



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. National Sustainable Schools Conferences, July 2009

SEEd ran the National Sustainable Schools Conference this year partnering with WWF, DCSF, DEA, GAP and National Grid. With only 2 months to organise this event, it was all hands on deck! We decided this year to try a regional approach to help those of you in places other than the South East get access to national speakers and workshops, as well as trying to keep the carbon footprint down for the whole event. (We nearly blew this when one participant wrote down she had come from Australia, however it turned out she had only come from Cambridge and was on a longer visit from Australia.)

Our other approaches were to have locally produced and Fairtrade food wherever possible, and to offer as much vegetarian food as possible. We also tried to keep the speakers travel to a minimum. With 4 locations in Leeds, Preston, London and Bristol we were very pleased with over 300 participants, especially since the conference had to be offered so late in the school term.

An innovation this year was to offer less free stuff to be taken away – so no conference bags! We followed WWF's innovative design of using badge holders as the agenda for the day, as well as the evaluation forms. To counteract 'no stuff' we set up an online conference so that whichever event you attended you could see all relevant presentations, download resources, read blogs, find people and make your comments and requests. Over 30 workshops and speakers were offered all over England with hopefully something for everyone. A downloadable resource of all of this is now available on the [SEEd website](#).

The highlights for me were the National Grid environmental education centres in Leeds and Preston (very cosy and fieldtrips were on the doorstep!), the hail storm in Preston and seeing how everyone coped with it, the young people's 'Chat Show' in London, the stories and enthusiasm of all involved, and finally the exhibitors really getting involved – attending workshops and learning more about what teachers and schools need. But don't take my word for it – watch the [YouTube video](#) from the Preston conference on our website.

Hope to see you all again in 2010 – hopefully in June.

Ann Finlayson

2. SEEd have moved 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
EC2B 4AY



3. 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

ESD & EE News

1. Breakthrough Ideas for the 21st-Century

At the beginning of July, the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) launched their 'Breakthrough Ideas for the 21st-Century' - a selection of the best ideas which could transform the UK into a sustainable society.

The SDC's Breakthroughs project set out to identify the ideas with the most potential for tackling climate change, resource depletion and inequality. Natural Values, an idea promoting outdoor experiences for all children in the UK, submitted by Dr Kate Rawles and Dr Chris Loynes of the University of Cumbria, was praised by SDC Commissioners, and included in the final selection of 19 ideas to be showcased.

Also included was a proposal for teaching and learning happiness to be embedded in the school curriculum, supported by happiness economics expert Professor Lord Richard Layard. The proposals would see teachers and schools working with young people to promote self esteem and social cohesion, and help them understand what makes people happy in life.

The Breakthroughs launch event was Jonathon Porritt's last major event as Chair of the Sustainable Development Commission before stepping down on 27 July. He said: "If we're to be suitably ambitious about how the environment contributes to young people's well-being, and how young people contribute to the well-being of the environment, we should aim to make outdoor experiences a sixth objective in the Every Child Matters Framework. As a minimum, structures and clear targets for outdoor experiences need to be backed up by strong and consistent incentives. Unless this is properly resourced, children's services, schools and other local partners can't and won't deliver."

The full report is available online at:

<http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/publications.php?id=972>



2. International Year of Biodiversity

Organisations that have not done so already may wish to consider signing up as partners in the International Year of Biodiversity-UK (IYB-UK) initiative. International Year of Biodiversity in the UK (IYB-UK) is a growing network of organisations in the UK working together to monitor, conserve and celebrate biodiversity.

In England, the IYB-UK initiative is supported by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and is being led by the Natural History Museum. The initiative will have its own dedicated website coming soon in November where you will be able to find events, wildlife surveys and nature projects.

To join and find out more information visit: <http://www.nhm.ac.uk/nature-online/biodiversity/international-year-biodiversity/international-year-biod-uk/index.html>

3. Climate Squad

Climate Squad is an enthusiastic community of 16-25 year olds working to do their bit to reduce their carbon footprint and stop climate change. The Climate Squad blogging website www.climatesquad.org.uk is now up and running, providing a platform for young people to learn more about the project via blog and twitter feeds and to suggest volunteering ideas.

The Climate Squad volunteering site has also recently launched, listing details of all volunteering opportunities available, from 6 month projects working with schools, householders and local businesses, to short-term conservation opportunities and one-off actions, including flash-mobs, interactive display events and production of profile-raising artworks for Copenhagen. Prospective volunteers will support each other via the online community, building profiles, registering their volunteering interests, taking part in discussion forums and uploading videos and podcasts to increase levels of participation, nationally.

Climate Squad have been recruiting 20 young people to sit on the project steering group, to advise on the development of Climate Squad. The project team is also interested to hear from all young people who would like to undertake the Community Leader training course. The first 3-day accredited residential course, for 100 Community Leaders, will run in September and provide ongoing support for the following 6 months of activities.

If you have any questions regarding the Climate Squad, can assist with the recruitment of young people or would like to explore partnership opportunities, please contact Lisa Stroud, Head of Youth Volunteering at Global Action Plan:

lisa.stroud@globalactionplan.org.uk

If you are interested in reading the YouGov research on young people's views on climate change, published for the Climate Squad launch you can download the research report at: http://www.vinspired.com/opportunities/articles/pdfs/doc_download/120-climate-squad-young-peoples-views-on-climate-change?tmpl=component&format=raw



Member News

1. School's Performance Transformed Through 'Dream Playground'

Children and teachers at Jessop Primary School explained to a cabinet minister how transforming their playground has helped them turn around school performance. The Right Honourable Tessa Jowell, MP visited Jessop Primary School, in Hearne Hill London, to find out first hand how outdoor learning and play can help transform education.

Since starting a project to improve its school grounds, the school, that in 2006 produced key stage one results that were among the worst in the country, has shown major improvements in results. Parents now recognise the change and the school roll has climbed from 189 to 225. The transformation has been supported by the Royal Bank of Scotland- RBS Dream Playgrounds project- and facilitated by the national school grounds charity, Learning through Landscapes. The 'Dream Playground' project aimed to identify the school playgrounds most in need of new facilities and received over 1,000 nominations across the country from which Jessop was selected as the overall winner.

Catherine Andrews, Learning through Landscapes Chief Executive said, "The environments we create for our children send them powerful messages about how much – or little – we value them as individuals. The new playground at Jessop sends out a strong message that this is a school which really values its children, and parents recognise that."

"The transformed space is also helping to improve school performance by enabling staff to bring teaching alive by giving children ways to learn through hands-on experiences outdoors".

2. John Clare Education Centre- Childhood and Nature

The former home of the 18th century poet John Clare, situated in the picturesque village of Helpston, has been developed into the John Clare Education Centre; an 'out of classroom' learning centre which encourages children to engage with nature and their surrounding environment. The John Clare Education Trust hold the unshakeable belief that it is every child's birthright to have access to the English countryside. This is ever more salient after the recent survey, sponsored by Natural England, which revealed that children's access to natural spaces has plummeted over 50% in a generation. It is clear that there is a need to reclaim this birthright and develop new learning opportunities that bring environmental issues to the children of today.

The John Clare Trust's education programmes are designed to do just this through a multi-disciplinary and hands on approach; educating the wards of the future about environmental sustainability whilst preserving the English countryside for future generations.

In order to raise funds to build the classroom and environmental education centre, a group of friends joined Barry Sheerman, MP and Chair of the John Clare Trust, in a sponsored four-day walk in July following the 80 mile route the poet John Clare travelled from Epping Forest back to his home in Helpston. The John Clare Trust aims to raise £10 for every step he took on his arduous journey.



The Trust would like to urge you and colleagues to support this excellent and worthy initiative in any way you can, by sponsoring a step. Please visit the John Clare Trust website for more information on the John Clare Centre and education programmes available:

www.clarecottage.org and www.johnclarewalk.org

Publications and Guidance

Successful school design - Guidance for submitting BSF designs to CABE's school design panel

'Successful school design' explains how the schools design panel assesses design quality. It includes three separate publications and two web resources.

1. How the schools design panel works

Lists the 10 assessment criteria, explains what overall design quality ratings mean and gives details of what happens before, during and after the review.

2. Questions to ask

Describes key issues to consider for each of the 10 assessment criteria. This helps bidders and designers prepare schemes and local authority clients develop briefs and evaluate schemes.

Our web resource can help your scheme meet the assessment criteria.

3. Effective graphic approaches

Helps bidders and designers prepare their visual presentation for the panel. It features effective graphic examples of the eight sheets required for review by the panel. Each graphic shows how the proposals relate to the 10 assessment criteria.

CABE's web resource can help you present your scheme to the schools design panel.

Download this resource for free at:

http://www.cabe.org.uk/publications/successful-school-design?utm_medium=email&utm_source=Campaign%20Monitor&utm_content=589874761&utm_campaign=Creating+successful+schools+-+new+CABE+publication+ +kriin&utm_term=Download+for+free



Consultations

Consultation on a Carbon Management strategy for the school sector

The consultation on a Carbon Management strategy for the school sector went live on 21st July.

DCSF has been working with the Sustainable Development Commission to identify ways in which the greenhouse gas emissions from the school sector can be reduced. A consultation has been launched, and will be open through until 20 November, to gather views from schools, Local Authorities, and the many other stakeholders whose action affects the level of emissions in the sector.

This is a complex and difficult task, but an urgent one if we are to play our part in reducing global emissions. Please go online at <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations> and pass your views on to the Department.

Take Part

1. The Wave – come together to stop climate chaos – 5th December 2009

With the upcoming Copenhagen climate change negotiations, Stop Climate Chaos a coalition of over 100 organisations has organized the biggest demonstration in support of action on climate change. Join in and inspire our government to quit dirty coal, build a green economy, and protect the world's poorest and most vulnerable communities.

Start: 12pm Grosvenor Square

Climax: 3pm Encircling Parliament

Transport info: www.the-wav.org.uk

Dress code: Anything Blue

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 day long 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. SEEd Facilitation for Sustainability Course

Description:

Sustainability requires us to live and work differently and this involves social learning in facilitated groups where new ideas and practices can be created together.

This facilitation 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. It is designed for teachers, educators, local authority staff, NGO staff and environment/sustainability champions in all organisations.

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 do you 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!

But this course shows you how!

There are two days of experiential learning held in South Kensington, London on October 1st and 2nd with eight weeks of subsequent action learning utilising continuous online support. This will be followed by two days of follow up experiential learning held again in London on December 1st and 2nd.

For more information please click on the links below to take you to the website and download the comprehensive guide:

<http://www.se-ed.org.uk/events/facilitation-for-sustainability.html>

http://www.se-ed.org.uk/resources/SEEd_Facilitation_for_Sustainability.pdf

Date:

Thursday and Friday 1st and 2nd October then 8 weeks of online supported action learning, **1st and 2nd December 2009** 9am to 5pm

Cost:

£600 for 4 contact days with free support for 2 months during action learning phase

Venue:

Baden-Powell House, 65 - 67 Queen's Gate, South Kensington, London SW7 5JS

Further

To book your place contact Michael Cutts on michael.cutts@se-ed.org.uk or

Information:

07525 264 540

2. Earthwatch Lecture: Meeting Marine Needs

Description:

Speakers Dennis Sammy, Nature Seekers, & Nienke van Geel, The Hebridean Whale & Dolphin Trust. Chaired by Nigel Winsler.

Human activities and climate change pose multiple threats to marine species. Hear about Earthwatch's research in projects as wide ranging as Trinidad's leatherback sea turtles and Hebridean whales and dolphins.

Please see: http://www.earthwatch.org/europe/get_involved/events09/lecture09-marine

Date:

Thursday 15th October 2009, 7.00pm – 8.30pm

Cost:

Ticket only - free to students and current Earthwatch donors; otherwise a donation will be requested on the door.

Venue:

Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR

Further

For tickets and/or more information contact our Events Department on 01865 318856;

Information:

events@earthwatch.org.uk



3. Communicate

Description:

Communicate is unique. Now in its sixth year, it is the only conference to focus specifically on improving the standards and effectiveness of communication about conservation and the environment.

Communicate delivers an intense and exciting programme, which includes presentations from prestigious international speakers, debates, creative activities and networking, learning and skill development opportunities.

An average of 175 delegates attend Communicate, including natural history filmmakers, representatives from local, national and international environmental and conservation organisations, business, policy makers, media, and national and local government bodies.

The focus is to provide delegates with a solutions-based approach to conservation communication. The conference leads to action by giving environmental communicators the understanding and tools they need to communicate complex messages to a range of audiences.

In 2008, the conference theme was "Messages for Change", and high-profile representatives across the sector explored how specific messages and communication outputs have been developed and how effective they are.

This year, our theme is "**Valuing the Invaluable**".

Biodiversity is so valuable, it's priceless. But how do we convince people it's not a luxury but a necessity? Using the different perspectives of three key speakers as our starting point we explore how we can begin to put a value on biodiversity and ask what it really means to value the invaluable.

Date:

21-22 October

Cost:

Single day rate - All sectors - £125.00 + VAT
Conference package (2 days) - Charity Sector - £175.00 + VAT
Conference package (2 days) - Public Sector - £200.00 + VAT
Conference package (2 days) - Private Sector - £250.00 + VAT

Venue:

HP Labs, Bristol

Further

Information:

For further info visit www.communicatenow.org.uk or contact 0117 370 0973 for more information.

4. Closing Loops, Opening Minds: Educating for a greener future

Description:

Teachers: Ken Webster, Blake Bower, Craig Johnson

Climate change meets the recession and energy resource limits. A low carbon future is promised. How do we educate for sustainability, beyond the personal responsibility context? Which frameworks for thinking will most assist schools, colleges and young people to find their place in an era of transition?

Drawing on systems thinking and innovations in design, business and community enterprise, this course presents a coherent approach for those wishing to transform their schools, organisations and educational practices to reflect changing employment and skills opportunities.

This course will help participants to look at the sustainability challenges in the context of education and within a wider world view. Participants will have the chance to explore existing dynamic models that can be of use in transforming ESD (education for sustainable development) practices. This is an opportunity for participants to undertake inquiry into their own practice which they can take back and use within their educational community.

The course is intended for: ESD coordinators, eco-schools coordinators, curriculum deputies, trainers and middle management in schools, further education and higher education, as well as those who work with these institutions.

Date:

2nd - 6th November 2009 - 1 week residential course

Cost:

For businesses: One week £1,200, For individuals, NGOs, Educational & Public Sector Organisations: One week £700. For discount info see the course web page below



All course fees include accommodation, food, field trips and all teaching sessions

Venue: Schumacher College, Dartington

Further Information: For more information visit: <http://www.schumachercollege.org.uk/courses/closing-loops-opening-minds-educating-for-a-greener-future>

5. National Association of Field Studies Officers National Conference 2010

Description: Promoting Learning Outside the Classroom through Environmental Partnerships. High quality learning opportunities for all within LOTC in Purbeck. The conference themes will enable delegates to...

- Meet and exchange ideas with senior figures from Dorset County Children's Services, Nafso, and other local LOTC providers, RSPB, SEEd, FSC and Growing Schools / FACE.
- Attend a wide range of seminars and workshops linked to the main themes which will educate, inform and engage. These will include Forest Schools, Beach Art, the Heritage Coast, & issues like Greening your environment, Growing Schools and Inclusion in the Outdoors!
- Experience Dorset's endeavours to embrace the greater issues of the day including climate change, sustainability and the environmental impacts of these and others such as food and farming and the concept of Growing Schools
- Join field visits which will enhance our themes by visiting sites such as Lulworth Cove, Studland Study Centre, various Local Field Centres, Brownsea Island, local schools involved with LOTC and RSPB Arne Reserve plus many more.

Date: January 3rd - January 6th 2010

Cost: Members booking before 30th October 09 will get the cheaper fee and there is the budget offer at Townsend Centre! Prices available on the booking form: www.nafso.org.uk.

Venue: The Purbeck House Hotel, Swanage, Dorset.

Further Information: The booking form will come with this prospectus or can be downloaded from the website; www.nafso.org.uk

Jobs

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.

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.