



Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of the SEEd e-newsletter. We aim to keep you in touch with news on sustainable development in the Education sector, ESD, jobs, funding and any 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.

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SEEd News

1. WWF Online Sustainability Course – Opening the Doorway to Sustainability

Opening the Doorway to Sustainability: An online course for educators is a professional development programme from WWF, being run in 2010 by Sustainability and Environmental Education (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 aspects of sustainability and sustainable schools. They will 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.

Visit the website www.se-ed.org.uk/onlinecourse2010 for the full course information and to register your interest.

2. Policy Forum for SEEd Members: 29th January 2010

Theme:	Policy developments on global issues and schools and how they affect your work with schools.
Possible sub-themes (tbc)	Climate Change, Energy policies, Food and Farming, Consumption, the new curricula, behaviour change, community cohesion...
Format:	Keynote, followed by short presentation grouped in themes, followed by discussion and an open space meeting in the afternoon to think through what this may mean to you and your work.
Location:	Central Hall Westminster, London SW1H 9NH, Map
Timing:	9.30 – 4.30 pm
Cost:	£50, with 10% discount as a SEEd member, therefore £45 (to cover lunch and refreshments).
What to do next:	We anticipate places will go quickly, so <ul style="list-style-type: none">• become a supporting member if you are not already (www.se-ed.org.uk/membership.html);• register your interest in the Forum by emailing michael.cutts@se-ed.org.uk; and• let us know what policy areas you are interested in.
Further information:	To reserve your place at the Policy Forum Event please send a cheque made out to 'Sustainability & Environmental Education' (SEEd), along with your details, at the above address. Alternatively, you can pay securely online via our website: www.se-ed.org.uk/events/policy-forum.html



3. Facilitation for Learning for Sustainability – next running 26th and 27th January

SEEd will be running the second Facilitation for Sustainability course in January 2010.

This course is about being able to run creative facilitated events and workshops that help people develop new ideas that they can sustain by engaging in a learning process.

You may be finding yourself grappling with the need to make personal and organisational changes that are intended to lead towards a more sustainable future. But how to engage others in this? As a pioneer or champion you may be working in isolation but know you need to engage other groups to work effectively for change. You can't do it on your own! This course shows you how!

This is a unique course in the UK suitable for Teachers, educators, local authority staff, NGO staff, environment/sustainability champions in organisations. The course brings together facilitation techniques with learning theory, social learning and practice. It focuses on sustainability and the learning processes needed when groups come together to develop ideas and practice.

To find out more and register your interest in the course visit:

www.se-ed.org.uk/events/facilitation-for-sustainability.html

4. National Sustainable Schools Conferences – June 2010

SEEd are glad to announce that we will be running the National Sustainable Schools Conferences again in 2010, supported by DCSF. With a bit more time to plan this year, we aim to run these regional conferences in June, earlier in the school term, so keep this in mind for your diaries, and watch this space for exact dates.

You can read the full article about the NSSC Conferences 2009 from Ann Finlayson, SEEd's Chief Executive, in the September issue:

www.se-ed.org.uk/resources/newsletter/SEEdNews_Sept09.pdf

As promised the video from the NSSC Preston Conference is now available to watch on the SEEd website – let us know what you think!

www.se-ed.org.uk/news/preston-event-video.html

5. Become a Member! SEEd Membership Now Available

Join us and be part of the new SEEd! This is a fast growing organisation, membership-led, offering a chance to be part of the growth of sustainability and environmental education in the UK. Membership has benefits such as discount on SEEd events, access to resources, up to date information, discussion groups, professional development, and research. You can also be part of consultations and help create the change we need to embed this in all our education work. We already have a cross-sectoral membership – individuals, teachers, Further Education colleges, schools, local authorities, NGOs, and other organisations. So find your membership level and request a form from admin@se-ed.org.uk

Visit the SEEd website for membership details: www.se-ed.org.uk/membership.html



6. SEEd thank you to Anthony Thomas

SEEd would like to give a big thank you to Anthony Thomas, former Chief Executive of the Field Studies Council as well as former Chair of CEE, who is retiring from his role at the FSC this week. SEEd would like to show warm appreciation for Anthony's enduring support in restarting CEE as the new SEEd and wish him all the best in his retirement.

7. SEEd are based in new offices – please note our new address

As of 14th September SEEd have moved into offices shared with Global Action Plan near Covent Garden. Please note our new address below:

SEEd
9 – 13 Kean Street
London WC2B 4AY

ESD & EE News

1. Big School Makeover – British Council for School Environments

The Big School Makeover is a national programme brought to you by the British Council for School Environments – the UK's leading charity in education, design and construction. It aims to encourage teachers, parents and young people to get involved in refreshing or refurbishing a classroom, dining room or even an outside space. Why? Because school buildings matter.

Small change to Big difference

We want to see young people and teachers up and down the country involved in designing and taking action in their schools. The programme's slogan, Small Change to Big Difference, illustrates that with a little imagination and effort any area of the school can be turned into a pleasant and stimulating place for learning, whatever the budget.

Visit the Big Schools Makeover website: www.bigschoolmakeover.org.uk



2. A safe operating space for humanity

Nature 461, 472-475 (24 September 2009) | doi:10.1038/461472a; Published online 23 September 2009

Identifying and quantifying planetary boundaries that must not be transgressed could help prevent human activities from causing unacceptable environmental change, argue Johan Rockström and colleagues.

Summary

New approach proposed for defining preconditions for human development
Crossing certain biophysical thresholds could have disastrous consequences for humanity
Three of nine interlinked planetary boundaries have already been overstepped

Although Earth has undergone many periods of significant environmental change, the planet's environment has been unusually stable for the past 10,000 years. This period of stability — known to geologists as the Holocene — has seen human civilizations arise, develop and thrive. Such stability may now be under threat. Since the Industrial Revolution, a new era has arisen, the Anthropocene, in which human actions have become the main driver of global environmental change. This could see human activities push the Earth system outside the stable environmental state of the Holocene, with consequences that are detrimental or even catastrophic for large parts of the world.

During the Holocene, environmental change occurred naturally and Earth's regulatory capacity maintained the conditions that enabled human development. Regular temperatures, freshwater availability and biogeochemical flows all stayed within a relatively narrow range. Now, largely because of a rapidly growing reliance on fossil fuels and industrialized forms of agriculture, human activities have reached a level that could damage the systems that keep Earth in the desirable Holocene state. The result could be irreversible and, in some cases, abrupt environmental change, leading to a state less conducive to human development. Without pressure from humans, the Holocene is expected to continue for at least several thousands of years.

For the full article visit: www.nature.com/nature/journal/v461/n7263/full/461472a.html

3. One minute to save the world – Competition Deadline: 7th November

By Gisselle Casio, website officer, Engaging Places | 28 September 2009

Whatever you do and whoever you are, your view on climate change matters, and now it can be heard and seen by the world. Create a one minute film clip to enter this international competition, and be part of a creative collective raising climate change awareness.

The deadline for entries is **7 November 2009**. After this date the in house team will select their 15 favourite films which will go to a panel of judges along with the five highest rated films by the public. These 20 finalists' films will be screened on the homepage and Guardian Unlimited. Winners and prizes will be announced 23 November 2009 at 17:00 (GMT).



The winning film will receive a cash prize of £1000, donated by Passion Pictures and will be screened in selected cinemas across the UK; there will also be screenings of two finalists work at the Copenhagen Climate Conference.

Visit: www.engagingplaces.org.uk/news/art72207

4. UNESCO International Seminar on Climate Change Education

This three-day expert seminar on climate change education was organized by UNESCO with financial support from Denmark at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. It brought together some 60 experts in climate change, education for sustainable development and curriculum development, in particular coming from Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Recognizing the increasing rate of climate change and the severity of its impacts, and in advance of the UN Climate Change Conference to be held in Copenhagen in December, UNESCO Director-General Koïchiro Matsuura called for a "radical change in the ways we think and act", in particular as regards education and teacher training.

"For UNESCO, climate change education is an integral part of the vision of education for sustainable development (ESD). That is the vision of a world where everyone has the opportunity to benefit from quality education and gain the knowledge and skills required for sustainable development and positive societal transformation", he emphasized. "As lead coordinator of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, UNESCO is encouraging all its Member States to reorient their education systems in this direction. This means encouraging greater interdisciplinarity – recognizing the social, environmental, economic and cultural dimensions of development and how they interrelate. ESD also means empowering learners to think critically and creatively, to solve complex problems, and to take decisions that consider the long-term future. Above all, ESD is about promoting values that will enable learners to become real agents of change – values such as peace, equality, and respect for others and the wider social and natural environment", he added.

The Seminar recognized that climate change is a truly global challenge that will impact all ecosystems and human societies, but in different ways and to different degrees. Addressing climate change requires involvement and action at the local, regional and global level, and education has a central role to play in understanding, mitigating and adapting to climate change.

Taken from the UNESCO DESD Quarterly Highlights Newsletter, August 2009



Member News

1. BBC Breathing Places Schools

Now in its second year, BBC Breathing Places Schools encourages pupils to learn more about the wildlife living outside their classroom window and how they can help it thrive into the future. Each term, teacher's notes provide simple step-by-step guidance to teachers with ideas and activities based around a wildlife friendly theme. Previous terms of work have included seed sowing, discovering minibeasts, feeding wildlife, creating homes for wildlife and making water habitats for nature. The autumn term 2009 will be focused on trees with each registered school receiving a rowan tree sapling to plant during that term. Each activity idea will not only engage pupils in finding out more about nature but will benefit the wildlife on their school's doorstep. With the current number of schools taking part standing at over 10,000, this UK wide project has gone from strength to strength.

BBC Breathing Places Schools is free for schools to take part in, is accessible to all schools whether they have green areas in their grounds or not and teachers can choose to do as a little or as much as they like. It's never too late to get started doing one thing for nature and making the most of school grounds. As one participating teacher said, "*We have now begun to appreciate the outdoor space we have at school.*"

To find out more information and how to register your school to receive a BBC Breathing Places Schools starter activity pack, please go to www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces/schools

2. News from the Environment Education Forum, Northern Ireland - 'Growing School Grounds' Conference

The recent EEF Conference, 'Growing School Grounds' – "Good for health, good for learning, good for biodiversity: Reaping the benefits of learning outside and beyond the classroom" that took place at the Greenmount College, Antrim was attended by over 60 EEF members and teachers.

The event provided an opportunity for delegates to hear from a variety of interesting and thought provoking speakers on issues such as gaining the Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge, Global Action Plan's 'Appetite for Action' programme, how Playtrail in Derry connects Classroom to Community.

The young people from Ballycraigy and Carniny Primary Schools stole the show and gave two fantastic and highly enthusiastic presentations to the delegates on the actions they and their schools have taken to grow their school grounds.

The EEF Conference report can be found on the EEF website at: www.eefni.org.uk/conferenceproceedings



3. Cash Awards Available for London School Grounds Transformation

All schools in London can now apply for a cash award to transform their grounds into an environment for learning, creative play, activity, discovery and social development.

The John Laing Charitable Trust - School Grounds Awards are offering over 50 awards, including cash prizes of £5,000, £2,000 and £1,000 to schools across London to improve their outdoor environments.

The awards - managed in partnership with Learning through Landscapes, the national school grounds charity - are open to *all* LEA maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools within the Greater London area.

The awards are designed to support schools in providing opportunities for children to learn and develop in stimulating and innovative school grounds and will fund projects that may be educational, environmental, health-promoting or simply enhance play or social development.

Prizes will include:

- 1 x £5,000 cash award
- 1 x £2,000 cash award
- 1 x £1,000 cash award
- Over 50 x Schoolgrounds - UK or Early Years Outdoors memberships (worth over £3,000 in total)

The awards, now in their fourth year of running, have previously provided thousands of pounds in cash awards to several schools across London enabling school grounds to be vastly improved.

Schools and early year settings in London can apply for the John Laing Charitable Trust - London School Grounds Awards **now** by downloading an application at: www.ltl.org.uk/johnlaingawards.htm

The closing date for applications is **Monday 26th October 2009**.

For further information please contact Ltl's Communications Officer, Spencer Butt.

Email: sbutt@ltl.org.uk

Tel: 01962 845102

For more information on LTL please visit www.ltl.org

4. Have your say: Should Schools Teach Climate Change? – Poll from DEA

The DEA has been at the Political Party Conferences this month and one of the topics for debate at DEA's five events has been: 'Should Schools Teach Climate Change?'

In relation to this DEA are conducting a poll on their website on this issue - if you'd like to vote then please scroll down to the poll on the DEA Home Page: www.dea.org.uk and cast your vote.



Consultations

1. ClimateSquad's 'Trees versus Loggers' Pillow Fights around the country!

Climate Squad is a community youth project from Global Action Plan, featured in last month's SEEd newsletter, encouraging 16 to 25 year old volunteers to tackle the issue of climate change in their communities by taking part in, or leading on, carbon reduction projects with householders, schools, colleges, local businesses and outdoor environmental organisations.

ClimateSquad is organising two pillow fights in the next month where young people come together in Birmingham and London for a big pillow fight! The theme is Trees vs Loggers, and is a fun opportunity for young people to demonstrate that they're ready to act to reduce carbon emissions. The first two will take place on 24th October in Birmingham's Victoria Square, and on 7th November in London's Leicester Square, so come along and (pillow) fight Climate Change!

For details visit the ClimateSquad website: www.climatesquad.org.uk

2. SEEd needs your help!

With the climate change negotiations coming up, elections next year and the Year of Biodiversity in 2010 we are planning a series of workshops to help teachers find a road map through the plethora of climate change and energy resources as well as biodiversity resources. If you are interested in attending a workshop regionally to review resources and then develop lesson plans and topic plans for a variety of subjects and ages please get in touch. These will be daylong workshops offered around the country and your work will appear on the SEEd website so that others can also find a fast route into these 2 important topics.

Send your contact details to: events@se-ed.org.uk



Events and Courses

1. London Grid for Learning Primary Schools Conference 2009

- Description:** Following the success of the 2008 London MLE User Conference held in December at the Emirates Stadium, London Grid for Learning are pleased to announce details for the Primary Schools' User Conference 2009. LGfL will also be holding the [LGfL 2009 Awards](#).
Keynote Speaker: Sir Tim Brighouse
- Date:** 2nd November 2009
- Cost:** Delegate fee: £48 +VAT - includes lunch and refreshments through the day.
- Venue:** Emirates Stadium
- Further Information:** For further info visit the LGfL website: <http://cms.lgfl.net/web/lgfl/homepage>

2. RSA National Conference - What next for the Primary Curriculum? Opening Minds at primary school

- Description:** The RSA is holding a national conference to explore what its Opening Minds curriculum can offer primary schools in a changing policy environment. Recent reviews have raised important questions about primary school teaching. Thematic, streamlined, modernised, locally adaptable – the consensus is that the curriculum needs to change.
Hear from experts in curriculum reform:
- Sir Jim Rose, author of the independent review of the primary curriculum
 - Barry Sheerman MP, chairman of the House of Commons Select Committee for Children, Schools and Families
 - Mick Brookes, general secretary of the NAHT
 - Matthew Taylor, chief executive of the RSA
- Plus have a chance to:
- Learn about the experience of primary schools already using Opening Minds
 - Network with experts and practitioners
- Date:** 3rd November 2009
- Cost:** Supported rate (schools, voluntary organisations, trade unions) £195; full rate £250. A discount of £20 per ticket is available if three or more delegates from one school attend.
- Venue:** RSA House, 8 John Adam Street, London WC2N 6EZ
- Further Information:** To book a place at this important event, visit www.theRSA.org/opening-minds-at-primary or contact openingmindsevents@rsa.org.uk

3. Community Cohesion and the Global Dimension Conference

- Description:** A practical one-day conference for head teachers, school leaders, subject leaders and advisors.
- Date:** 4th November 2009, 10.30am – 4.30pm
- Cost:** £175 per delegate
- Venue:** British Museum, London
- Further Information:** For full details visit: www.globalclassrooms.co.uk



4. British Council for School Environments – World Learning Environments Conference

Description: Take away great ideas for school design and construction. This 2 two day event will showcase award winning and best practice in school design, share the experience of governments engaged in similar system wide transformation of schools and set the agenda for the year ahead.

- Global speakers, industry leaders and cutting edge practitioners
- What's next for capital programmes post election
- Site visits to learning environments across the North of England
- Learning Environments Live: sharing best practice and innovative ideas
- Take away new business, networks, contacts and suppliers

Download the conference brochure here:

www.bcseworldconference.org.uk/assets/BCSE_World_Conference_Brochure.pdf

Date: 11th – 12th November 2009

Cost: See brochure

Venue: Marriott Hotel, Liverpool and Halewood Centre for Learning, Knowsley

Further Information: Book Online at: www.bcseworldconference.org.uk

T: 020 7785 6291 F: 0845 456 1804

Email: georgina@bcse.uk.net

5. BGEN Annual Conference – Weathering the Storm

Description: BGEN's annual conference will explore our current understanding of climate change and the challenges faced by educators and botanic gardens.

This year's themes will:

- Explore the scientific reality of climate change
- Share ideas for effective public engagement
- Suggest practical approaches to teaching and learning about climate change

Workshops from:

- The Forestry Commission
- The National Trust
- The Woodland Trust
- Eden Project
- Oxford Climate Exchange
- BGCi & Royal Botanic Gardens Kew

Date: 19th – 20th November 2009

Cost: See brochure

Venue: Ness Botanic Gardens, Ness, Neston, South Wirral CH64 4AY

Further Information: For full information and booking details visit:

<http://bgen.org.uk/index.php/component/content/article/124-weathering-the-storm-practical-ways-to-communicate-climate-change>



6. London Sustainable Schools Forum December Conference

- Description:** 'Sustainable Schools and Sustainable Communities'
- Date:** 9.30am - 3pm, Wednesday, 2nd December
- Venue:** ZSL London Zoo
- Further Information:** To book a place request a booking from sustainableschools@gol.qsi.gov.uk
Bookings to be received by **Friday 20th November**. Email: georgina@bcse.uk.net

7. Learning Outside the Classroom - First Annual Conference

- Description:** LOTC are proud to announce the date of their first annual conference including:
- Influential speakers from education correspondent and writer, Hilary Wilce, to Judith Hackitt, Chair of the Health and Safety Executive who will be talking on 'Demystifying Health and Safety and its impacts on LOTC'
 - The Council's first AGM and elections to the Board of Trustees
 - An open debate on barriers to learning outside the classroom
 - A variety of practical and supportive LOTC workshops
 - Quality Badge 'Ask the Expert' sessions and
 - The announcement and presentation of the national and regional winners of the LOTC Awards in Excellence and Innovation 2009 in association with TUI – Student Division.
- Date:** 3rd December 2009
- Cost:** Delegate fee: £35 per person
- Venue:** Leeds Royal Armouries
- Further Information:** For full details visit: <http://www.lotc.org.uk/News-and-events/Events/Council-for-Learning-Outside-the-Classroom-Nationa>



Jobs

1. Wastewatch - Head of Education

Description:

Salary: £35,000 - £39,000, London based

Waste Watch is an environmental charity working to change the way people use the world's natural resources. We advise, educate and support people to enable them to live sustainably, reduce their environmental impact and improve their quality of life.

Are you passionate about the environment? Can you develop the potential of our educational programme?

Your understanding of both the education sector and the sustainability agenda will enable you to take the lead in developing our education strategy and in project design.

You will have the vision and leadership skills to inspire a highly motivated staff team. As a strategic thinker and an exceptional communicator, you will also be able to develop diverse partnerships across the public, private and voluntary sectors. Your creative flair coupled with your practical approach will enable you to spot funding opportunities and successfully to turn ideas into reality.

For further details please see our website www.wastewatch.org.uk where you will find a full briefing and job description.

The **closing date** for this post is **midnight 15 November 2009**.

Further Information:

If you would like to know more please contact Thea Potgieter to arrange an informal discussion. She is available on 02075490346 or thea.potgieter@wastewatch.org.uk

2. SEEd facilitators for regional workshops and events

Description:

SEEd is looking for applications from experienced facilitators with experience of ESD to help facilitate workshops around the country. Experience can be with teachers, community groups or other educators. We are creating a Facilitators Network online to support each other as we do this important work around the country.

Please send a CV with details of your facilitation and/or teaching experience outlining your availability and preferred locations for work.

Further Information:

For further details contact Ann Finlayson, contact email: ann.finlayson@se-ed.org.uk.

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