



Guide to Becoming a Sustainable School

September 2011

For the last four years the Sustainable Schools programme in Islington has worked to support schools to embed consideration for the planet and its people into their curriculum, campus and community. The sustainable schools agenda promotes care for oneself, each other and the environment.

A sustainable future is one in which we leave the planet in a better state than we found it. Schools have a vital role in educating about the relevant issues, demonstrating positive behaviour change and creating critical thinkers who are active citizens. They are the key to developing young people who consider their impact on the planet and embrace habits for a sustainable lifestyle.

Although the programme ended in August 2011, there are a wealth of resources and opportunities available to schools to empower them to go from strength to strength and continue on their path to a sustainable future.

The following guide hopes to give you a spring board for this – combined with the information currently on the Islington website there should be plenty to get stuck into. Good luck!

The guide begins with tips for getting a good grounding and then moves on to the following themes of sustainable schools:

- Food & Drink
- Energy & Water
- Purchasing & Waste
- Travel & Traffic
- Buildings & Grounds
- Local Well Being
- Inclusion & Participation
- Global Dimension

Under each theme you will find a summery, initiative ideas, local support and recommended resources and contacts.

Getting a Grounding

1. **Get linked in to networks** – there are some fantastic regional and national networks you can sign up to that share upcoming opportunities, resources and funding as well as being a place to see examples of best practice and make links to other schools.

London Sustainable Schools Forum (LSSF) – you can sign up to this group for updates on opportunities, resources and discussion. You can very easily create a profile on Project Dirt and join the group. The site also provides a platform for promoting your school's work as you can create a project. The Project Dirt homepage is: <http://projectdirt.com/>

- To create a profile: <http://projectdirt.com/main/authorization/signUp?>
- To join LSSF: <http://projectdirt.com/group/londonsustainableschoolsforum>

LEEF - London Environmental Education Forum – offering regular training, workshops and seminars. <http://www.leef.org.uk/>

SEEd - Sustainable and Environmental Education – for up to date news on policy changes, reports and campaigns on issues of education for sustainability. <http://www.se-ed.co.uk/>

2. **Sign up to Eco Schools** – the global accreditation scheme is free and enable you to gain recognition for your efforts and the criteria provides a useful template for progressing sustainability in your school. The scheme works within themes such as waste, energy and biodiversity and the awards are Bronze, Silver and Green Flag. It is very easy to register and take a look at the criteria for each award. The Bronze and Silver awards are self-accredited on line – if you are achieving the criteria for each you can print your own certificate. The Green Flag requires the gathering of evidence and you will be visited by an assessor.

Eco schools home page: <http://www.eco-schools.org.uk/>

- To register: <http://www.eco-schools.org.uk/members/register.aspx>
- To apply for an award or look at the criteria: <http://www.eco-schools.org.uk/apply/>

Please see attached the following supportive documents: advice on getting green flag and examples of eco codes.

3. **Get other people on board** – a successful sustainable school normally has a key member of staff who drives the work forward such as the sustainability coordinator, but for change to happen work needs to involve the whole school community. Some ways to achieve this are to:

Appoint a sustainability governor: by having someone with sustainability within their remit they can support change within the school from the top, raise sustainability on the school's agenda and support the coordinator from a more strategic stand point. As sustainability develops they can also take responsibility for actions such as writing a sustainability policy.

Run a staff INSET: the term “sustainability” can be baffling and many often don’t realise the range of issues incorporated by it. The benefit of this breadth is that, whatever your colleagues interests there will hopefully be an angle which is relevant to them. A great starting point is to go through the 8 themes of sustainability below in a staff INSET. This is an opportunity to:

- **Introduce the themes.** This can be achieved by showing staff the 8 short videos of local best practice under each topic on the “Going Green at School” section of Islington’s website. http://www.islington.gov.uk/environment/sustainability/sus_atschool/. Click on the topics on the left hand side for the films.
- **Collect people’s ideas.** Brainstorm under these themes for ways the school could improve under headings of “curriculum”, “campus” (the building and grounds) and “community” (how to link to parents and local organisations).
- **Introduce action plan.** If you have created a plan, this is an opportunity to educate the staff about it and invite input and support.
- **Introduce resources** – make staff aware of teaching resources available. A selection of these can be found below.

Get parents involved: running an after school stall, promotion in the newsletter or inviting parents to a green coffee morning can be great ways to get support and drum up volunteers to take on roles, such as running a gardening club.

4. **Explore Curriculum Links.** The themes below offer a wealth of potential curriculum links. Only through this embedded approach will a true sustainable approach be achieved and the values of pupils influenced. By identifying issues and making change, pupils can raise attainment through the learning rich vehicle of sustainability. From estimating crop yields when growing food to writing a persuasive letter to a local shop to encourage the use of non-plastic bags – the only limit is your imagination!

Please see attached examples of curriculum mapping from Islington schools.

5. **Start a Green Team.** Starting a pupil green team is a fantastic way of getting input from pupils and getting things done. The team should meet regularly to progress green projects in school. A useful approach could be:

Select the Team: this can be done in a range of ways but it is good to get representatives from as many classes as possible. Team sizes tend to range between 10 and 20 pupils and mainly focus on KS2 pupils in primary, although involvement of KS1 (often to a lesser extent) is a bonus. In secondary a range of year groups is fantastic if enthusiastic pupils are found but more commitment is likely to be shown by year 7 and 8 pupils. Green team members can be chosen by teachers, voted for in elections by peers or members may volunteer. If there are pupils who want to get involved but are not selected it is possible to start a system of “eco helpers” in classes, pupils who can help their green team representative out with tasks.

Set a regular meeting slot: the most successful teams are those that have an assigned time. The regularity of meetings will depend on the nature of your school but ideally the team meets at least every 2 weeks. Teams meetings can work well in a 20/30 minute lunchtime slot (for

example every Thursday), as an after school club (if pupils are able to commit) and in class time if this is permitted – for example a 30 minute slot in the coordinators PPA time or in assembly time. To ensure pupils remember, it is useful to send reminders to their class at first and keep the same slot so it becomes routine.

Generate ideas: when the team starts out it is very important to ensure the ideas for projects are coming from them. A useful springboard for identifying areas that need improving in the school is by discussing themes such as waste, energy, litter, green purchasing, school grounds and nature, travel, global links, healthy eating etc and inviting ideas. Another useful tool (and vital if you want to get eco school status) is to complete the eco schools formal environmental review <http://www.eco-schools.org.uk/links/>. In their research to identify the biggest environmental issues in your schools pupils can interview staff (teachers, premises manager, bursar, head) and pupils, monitor aspects such as energy use and waste and carry out audits. From here you can identify problems, brainstorm solutions and plan how to achieve change and create a list of actions.

Assign responsibilities: Once you have your list of actions you can decide as a group which to start on first, approaches and responsibilities. The most successful green teams tend to be the ones where pupils have set roles e.g. taking out recycling, monitoring energy, watering garden etc.

Spread the word: raise the profile of green team members and their campaigns.

6. Create and Action Plan. Creating an action plan is a great way to formalise your plans and provide focus for action. It can be useful to categorise your actions by topic (as the themes below) and to include a “general” section for elements such as curriculum mapping.

Please see attached an example action plan template and example active action plan.



1. Food & Drink

There are lots of ways to be more sustainable through the food and drink choices we make at school and home. The theme offers very strong links with the Healthy Schools initiative and can be a useful gateway into other areas of sustainability, for example by looking at food waste or the global impacts of food production.

Initiative ideas

- Healthy pack lunch club – this can be expanded to no waste pack lunches.
- No to bottled water – explore the environmental impacts of bottled water and challenge pupils to only bring tap water in reused bottles.
- Fair trade tea and coffee in the staff room – pupils could run a blind tasting session
- Food growing in school grounds – when harvested this can be used in the school kitchen, for a school picnic or to sell to parents.
- Sustainable school dinners. Explore the seasonality of your school meals, how far the food has travelled and its social and environmental impacts. Design a “planet friendly” menu.
- Keep school hens.

Local support

1. Freightliners Farm

Sheringham Road, London, N7 8PF

Tel: 020 7609 0467

Fax: 020 7609 9934

Email: liz@freightlinersfarm.org.uk

www.freightlinersfarm.org.uk/Education.htm

The farm offers school visits of farm tours (£2.20 per child) and workshops on topics such as bees and candle making, dairy, bread and cereals and local agricultural history (£3.50 a child).

2. The Garden Classroom

King Henry’s Walk Garden

11c King Henry’s Walk, London, N1 4NX

Tel: 020 7609 0467

Email: info@thegardenclassroom.org.uk

www.thegardenclassroom.org.uk

The organisation can offer support and curriculum linked workshops on themes such as growing and biodiversity.

3. Master Gardener Islington Programme

Kate Fenhalls

Islington Volunteer Coordinator

Master Gardener Programme

c/o Sustain, 94 White Lion Street, London N1 9PF

Tel: 020 7837 2373 or 07584 474 778

Email: kfenhalls@gardenorganic.org.uk

www.islington.mastergardeners.org.uk

A volunteer network supporting people and communities grow fruit and vegetables in their gardens and on local communal land.

4. **Local community gardens** – witness inspiring established gardens and food growing by visiting local gardens such as King Henry’s Walk Garden <http://www.khwgarden.org.uk/>, and Culpepper Gardens <http://www.culpeper.org.uk/>.
5. **Healthy Schools Team, Cambridge Education** – access resources, training and workshops on healthy cooking and eating in school: <http://islington.camb-ed.com/SchoolImprovement/HealthySchools.aspx>. Healthy Schools resources can also be found on the London MLE powered by Fronter under Curriculum Plus, with a special section on healthy eating (www.fronter.com/islington).

Recommended Resources

Food for Life Partnership: an accreditation scheme that provides a wealth of resources and support to help schools look at improving all aspects of their approach to food from canteen culture to food growing. Caterlink have been awarded Silver which enables all schools on their contract to achieve the same if they are able to fulfil the additional criteria. For more information visit: <http://www.foodforlife.org.uk/> and an evaluation of the scheme’s impact can be found at <http://www.foodforlife.org.uk/Whygetinvolved/Goodfoodforall.aspx>

Royal Horticultural Society: Campaign for School Gardening. The RHS offer resources, CPD and advice from a regional support worker to enable schools to get their pupils gardening and growing food. For more information visit <http://apps.rhs.org.uk/schoolgardening/default.aspx>. A RHS report on the impacts of gardening on learning can be found at <http://apps.rhs.org.uk/schoolgardening/teachershome/news/researchonschoolgardening.aspx>.

Growing Schools: supporting teachers and practitioners in using the "outdoor classroom" as a resource across the curriculum for pupils of all ages. The site has details of events, resources and training - <http://www.growingschools.org.uk/>



2. Energy & Water

Energy

Islington has committed to a 40% reduction in energy by 2020 and schools will need to play a big part in reaching this target. Simple behaviour change in schools can equate to on average at least a 10% reduction in use, saving your school money and the world's atmosphere carbon. By engaging the whole school community in energy monitoring and rewarding reduction you can create sustainable habits for life in your pupils. Issues of the carbon we create also provides an engaging opportunity to explore issues of climate change and its local and global impacts.

Initiative ideas

- No energy day.
- Designated energy monitors in each class.
- Energy meter with a display to show real time energy use. Results can be monitored and incorporated into learning. All Islington primary schools are being fitted with Automated Meter Readers (AMRs) for this purpose (see below).
- Create a climate change play/film – exploring the causes and impacts of global warming to be shown in assembly or to parents.
- Insulation on windows, doors and in the roof.
- Ensure everything is switched off during the school holidays, after school and at weekends.
- Turn heating thermostat down. Use individual room settings if available.

Local support

1. **The Islington Energy Team:** carry out yearly audits of all the schools in the borough on its scheme (the majority in the borough). These are carried out with your premise manager and a report issued with recommended actions. It may be useful to ask your premise manager or head teacher for this report. Each school will also have a designated Energy Conservation Officer who can offer advice directly on the phone. For more information please contact: 222 Upper Street Tel: 0800 953 1221 or 020 7527 4462
Email: energy.advice@islington.gov.uk

The team also continue to raise funds for additional carbon reduction programmes. They are currently working to raise finances to install solar panels on Islington's schools. This initiative will enable schools to receive free electricity and the borough to receive the benefits of feed in tariffs.

Please see attached details of the Energy Conservation Officers and their allocated schools.

2. Energy 360 Website. Primary schools are also able to access their energy and gas data on line. This is a great opportunity to integrate energy monitoring and reduction into regular maths lessons. Please visit www.energy360data.co.uk – your log in is the school's general email address (e.g. admin@..., office@...etc) and the password for every school is energy360. The installation of the AMR's in all primary schools is a technical and time consuming process. If your log in does not currently work, please continue trying on regular intervals. On accessing the site you will be able to view your gas and electricity use by day and see how it increases and decreases in half hour intervals. This is a very interactive way

of identifying wastage (for example if use is high after school or at weekends) and seeing the impact of energy reduction campaigns by pupils. To achieve real energy reduction, monitoring is a key element and the AMR software enables you to do this.

Please see attached the “how to use energy360” guide.

3. Climate Change Partnership. The Islington Climate Change Partnership (ICCP) is a collective of organisations across Islington who have all pledged to reduce their carbon emissions to help tackle climate change. Members are asked to commit to a 15% energy reduction over 3 years. Schools are able to join and receive support such as energy audits. Visit the web page for more information

http://www.islington.gov.uk/environment/sustainability/sus_climate/iccp/ or contact the partnership by emailing climatechangepartnership@islington.gov.uk or calling 020 7527 2347

Recommended Resources

Power Down (Action Aid): this resource provides an interactive and digestible approach to teaching climate change with lesson plans, photo cards and short films. The issue is also put in context and given a human angle as the impact of climate change on a selection of global communities is explored. <http://powerdown.actionaid.org.uk/>. The short trigger film “Be the solution” is a particularly useful starting point for discussion.

Solar Aid: free training, INSET and advice for schools around energy and global issues. Through the Sunny Schools programme, teachers can get training and curriculum-linked resources to help tackle these issues in an investigative and hands-on way with their pupils, and get advice and support on energy-saving campaigns. Assemblies and workshops also offered. SolarAid works with secondary schools in a number of different ways to support global issues, citizenship and renewable energy. Visit <http://www.solar-aid.org/sunnyschools/> or contact kathy@solar-aid.org for more info.

Carbon Detectives: A European initiative with resources to run a pupil led approach to identifying ways to reduce your carbon footprint and take action.

<http://www.carbondetectiveseurope.org/Country.aspx?CountryID=10>

Generation Green (British Gas): join competitions, access resources and win prizes through this greening initiative - <http://www.generationgreen.co.uk/>



Water

Often taken for granted in this country, water is an extremely precious resource that should be valued and saved. Fresh water only accounts for 3% of the world's water and we are only able to access 1% of this. Polluted or dirty water is at the heart of many global health issues and can be an engaging introduction to wider issues in developing countries. Schools can highlight the importance of water through minimal use and educating pupils of its importance and its changing nature in the face of climate change.

Initiative ideas

- Water challenges such as “How would you survive on two litres of water a day?”
- Fix leaks and avoid flooding.
- Use water butts in the school grounds to collect rain water for growing.
- Raise awareness of global water issues with assemblies.
- Water plants with left over water from pupil's water bottles.
- Fit push down taps.
- Water saving devices such as “hippos” in school toilet cisterns. These are free from Thames Water.

Local support

1. Schools can obtain discounted water butts for their school grounds at <http://www.thames2u.com/>

Recommended Resources

Wise Up To Water (Thames Water) : this website provides resources and tips for surveying water use in school and taking action to reduce consumption:

<http://www.thameswater.co.uk/wiseuptowater/>.

Teachers in Development Education (TIDE): TIDE produce a range of resources on global issues and the “Local and Global Water Issues” booklet has some very useful accompanying photo cards which can be a useful starting point for discussion: <http://www.tidec.org/Publications/Publications.html>.

Water Aid Learnzone: a website packed full of inspiring activities, games, fundraising ideas and information for teachers, youth leaders and young people wanting to learn more and get involved with WaterAid: http://www.wateraid.org/uk/learn_zone/

3. Purchasing & Waste

The UK's waste problem is an issue that needs to be urgently addressed. The landfills are filling up and all that rubbish is causing pollution as it slowly decomposes. Food is a particular problem as it produces methane in landfill which is 23 times more potent than carbon dioxide in its effects on global warming.

Waste reduction is a good starting point if your school has many sustainability issues to address. There is a lot of support in the borough, it's an initiative people will be familiar with and the results are tangible.

Purchasing green is also a vital part of sustainability as the largest part of a school's carbon footprint is through procurement. It saves virgin materials from being used in the production of your school's materials and teaches an important message to pupils about the energy embedded in production and the need to close the recycling loop.

Initiative ideas

- Buy green! Paper is a good starting point but much stationary, furniture etc is available to buy in recycled materials. Although the cost can be more, if you are reducing waste at the same time this cost can balance out. Green procurement can be a great project for pupils as it enables them to research the options and costs of green materials and expose them to the environmental impact of materials such as paper.
- Audit – get measurable results but sorting a typical day's rubbish (by classroom, staffroom etc) into material types and establish how much could be recycled. This data can then form the basis of a Reduce, Reuse, Recycle campaign and a re-audit carried out to establish impact.
- Reuse competition – pupils can get imaginative reusing their rubbish.
- Recycle re-launch – remind people they can what they can recycle through assemblies and new labels on the bins.
- Put pictures of landfill on normal bins to remind people where it will end up.
- Plastic bag free zone – influence your local shop to reduce their plastic bags and design school cotton bags
- Bring and buy or swapping event to encourage parents to exchange or sell old clothes, toys etc.

Local Support

1. **Recycling and Waste Minimisation Team:** Islington offer free dry and food recycling - http://www.islington.gov.uk/Environment/RubbishAndRecycling/recycling_new/school.asp



✓ **Yes please**

- ✓ Household plastic packaging
- ✓ Mixed glass
- ✓ Food and drinks cans
- ✓ Mixed paper and card
- ✓ Drinks cartons

✗ **No thanks**

- ✗ no broken glass
- ✗ no foil lined packets
- ✗ no light bulbs
- ✗ no black plastic refuse bags
- ✗ no paint tins

Green garden waste

- ✓ Grass clippings, leaves, hedge trimmings, small prunings
- ✗ (No grounds maintenance contractor waste please)

Food Waste

- ✓ All food waste raw or cooked (please use compostable liners)

Please:

- Place the appropriate recycling in the designated recycling containers
- Any all food, containers and drink and cleaning containers should be washed out
- Encourage the pupils to recycle, lead by example

If schools have any problems with their school collection, please report the issues to Contact Islington on 020 7527 2000. If schools have audited their school and are in need of more food waste bins, biodegradable bags or outdoor recycling bins these can be ordered by contacting Jean Hughes on jean.hughes@islington.gov.uk or 020 7527 5157. It is essential that packaging is clean before it is put into the blue bin as it can otherwise contaminate other recycling when it is collected and potentially prevent that load being recycled.

The waste team can offer advice by email or phone and at times will be running specific projects as funding becomes available such as “love food, hate waste” campaigns and community swap events at schools.

2. **Reduce, Reuse and Recycle Schemes:** Schools can also organise additional reuse/recycling initiatives in their school for the wider community. Examples of these schemes are:
 - **Backpack Challenge, Mary’s Meals** - <http://www.marysmeals.org.uk/what-you-can-do/backpack-project/> a fantastic initiative in which pupils collect old bags and simple list of items to be reused by students in Africa.
 - **Shoe Friends LMB** - <http://www.lmb.co.uk/shoefriend.html> to collect and reuse shoes.
 - **Traid** - <http://www.traid.org.uk/schools.html> for workshops and banks to reuse clothes.
 - **Education for All** - http://www.educationforall.com/Education_for_All/Removals_%26_Re-use.html sends unwanted school furniture to schools in Africa.

Recommended Resources

Waste Watch: provide resources for teaching on themes of a more sustainable lifestyle <http://www.wastewatch.org.uk/resources.php> and run educational sessions in schools such as assemblies <http://www.wastewatch.org.uk/pages/schools.html>. There is also a specific site which specifically focuses on waste – **Recycle Zone** - <http://www.recyclezone.org.uk/>.

Sky Rainforest Rescue Schools Challenge (Global Action Plan):

<http://www.skyrainforestrescueschoolschallenge.org> is an interactive, online sustainability programme that engages schools in taking action to protect the environment and save the rainforest. The programme covers the three topics of:

- Energy We Use
- Food We Eat
- Stuff We Buy

Under each topic area schools learn about how everyday actions impact the environment and the rainforest and are guided through the process of measuring impacts, developing an action plan, implementing the action plan, measuring results and celebrating success. The resources also support Food & Drink, Energy & Water and Global Dimension.



4. Travel & Traffic

Reducing cars on the roads reduces pollution, increases safety and improves health. Although many pupils in Islington may live nearby to school and walk, the theme is likely to be relevant in their home lives and future travel choices. Schools are likely to already be doing work on this theme through their school travel plan.

Initiative ideas

- Walk Once a Week (WOW)
- Research the carbon output of different modes of transport in Maths.
- Champion UK holidays by researching UK tourism highlights in class.
- Measure pollution near your school.
- Carry out a travel survey and campaign for sustainable choices.
- Cycle training in school.

Local support

1. **Road Safety Team:** all schools are entitled to support and advice from the Road Safety Team if there are any issues with parking and safety outside your school or to receive a road safety assembly. The team can be contacted on road.safety@islington.gov.uk or 020 7527 2061

If your school has an up to date travel plan you are also entitled to the following for free from the team. You can find out the status of your plan by contacting the School Travel Plan Officer Robert Oconnor on Robert.Oconnor@islington.gov.uk.

2. **Cycle Training:** to book free cycle training for your students please contact David Shannon, Cycling Officer, on david.shannon@islington.gov.uk or 020 7527 4082. Depending on student ability the training will teach skills on and off road to build confidence and safe approaches to cycling in London.
3. **Practical Pedestrian Training and Safer Steps:** pedestrian training for primary and nursery school pupils.
4. **Walk to School Week and Month:** the team provide resources and support to run a Walk to School campaign in line with the national initiatives of Walk to Schools Month (October) or Walk to School Week (May).

Recommended Resources

Walk to School Campaign: offering advice and resources to encourage pupils to walk to school <http://www.walktoschool.org.uk/>.

Think! Education (Department of Transport): with access to teaching resources and information on road safety for early years and primary school teachers - <http://www.dft.gov.uk/think/education/early-years-and-primary/>

StreetWise: games for pupils and resources for teachers on road safety -

<http://www.3m.co.uk/intl/uk/3MStreetwise2008/>

Bikeability: games and lesson plans to encourage cycling by pupils -

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/bikeability/schools/>

5. Buildings and Grounds

Despite Islington being an inner city borough, there is great potential to use your schools grounds as an educational resource and green them up. Even with limited green space you can encourage biodiversity. There is a wealth of evidence to show that children's contact with nature has a positive effect on anger levels, their future attitude to nature and levels of well being. For evidence linking learning outside the classroom and school improvement please visit:

<http://www.lotc.org.uk/why/school-improvement/>

Initiative ideas:

- Make a log pile habitat.
- Make bird feeders for the school grounds.
- Let some areas of the grounds grow wild to create a range of habitats.
- Plant a tree.
- Green up the grounds with planters outside and plants in the classrooms.
- Plant a butterfly and bee garden – pupils can carry out research on species.
- Start growing food.
- Create a pond.

Local support

1. **The Islington Ecology Centre:** a vibrant nature reserve near Arsenal tube, the centre offers exciting, curriculum-linked education programmes for pre-school, primary and secondary schools. The programme is open to schools from all boroughs. Pupils can enjoy a variety of stimulating, tailored sessions, designed to enthuse and engage young people with their environment. For more information email Jayne Barber- Jayne.Barber@islington.gov.uk, call 020 7527 4462, or visit http://www.islington.gov.uk/environment/sustainability/sus_visit/Ecology_centre.asp
2. **Islington Tree Service:** the Islington Tree service can support schools in the following ways:
 - **Free Woodchip** – usually in plentiful supply, the tree service can provide schools with woodchip should the require it.
 - **Free Logs** – depending on the work programme at the point of enquiry, the team may have logs to donate to schools for log piles etc.
 - **Tree Inspections** – if you have enquiries regarding existing trees or guidance on purchasing new trees the tree service can advise. The team can also organise contractors to assist with planting at the same rates as the council.

- **Assemblies and Presentations** – on topics such as the role of the tree service, the importance of trees and tree protection.
- **Live Christmas Tree** – for advice on species, cost and planting a live Christmas tree for your school grounds please contact the team.

For enquiries regarding any of the above please email andrew.lederer@islington.gov.uk.

- 3. The Garden Classroom:** based in Mildmay, the social enterprise offers curriculum led workshops on topics such as linking pupils to their green spaces. For more information visit www.thegardenclassroom.org.uk or email info@thegardenclassroom.org.uk

Recommended Resources

Learning Through Landscapes: working with schools to create stimulating, well used school grounds that promote outdoor learning and play. The website offers a selection of free resources linking to all areas of the curriculum and are able to provide INSET sessions. Resources can also be ordered on various elements of sustainability for example:

- ‘Lunchbox Pro’ and ‘Five a Day Pro’ are both designed for schools to supply to parents to educate on healthy eating: £1.95
- ‘Edible Gardens in Schools – a growing guide for teachers’ book and CD: £17.50
- ‘Teaching about Energy’ is a book of practical activities for 7-11 year olds: £8.95
- ‘Reducing and Recycling Waste in Schools’ book of practical activities: £10.95

Schools can become members for £65 a year and access all the site’s teaching resources, a helpline advising how to achieve change in your school grounds, discounts on CPD and advisory publications. The organisation also have a network of trained advisors who can visit schools to advise on improvements: <http://www.ltl.org.uk/>

London Wildlife Trust: LWT can offer a selection of packages for schools such as their Green Schools lesson pack, wildlife sessions at your school, school grounds advice and visits to their reserves: <http://www.wildlondon.org.uk/> or contact Phil Paulo, based at Camley Street Natural Park, Camden on ppaulo@wildlondon.org.uk or 020 7833 2311.

London Orchard Project: can offer advice on planting an urban orchard and work in partnership with schools to create community orchards: <http://thelondonorchardproject.org/>

Fruitful Schools: access advice and resources on setting up a school orchard: <http://www.fruitfulschools.org/>



6. Local Well Being

This theme encourages schools to look beyond the school gates when thinking sustainably. By building community relationships on sustainable issues, schools can act as a focus hub for an areas' improvement in terms of both the physical environment and community cohesion.

Initiative ideas

- Local litter picks.
- Get involved in a local green space – contact the council about planting and improvements opportunities.
- Encourage local business to donate time and expertise.
- Influence for positive behaviour change – if a local business always leaves there lights on encourage the students to write to them.
- Community café or market to sell the school's food produce.
- Community garden open day or school grounds picnic.
- Visiting local groups such as centres for the elderly.
- Identify local litter and graffiti hot spots.
- Make “gum posters” to encourage people to stop dropping gum on the pavement.
- “Dog poo poems” for the school railings to encourage people to pick up their dog's messes.

Local support

1. **Agent Eyes:** as an off shoot of the borough's “Eyes for Islington” scheme <http://www.islington.gov.uk/environment/EyesForIslington/> pupils are also encouraged to report any local issues they may see on their way to and from school or in their local area. If pupils spot large amounts of litter, flytipping etc they can report it to the council and see it being dealt with. For more information contact Fatma Mehmet, Eyes for Islington Scheme Co-ordinator, on fatma.mehmet@islington.gov.uk or on 020 7527 2334.
2. **Environmental Crime Team** – the team who are responsible for issues such as graffiti welcome enquires from schools and if they have capacity will visit schools to discuss the problems of graffiti and how the team work to remove graffiti across the borough. For more information please contact the team leader Leon Meredith on leon.meredith@islington.gov.uk.

Recommended Resources

Orange Rocks Corps: encourages young people to volunteer locally in exchange for tickets to music events: <https://projects.orangerockcorps.co.uk/>

Eco Schools Litter Campaign: this pack advises on getting the whole school on board to tackle litter: http://www.eco-schools.org.uk/nine-topics/Whole_School_Litter_Campaign_Pack.pdf

Keep Britain Tidy Campaign: find out about local environment issues: <http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/>

7. Inclusion & Participation

This theme is about ensuring everyone is involved in development and it aims to encourage values of respect for self and each other. Unless everyone has an awareness and sense of ownership over changes it can be very difficult to sustain the work and can end up falling on too few shoulders. A holistic approach is the key to spreading the message and bringing about big changes. Initiatives such as anti-bullying, human rights and pupils voice will also strengthen your school's work in this area.

Initiative ideas

- Set up pupils and staff green teams.
- Provide a suggestion box for other pupils, parents and staff.
- Designate eco prefects.
- Staff brain storming on sustainability improvements.
- Create a school eco code through a whole school competition.
- Green Team notice board detailing plans and achievements.
- Green team coffee morning for parents.
- Promote achievements and messages in the school newspaper, on the school website etc
- Curriculum mapping work to embed sustainability.

Recommended Resources

NSPCC: Anti bullying resources:

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/resourcesforteachers/classroomresources/bullying_wda55551.html

Rights Oxfam: a series of resources for 8-10 year olds exploring the rights of the child:

<http://www.oxfam.org.uk/education/resources/rights/>

Voices of Youth (Unicef): site enabling young people's opinions to be heard

<http://www.voicesofyouth.org/>



8. Global Dimension

In an increasingly global community it is essential that pupils have an understanding and respect for other cultures and are able to think about how their actions may have global consequences. Many of the world's environmental problems, such as climate change, are a global phenomenon and it is important to highlight the impacts for communities across the world and explore how we need to work together to solve the problem.

Initiative ideas

- Link with a school internationally.
- Hold an international day.
- Invite speakers from agencies that work on development issues.
- Support an international charity
- Explore how climate change is effecting the countries pupil's families are from.

Local support

Fairtrade Islington: Islington is a FairTrade borough and consequently has a steering group that organises events and campaigns. The group can be contacted on fairtrade@islington.gov.uk.

Fairtrade London: Regionally you can contact Fairtrade London by visiting www.fairtradelondon.org.uk or contacting malcolm@fairtradelondon.org.uk who can help connect schools with local Fairtrade activists and community groups, suggest speakers and provide London-specific resources and opportunities for involvement.

Recommended Resources

Think Global: a membership based charity that works to educate and engage the UK public on global issues by working on a wide range of projects with schools, NGOs, the private sector and others. Think Global aim to help people in the UK learn about global issues such as poverty and climate change and find out how they can play a part in creating a more just and sustainable world: <http://www.think-global.org.uk/>

Link Community Development: run a schools link programme and offer an exciting ranges of resources that raise awareness of global issues an share learning between pupils in the UK and Africa: <http://www.lcdinternational.org>

Fairtrade Foundation: become a fair trade school, become involved in local campaigns or utilise the sites resources exploring the social implications of the products we buy: http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/schools/support_resources/default.aspx

Global Footprints: games, quizzes, resources and information on out global impact: <http://www.globalfootprints.org/>

Local4Global: publications and teacher training opportunities: <http://www.local4global.org.uk>

Good Luck!
