

# Reading Schools Eco Newsletter

Edition 5: January 2022

## CULTIVATING CREATIVITY FOR THE CLIMATE

### Cultivate Collaborate Innovate

Cultivating creativity across the curriculum is a way to support imagining an alternative future, finding new ways of doing things and by being a green thread throughout school ethos. We can do this by exploring together through the following creature disciplines:

Creative learning journeys with sustainable, regenerative and circular thinking and action at their heart.

Creating environments that foster creativity, sustainability, kindness, wellbeing and community.

Co-creating and co-designing areas of focus and action that resonate with the needs and values of young people who are encouraged to experiment, explore and innovate.

Connecting skills of the future with sustainable lifelong learning and career opportunities, and those needed to navigate complexity.

A new Reading-based Social Enterprise, Design Nature CIC (formed by 2 design engineers and a headteacher) are supporting and enabling schools and young people across Berkshire to use creativity, design thinking and collaboration to co-create and develop innovative ideas and approaches to the climate crisis and wider areas of sustainability that matter to them and their communities. Combining STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) with action learning, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Circular Economy.

Design Nature would love to hear from you, and offer your school workshops around sustainable design and creative climate action. What are your priorities? Are they sustainable fashion, e-waste, food, transportation, air pollution, energy, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, green spaces? What topics are you and your students really interested to explore?

Email: [hello@designnature.world](mailto:hello@designnature.world)

**HELLO!** This is a termly newsletter produced by Brighter Futures for Children in collaboration with Reading Climate Action Network (ReadingCAN). Its aim is to support your work on environmental education and climate change in your school. If there is anything of interest to you in this newsletter, then please contact: [educateclimate@brighterfuturesforchildren.org](mailto:educateclimate@brighterfuturesforchildren.org)

We are here to support all Reading schools to establish themselves as sustainable hubs within the community. We look forward to hearing from you!



## Developing Renewable Hydro Energy Resources

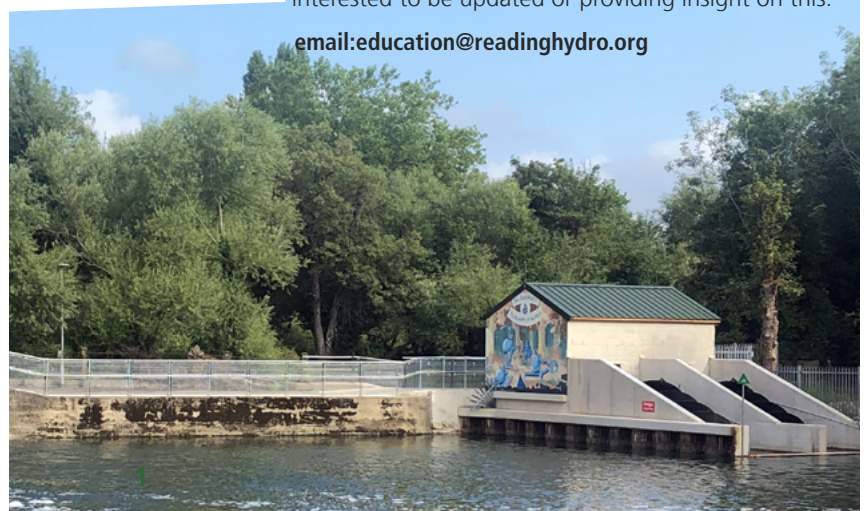


Reading Hydro uses the power of the River Thames to generate renewable electricity which is used by Thames Lido across the river. Two Archimedes screw hydroelectric turbines are turned by the force of the water. Inside the turbine house, gearboxes and generators convert this rotational energy into electricity. The turbine house also features a fun and eye-catching mural that includes the [Climate Warming Stripes](#) on the side, designed by local climate scientist Professor Ed Hawkins (a great example of communicating and visualizing scientific data). Reading Hydro was funded by community shares and is run by a group of passionate volunteers.

One of the key aims of Reading Hydro was always to provide a local educational focal point, showcasing the power of community climate action and the role of renewable energy in combating Climate Change. Now that it's built and up and running, they have formed a voluntary education team, made up of some of the core reading hydro team and teachers, to the scope and create supporting resources for the local community, schools and educators.

**Reading Hydro is keen to collaborate on the resource development to ensure that they support schools and teachers in the area across the curriculum and age groups.** It's with this in mind that they're reaching out to interested schools and educators to take part in an insight session to prioritise some of their ideas; is it assembly material, resources to support science classes or use their live data [<https://readinghydro.org/data/>], perhaps learning about the practicalities of hydro design or the benefits and considerations around the local wildlife and environment, maybe even possibilities for site visits? Please get in touch with them via this email if you'd be interested to be updated or providing insight on this.

email: [education@readinghydro.org](mailto:education@readinghydro.org)



# PLANET SUPER LEAGUE

Get involved in a Schools versus Climate Change tournament, where schools will compete against each other to become the greenest school in the country.

There are over 80 different activities to choose from, including cutting emissions, saving water and materials, learning about the natural world or getting out into nature. Score goals each time you complete one. These activities can be completed at school, at home or at work!

Represent your school. Score green goals. Play for the planet. Find out more here:

[www.planetsuperleague.com/schools](http://www.planetsuperleague.com/schools)



**10th January - 20th February 2022**

## FREE Renewable Energy Kits for schools

Don't forget that Brighter Futures for Children has FREE renewable energy kits available for schools to hire! These kits are available on loan to schools for up to half a term at a time. All of the kits come with instructions, training, lesson plans and risk assessments available here:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1-wEJf1P6tqCdVnh\\_4fcThHKIERAnU-wm](https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1-wEJf1P6tqCdVnh_4fcThHKIERAnU-wm)

**News:** Reading's new Mayor Cllr Rachel Eden is very keen on sustainability, and would welcome to hear from any Reading school who would be interested in her visiting to showcase your recent environmental work, present an award or alike. **Please contact her office direct on [mayor@reading.gov.uk](mailto:mayor@reading.gov.uk)**



*"We absolutely loved the renewable energy kits! The children in class are extremely environmentally aware and love finding out how things work. The quality of the kits was quite unbelievable and it was so easy to assemble and use. The children gained such a valuable learning experience that they won't forget in a hurry. Thank you so much for providing such a high-quality resource and for letting us use them!"*

– The Heights Primary School

*"Thank you so much for letting us use them, the children really enjoyed seeing how they worked! Might even consider getting some for the school now."*

– Churchend Primary Academy

### Wind Turbine Kit

This kit demonstrates how wind energy is used to produce electricity.

### Solar Photovoltaic Kit

This kit demonstrates how the sun's energy is used to produce electricity.

### Solar Water Heater Kit

This kit demonstrates how the sun's energy is used to heat water.



# Eco-education can be approached in various ways.

## You might like to start via one of the six themes below:

### Energy



**Individual:** Turn off the lights when you leave an empty room (even the staff room!)

**School:** Put your Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating on display for all pupils, staff and parents to see.

**Community:** Arrange a visit to Green Park wind turbine and learn about how it powers the local community.  
[www.greenpark.co.uk/wildlife-environment/wind-turbine-visitor-center/](http://www.greenpark.co.uk/wildlife-environment/wind-turbine-visitor-center/)

### Purchasing, recycling and waste



**Individual:** Set up recycling bins in every classroom, reuse all that you can, and make sure fruit waste from Key Stage 1 snacks is put in a compost bin.

**School:** Donate unwanted school furniture to Zoot, where it can be repurposed in educational settings around the world.

[www.zooteducationalfurniture.co.uk/](http://www.zooteducationalfurniture.co.uk/)

**Community:** Establish your school as a Terracycle collection point, to collect difficult to recycle waste from the community and earn points and money for your school.

[www.terracycle.com/en-GB/about-terracycle/drop\\_off\\_locations](http://www.terracycle.com/en-GB/about-terracycle/drop_off_locations)

### Nature and Green Spaces



**Individual:** The Woodland Trust's free printable tree ID guides are a fantastic way to help children learn about trees.

They cover all four seasons so youngsters can discover how trees change throughout the year.

**School:** The Woodland Trust is offering free trees to school communities – get in touch to build your own green space!  
[www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/)

**Community:** Write to the council asking for local verges to be left for "No Mow May" to allow wild flowers and pollinators to flourish.

### Health & Wellbeing



**Individual/Community:** Climate-anxiety is proving to be a key challenge in today's school environment, adding to the stress levels of teenagers and teachers who feel ill-equipped to help their students. Learn how to turn this anxiety into action here:  
[www.transform-our-world.org/](http://www.transform-our-world.org/)

**School:** Could your school host "Meat Free Mondays" to raise an awareness of agriculture and carbon footprints?  
[www.meatfreemondays.com/schools/](http://www.meatfreemondays.com/schools/)

### Transport



**Individual:** Encourage pupils, parents and staff to use public transport, walk, cycle or "park and stride".

**School:** Make sure all of your pupils have the opportunity to participate in Bikeability training from Avanti cycling.  
[www.bikeability.org.uk](http://www.bikeability.org.uk)

**Community:** Set up a School Streets programme; a road outside a school with a temporary restriction on motorised traffic at school drop-off and pick-up times. The restriction applies to school traffic and through traffic. The result is a safer, healthier and pleasant environment for everyone.  
[www.reading.gov.uk/schoolstreets](http://www.reading.gov.uk/schoolstreets)

### Water



**Individual:** Turn off the taps when not in use; report a leak to your school caretaker.

**School:** Publish your water usage for pupils, parents and staff to see.

**Community:** Thames Water has a comprehensive education programme includes educational school trips to sewage treatment works, talks in schools, and free online resources.  
[www.thameswater.co.uk/about-us/responsibility/education](http://www.thameswater.co.uk/about-us/responsibility/education)



## Eco Schools

Eco-Schools [www.eco-schools.org.uk](http://www.eco-schools.org.uk)

We encourage all Reading schools to sign up to Eco Schools, an international award scheme that empowers pupils, raises environmental awareness and improves your school environment.

#### Already an Eco School?

Get in touch and we can link you to local teachers who have achieved Green Flag status and are very happy to support you through the journey in the simplest, easiest way, with minimal effort!

You can also join this very useful Facebook group for further advice and support:

[www.facebook.com/groups/ecoschoolsenglandecocoordinators](https://www.facebook.com/groups/ecoschoolsenglandecocoordinators)

# THIS MONTH'S TOP TIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS

## Establish Your School as a Terracycle Collection Point

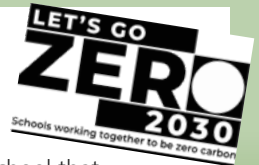


Terracycle is able to turn difficult to recycle waste into pellets that can be used for buildings and furniture. Sign up to collect different items of your choice, and receive money in return for what you collect! Collection is easy, and all you have to do is print your postage label for collection by DPD.

There are 14 sites across Reading. Would you like to join them? Check out which other schools in Reading are Terracycle points here:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WRmR\\_s\\_licEzce3hE6ma32kVBrnUUwc/edit?rtoref=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WRmR_s_licEzce3hE6ma32kVBrnUUwc/edit?rtoref=true)

## Let's Go Zero



It only takes a few moments to join Let's Go Zero 2030, the national campaign demanding government backing for zero carbon schools. Every school that signs up is pledging to work towards a more sustainable future, while also urging the government to support this vital mission, linking perfectly to any sustainable targets your school may be working towards.

**We encourage all schools in Reading to make the pledge!**

## Training Opportunities



RISC has an education team who work with teachers and schools to promote Global Citizenship in the curriculum.

Find out more about what's on offer here: [www.risc.org.uk/education/training](http://www.risc.org.uk/education/training)



AimHi Live are providing a new course especially for teachers, to support them when bringing climate change into the classroom.

Find out more here: [www.aimhi.co/climate-course-for-teachers](http://www.aimhi.co/climate-course-for-teachers)



## UN Accredited Climate Change Teacher

We encourage all Eco Co-ordinators to complete the UN Accredited Climate Change course.

Find out more here: <https://uncclearn.org/educate> or get in touch for more information and support!

## Calendar

Here are some key environmental dates for your diaries, to inspire work you do with your classes and Eco Councils this half term!

<b>Jan</b> .....	Veganuary
<b>Feb</b> .....	Fast Fashion Free February
<b>2nd Feb</b> .....	World Wetlands Day
<b>21st Feb-6th Mar</b> .....	Fairtrade Fortnight
<b>27th Feb</b> .....	World Polar Bear Day
<b>3rd Mar</b> .....	World Wildlife Day
<b>18th Mar</b> .....	World Recycling Day
<b>22nd Apr</b> .....	Earth Day

### Reading Climate Action for Schools Website

[www.readingcan.org.uk/schools](http://www.readingcan.org.uk/schools)

Find out more about what you can do in Reading to promote sustainable choices at your school. Access our suite of planning and resources and be inspired by our tips to lead a carbon neutral lifestyle.



## Reading Schools Climate Action Network Join us!

We have set up the Reading Schools Climate Action Network (RSCAN) to support and link up primary and secondary school staff who are working with the challenges of environmental education. This gives all school staff concerned about climate change and sustainability the opportunity to meet others interested in similar issues and share ideas. We would like to offer shared practice, areas for collaboration, access to training and shared resources.

Get in touch if you are interested in joining us!  
[educateclimate@brighterfuturesforchildren.org](mailto:educateclimate@brighterfuturesforchildren.org)



## Contact us:

[educateclimate@brighterfuturesforchildren.org](mailto:educateclimate@brighterfuturesforchildren.org)  
[www.readingcan.org.uk/schools](http://www.readingcan.org.uk/schools)