March 2009

Venue: -

Further Information: Telephone: 07525 264540 or Email: info@se-ed.org.uk
Or visit our website: se-ed.org.uk/onlinecourse2009.

2. School Grounds National Conference

Description: The 2009 National Conference will focus on a big issue for children's wellbeing: Play. The government's Play Strategy is out next month, and play in schools will be a key feature. LTL's conference is a timely opportunity to talk to experts about the benefits of outdoor play and how to build it into the school day.

The conference, run by national school grounds charity Learning through Landscapes, will cover all aspects of play through practical workshops, (indoor and outdoor), with topics including 'Playing with art', 'Playing with music', 'Playing with scrap', 'Playing with natural materials', 'Playing with design', and 'Playing with your thoughts'. There will also be opportunities to hear expert speakers talk about the topics that matter most to schools when it comes to outdoor play.

Date: Thursday 22nd January 2009, 10am-4pm

Venue: Beeches Management Centre, Bournville, Birmingham

Further Information: A booking form can be downloaded via the conference link on LTL's homepage: www.ltl.org.uk. There are **reduced fees** for bookings made before **3rd November**.

3. Head teacher Breakfast Event: Sustainable Schools

Description: This event is organised by Government Office for London and is specifically aimed at London Head teachers, to hear about and discuss the latest research and priorities relating to sustainable schools, and the link to whole school improvement. Head teachers will hear directly from DCSF and Ofsted, have the opportunity to ask questions and network with colleagues.

Date: 19th November, 8.30 - 9.50am

Venue: The Resource Centre, Islington

Further Information: **Places for this event are very limited** - please contact Verity Zurita as soon as possible to reserve your place: Verity.Zurita@gol.qsi.gov.uk Tel: 020 7217 3179



4. Communicating Sustainability: how to reach mainstream schools

- Description:** This interactive workshop has been designed in response to the network's request for advice, support and help on communications. The workshop will look specifically at reaching new audiences, understanding which hooks are best for drawing people's interest into your work and realising which other groups are important to reach. The workshop programme will be designed around exploring models of communication as well as practice and applying it to Sustainable Schools as well as looking at evidence on teachers needs. Participants will be encouraged to share their communication activities and models and share in the development of ideas and actions. A buffet lunch will be provided. There is no charge to attend this event.
- Date:** Monday 15th December, 10am – 4pm
- Venue:** Wellcome Collection Conference Centre, 183 Euston Road, London NW1
- Further Information:** To register your place please email Hermione Fricker: Hermione.fricker@se-ed.org.uk

Jobs

1. Kent Downs Landscape Education Officer - Kent County Council

- Description:** 18.5 hours per week or 2.5 days per week (Fixed term contract for 24 months with possible extension), full time applications will be considered, this would be a Fixed term contract for 21 months.
- This is an exciting opportunity to work with primary schools in and near the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). You will develop and implement a landscape education project that will innovatively engage KS2 children in the heritage of the Kent Downs AONB and will cover aspects of social and natural history, geology, and geography. You will work with artists, teachers, heritage experts, children and Kent Downs colleagues and will organise classroom visits, site visits, a programme of guided walks, teacher landscape training sessions and the production of a Kent Downs family guide book.
- Salary:** £22,825 - £26,159 pa pro rata
- Location:** East Brabourne, Nr Ashford, Kent
- Closing Date:** 27 Nov 08
- Further Information:** For further details email: recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or telephone: 08458 247 904.

2. Environmental Youth Worker - Groundwork Luton & South Bedfordshire

- Description:** Working predominantly with our team in Luton & South Bedfordshire, we are seeking a highly motivated individual to help drive our groundbreaking and fast-expanding environmental youth programme forward.
- This post represents a great opportunity to be involved in youth work within and away from the formal schools setting with great flexibility in terms of projects and working hours. You will also have ample scope for innovation and we'll make sure you're given all the support and guidance you need to really take your career forward.
- Holding a nationally or locally recognised JNC youth work qualification, your experience will include working with challenging and/or at risk young people, project management and working in partnership with other agencies. You will have an ability to form effective working relationships with young people from a wide range of backgrounds and an understanding of the issues affecting them. You will have a talent for communicating to a wide range of colleagues and partners, combined with effective IT skills.
- An ability to work on your own and as part of a team will be an asset. A valid driving



license is essential.

Salary: £19,810 - £25,204 pa

Location: Luton, Bedfordshire

Closing Date: 27 Nov 08

Further Information: For further details please contact Debbie Vidler on email: deborah.vidler@groundwork.org.uk or telephone: 01707 260129.

Subscription

If you would like to **unsubscribe** from SEEd's e-news please email news@se-ed.org.uk and put 'Unsubscribe' in the subject line.