

Reading Schools Eco Newsletter

Edition 7: September 2022

READING CLIMATE FESTIVAL 2022

The third Reading Climate Festival will run from Saturday 24th September to Sunday 2nd October, concurrently with the UK-wide Great Big Green Week. Its aim is to inspire and encourage positive action on climate change, supporting Reading's commitment to being a Net Zero, climate resilient town by 2030.

The festival originated in 2020 as a series of online talks about various aspects of climate change and sustainable living to support the launch of Reading's Climate Emergency response.

New content this year includes a dedicated **Youth Fair** hosted by Reading School on Saturday 24th September; **Fun Palaces** hosted by Reading Libraries on Saturday 1st of October; it also incorporates **Reading Cycle Festival** on Sunday 25th September and **Reading RESCUE** (Reading Environmental Spaces Clean-Up Event).

The Festival programme can be found at www.readingcan.org.uk/festival and all events are bookable through Eventbrite.

Youth Fair

The Reading Climate Festival Youth Fair kicks off the Reading Climate Festival and has been put together by the Reading Climate Action Network and Reading School. The Youth Fair is a new addition to the Reading Climate Festival and aims to inspire young people to tackle the climate crisis. The Reading Climate Festival Youth Fair will have an array of stalls, workshops, films, and presentations aimed at young people. To book please visit our [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com).

Fun Palaces

Come along to your local Reading library on Saturday 1st October and take part in our free Fun Palace activities. Fun Palaces is a national movement that aims to bring local communities together and give people young and old the chance to try new things and meet others in your local area. This year our event coincides with the Reading Climate Festival so some of our activities will be have recycling and sustainability at their core whether it's junk modelling or making a fabulous picture with all those left over craft supplies at the back of the cupboard. Keep an eye on our Events and Activities page at www.reading.gov.uk/libraries to find out what is happening at your local library.

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: harriet.neville@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!



READING CLIMATE FESTIVAL
YOUTH FAIR
FREE ENTRY
SATURDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 10 AM - 4 PM
READING SCHOOL ERLEIGH ROAD READING RG1 5LW

READING LIBRARIES eBOOKS & eMAGAZINES

Borrow eBooks, eAudio and eMagazines for FREE with your library card and PIN

CLOUD LIBRARY: eBooks & eAudio
BORROWBOX: eAudio
LIBBY: eMagazines



Friday 7th October:

Cheer on the Running Out of Time Relay to COP27

Reading is on the route of a 7,200km relay taking a baton with a message from young people to delegates at COP27 from Glasgow to Sharm-El-Sheikh.

The route goes through Calcot along Bath Road, then through the centre of Reading along Castle St, up to Reading Hydro, via the Forbury, through Palmer Park and then to the University.

They will be in Reading for the afternoon of Friday Oct 7 with a handover taking place at the University.

The baton route is [here](#) and there will be an exchange on campus in front of the observatory.

Photo: ©David Altabev Photography

Global Schools Action Day

Thursday 3rd November.

What is it?

The Global Schools Action Day will bring together more than a million young people to send a message on Climate Action that decision makers at COP27 can't ignore.

When is it?

Anytime on Thursday 3rd November – don't worry if you can't make this date, you can choose another day that works for your school.

How do we take part?

All schools to get active for 15 minutes (or more). Run, walk, bounce or roll – we don't mind how you do it, it's the taking part that counts.

You'll also get access to easily adaptable lesson plans and resources. Sign up here!

<https://www.theworldrelay.com/schools-action-day/>

Send Postcards For Climate Justice

Write climate justice postcard messages calling upon the COP27 negotiators to take action.

Oxfam is asking UK school students to write personal postcard messages to the negotiators who'll meet at the COP27 climate change conference in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt between 7-18 November 2022. The negotiators come from all the countries of the world and are collectively responsible for agreeing a fair and binding agreement to effectively tackle the climate crisis. We'll take your messages to Egypt, along with messages from our partners in Europe, and use them to influence the negotiators. Email jmclaverty@oxfam.org.uk to order your postcards by Friday 16th September. They must be returned to Oxfam by Friday 14th October. More information available here: <https://www.oxfam.org.uk/education/get-involved/start-oxfam-school-group/resources-oxfam-school-groups/schools-take-action-for-climate-justice/>

Natural History Museum 'Generation Hope'

(Suitable for ages 16+)

Free in person and online talks: Join the Natural History Museum across the week of 12 to 16 September for a free programme of inspiring workshops, panels and talks created in partnership with young people, for young people aged 16+. Whether it's getting to grips with the science, understanding the impacts of the planetary emergency, or strengthening your own skills, take the next step, no matter where you are on your journey.

Please note: This event has been postponed. Keep up with the rescheduled events programme, here: <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/events/generation-hope.html>



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 from: harriet.neville@brighterfuturesforchildren.org

"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.



Environment, climate change and eco topic books for EYFS, KS1, KS2 and KS3 – our recommended titles for your school's Reading Spine.

Find out more here: <https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/books-for-topics/environment-eco>

Water

Protect Freshwater to Save Life on Earth

Catherine Barr

This fascinating and groundbreaking non-fiction book looks at how freshwater affects life, the climate, and our long term survival. With captivating detail and illustrations, interesting fact boxes and clear and concise information and explanation, this hardback sends a strong and positive environmental message. It's a highly engaging book that children can pore over for days.



Energy

Everything Sustainable Energy

National Geographic Kids

Covering energy from the sky, energy from the ground, energy from the water, smart energy and how energy relates to climate change, this bright and engaging non-fiction book couldn't be more relevant. There's a particularly impressive interactive section at the back of the book. With eye-catching photography and impressive detail, Everything Sustainable Energy is perfect for KS2 classrooms and libraries.



Transport

The Boy Who Biked the World

Alastair Humphreys

Discover Africa by bicycle in Book One of a children's adaptation of Alastair Humphreys' journey around the world.

In this charming caricature of the author's own circumnavigation by bike, we meet Tom, an adventurous boy who feels there must be more to life than school.

We follow him as he leaves England, cycling through Europe and all the way through Africa to the tip of South Africa. Along the way, young readers are introduced not only to the various fascinating landscapes he passes through, but also to the people who embrace him as he travels.

With engaging illustrations and journal entries throughout, this delightful series provides an immersive experience for any young adventurer.



Nature and Green Spaces

The Journey Home

Frann Preston-Gannon

When the ice starts to melt, the Polar Bear sets out on a quest across the ocean, up rivers, over land and back to the sea, picking up new and displaced friends along the way. Exploring why and how each creature lost its habitat, this classic picture book is a useful resource to introduce children to the importance of conservation. Beautifully realised with an eye-catching use of perspective, bold images and clever typography, The Journey Home is a wonderful picture book for both KS1 and KS2 children. The story is ideal to provoke ideas for creative writing and environmental topic work and this anniversary edition features project ideas that will be useful for home learning.

Purchasing, recycling and waste

One Plastic Bag

Miranda Paul

When Isatou Ceesay saw festering plastic bags polluting the roadside in her Gambian neighbourhood, she decided to take action. The plastic was killing animals that tried to eat it, harbouring vermin and disease and causing dangerous smoke when it caught fire. So she set about finding a way to recycle all the plastic. This story will inspire younger readers in EYFS and KS1 to believe that their actions really can make a difference.

Health and Well-being

Dear Greenpeace

Simon James

Written as a series of letters between a young girl and Greenpeace, the worldwide environmental organisation, this picture book explores why a whale cannot be expected to live long term in a pond. Examining themes of captivity, species endangerment and conservation, this text will appeal to readers in KS1 and will be useful for children in KS2 studying man's impact on the environment in geography and letter writing in literacy.

Check out these websites for CPD and teaching resources:

www.aimhi.earth
www.friendsoftheearth.uk
www.leedsdec.org.uk

www.practicalaction.org/schools
www.thoughtboxeducation.com
www.worldwildlife.org



Eco Schools

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

THIS MONTH'S TOP TIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS

Have you thought about planting a hedge?

Hedges are an excellent boundary feature, particularly alongside roads where they adsorb some of the air pollution from vehicles. They can be beautifully manicured with pruned top and sides or an informal type comprising a series of tall shrubs giving a rounded effect. All provide shelter for birds in the winter months, and some offer food and breeding sites for insects, birds and small mammals.

The local conservation volunteers have offered to plant two school hedges a year, or it can be a PTA project. RCAN will probably be able to supply most of the hedging materials free of charge. However, it will need ongoing maintenance and that is the key issue for the choice of species and heights.

Interested? contact nature@readingcan.org.uk and we'll send someone out to chat it through with you.



WWF Schools Sustainability Guide

WWF's brand new Schools Sustainability Guide gives loads of tips on how to take action for climate, nature and sustainability in your school.

Find out more here:

<https://www.wwf.org.uk/get-involved/schools/sustainability-guide>



Important upcoming dates

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

- Sept 12th-16th** Natural History Museum 'Generation Hope' (Postponed until further notice)
- Sept 16th** Deadline to order Climate Justice postcards from Oxfam
- Sept 19-25th** Recycling Week
- Sept 24th** Reading Youth Fair
- Sept 24th-Oct 2nd** Reading Climate Festival
- Sept 25th** Reading Cycle Festival
- October** International Walk to School Month
- Oct 1st** Fun Palaces at Reading Libraries
- Oct 3rd** World Habitat Day
- Oct 4th** World Animal Day
- Oct 7th** Running Out of Time relay in Reading
- Oct 14th** Deadline to send Oxfam postcards
- Nov 3rd** Global Schools Action Day
- Nov 6th-18th** COP27, Sharm El Sheik, Egypt
- Nov 14th-19th** Geography Awareness Week
- Nov 22nd** Oceans of Plastic 2022

Reading Schools Climate Action Network – Join us!

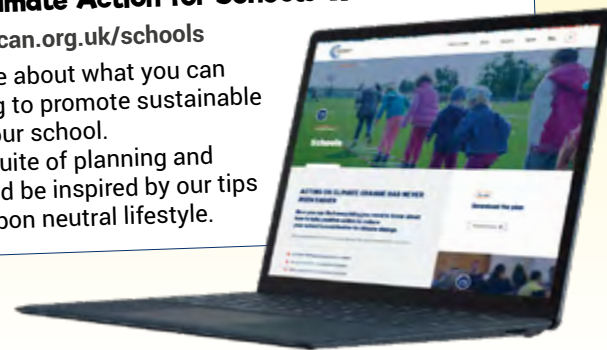
We have set up the Reading Schools Climate Action Network (RSCAN) to support and link up primary and secondary school staff who are working with the challenges of environmental education. This gives all school staff concerned about climate change and sustainability the opportunity to meet others interested 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!
harriet.neville@brighterfuturesforchildren.org

Reading Climate Action for Schools Website

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.



Contact us:

harriet.neville@brighterfuturesforchildren.org

www.readingcan.org.uk/schools