

## AUTUMN 2021: CLIMATE ACTION

*Our golden thread for this month turns to climate action and ways we can empower our pupils to feel able to make a local to global impact.*



## Climate ambitions and actions



Laura Goad, Director

**2021 is a huge year for climate action. We are here to support you.**

On 9<sup>th</sup> August the IPCC released their 6<sup>th</sup> report on climate change which states even more conclusively than before that human activity is changing the climate in unprecedented and sometimes irreversible ways. In response, the UN has declared a 'code red for humanity.'

We have all seen the news stories of increasing floods, wildfires, and other climate disasters around the world. And we have also witnessed how climate anxiety is affecting our children and young people's mental health and wellbeing.

This November, the United Nations will come together at the 26th Climate Change Conference (COP26: <https://ukcop26.org/>) in Glasgow, where there will be massive pressure for greater climate ambition - not just from governments, but from individuals and institutions, including schools.

This is key because:

- Young people rely on schools as trusted sources of information on climate change, and crucially, to provide role models through individual teachers and school leaders.
- Schools as institutions will be under increasing pressure to mitigate emissions, starting with the Streamline Energy and Carbon Reporting now being required of Academy Trusts.

But we know it's not easy. Schools are under huge pressure, especially after the huge disruptions of COVID-19, and for many educators, we feel overwhelmed, unsure about where to begin, and dubious that our actions will even make a difference.

**We're here to support you.**

Cumbria Development Education Centre, along with a range of like-minded organisations offers practical support for action on sustainability in schools, based around the 4 Cs: Campus, Curriculum, Community and Culture. We bring our significant experience from integrating global perspectives to approaches to exploring complexity in the classroom.

We can work alongside and in support of your school, offering advice and access to climate resources, training, initiatives and local opportunities, including positive stories of climate action, and the voices of young people in the Global South who are disproportionately affected.

We have pulled together a range of resources that can be accessed here: <https://padlet.com/office744/fnxu9ynqlnnohbul> and via the CDEC website.

On page 2 of this newsletter, our colleague Debbie has written 3 practical ideas for action in your schools.

And on the final page, there is information about Cumbria's 3rd Youth Climate Summit and ways your school can get more involved with COP26



### ADDITIONAL READING

#### THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE

<https://www.ipcc.ch/>

#### HOW IS CLIMATE LINKED TO EXTREME WEATHER?

<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/climate/climate-and-extreme-weather>

#### CLIMATE ANXIETY IN YOUNG PEOPLE: A CALL TO ACTION

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196\(20\)30223-0/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196(20)30223-0/fulltext)



# Activities for the classroom

Activities for your school for Climate Change – being an active Local and Global citizen! Here are 3 activities to inspire practical action in your school – perhaps these could be organised by your Eco Club!



## ACTIVITY 1

Swap shops – reusing and sharing

**With Christmas on the horizon, how can we reduce the amount of 'stuff' that is bought and then too soon thrown away?**

Toys swap shop- every year 8.5million toys are thrown away in UK. 90% toys cannot be recycled due to mix of materials and so go to landfill. Reusing and sharing means that the life of toys can be extended for more children to enjoy.

Children can plan, advertise and organise the event. They also need to plan what to do with the excess items – contacting a charity shop beforehand who may do a pick up or asking parents for transport are all learning opportunities.

Pupils could investigate Lego Replay initiative and other manufacturers working towards a circular economy for toys: <https://ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/articles/creating-a-circular-economy-for-toys>.

They can use the event to share their work on reusing and recycling and the impact this has locally and globally with parents and wider school community.

NB: If 'letting go' of toys is too emotional for young children, try a Books, DVDs and board games swap shop instead!

*"Remember you are never too small or too young to make an impact on the world. Know that everything you do counts. It is best to start now, because we don't have much time."*

Lesein Mutunkei, Kenya – Trees for Goals (BBC What's New) See how Lesein used his passion for football to start a big change! [www.youtube.com/watch?v=AMQUbsnr6F4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AMQUbsnr6F4)

## ACTIVITY 2

Plant a hedge in your school grounds

**Hedges are wildlife corridors, windbreaks, water reservoirs, they catch carbon, provide shade and can hide an ugly fence; a good alternative if there is little room for trees. Since 1950 UK has lost half of its hedgerows.**

November to March is the season for planting and Woodland Trust has free packs for schools and communities: <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/>

Pupils can investigate and map a site, investigate hedgerow plants and importance of hedgerows, plan a planting event, invite parent helpers and use the event to encourage more hedge planting in the community!



## ACTIVITY 3 Campaign for Climate Justice with Fairtrade

Invite your MP to a Climate Justice assembly with a cup of Fairtrade coffee!

Fairtrade farmers are among the people who have contributed the least to climate crisis – but are already feeling the worst effects. 17 people from Côte d'Ivoire have the same carbon footprint as one person in the UK, and studies have shown that Africa is the continent most vulnerable to climate change. To adapt farming practices and survive big changes in climate and much investment will be needed.

Pupils can find out more about Climate Justice and the need for global support from richer countries through the stories of cocoa and coffee farmers in Africa and South America. <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL2zniuqMzqkY2rWUwUiWJb1c7ZgGmTmfH>

They could use some of the videos and plan an assembly for school and parents; invite local MP and question them on climate funding commitments.

Developed countries agreed in 2009 to contribute \$100bn a year in climate finance to poorer countries by 2020. This has been reaffirmed by G7 in June 2021 but detail as to where the money is coming from and how it will be spent fairly is not clear.



# PLACE - Paths to Learning: Active Community Exploration

THE STORY SO FAR



Debbie Watson, Global Education Officer

**6 schools in north Cumbria have stepped up to the plate for this exciting international project.**

Training for teachers last term included Questing, creating garden spaces for wellbeing, active citizenship in the community, and Philosophy 4 Children. This term each school will start to explore their local place and community – what they like, what is working well; what could be improved. Pupils will then develop a plan to help change their place for the better.

From engaging with businesses to reduce plastic, to designing and creating therapeutic spaces for all to enjoy, to creating a quest for young families, children can make meaningful interventions as active citizens in their community.

To find out more go to <https://www.cdec.org.uk/what-we-offer/projects/place/>



## STORYsilience

RESILIENCE THROUGH STORYTELLING



**With young people at the helm, we are working to uncover stories authored by lesser-heard people in our communities, reinterpreting them into arts performances, and touring the work in cultural institutions (theatres, galleries, libraries, heritage sites...) across the four locations.**

Our project brings us together with children and young people to retell stories of resilience in-COVID across four locations

- Cumbria with Cumbria Development Education Centre
- London, with Global Learning London
- Slovenia with Povod, Institute for Culture and Development of International Relations in Culture
- Turkey, with DEM Experimental Training Centre

Our project objectives are:

- To amplify the voices of those from lesser-heard communities with particular focus on their experiences of COVID 19
- To up-skill school children in the arts and creative industries towards nurturing an interest in the arts as a viable career option
- To uplift cultural organisations hard-hit by COVID by reconnecting them with their communities by diversifying their audiences

If you think your school would be interested in taking part in this project, please contact: [laura@cdec.org.uk](mailto:laura@cdec.org.uk)

The project is being delivered between June 2021 until June 2023.



## DISCOVERED STORIES, SHARED COMMUNITIES

**As part of our Discovered Stories Shared Communities project we started working with Ashfield Juniors Primary School in Workington.**

Together with pupils and staff we using creative arts to express our understanding of community, resilience and belonging. While amazing school staff hold conversations around the meaning of community locally and globally as we all recover from the pandemic. During September we will work with words, symbols and images to co- create a mural that will serve as an inspiration for an innovative community action. The mural is also part of Singing Tree™ peace building and healing through art project led by our member of staff Gabi who is a certified facilitator trained by Unity Through Creativity Foundation.

## ABOUT CDEC

### WHO WE ARE

CDEC is a local Cumbrian education charity with global reach. We are passionate about working with schools and communities, inspiring and enabling them to create a socially and environmentally just world.

### WHAT WE DO

Our vision is for Cumbria to be a place where young people, through their global learning experiences, become informed, responsible and active global citizens with a lifelong commitment to building a just and more sustainable world now and in the future.

CDEC achieves this through working with schools, communities and organisations by:

- Delivering continuing professional development (CPD) training as well as classroom and workshop sessions for children and young people
- Providing advice, a network of support and resources for schools and organisations
- Running community-based projects that engage and support those living in Cumbria
- Working in partnership with a range of organisations to encourage thinking about, and action on, local and global issues.

*"Cumbria has been one of the most successful counties in England in promoting global learning in recent years."*

Professor Douglas Bourn, University College London-Institute of Education.

# Over a third of Cumbria's primary schools are members of CDEC.

Join our community and become a member. We provide resources and assistance to ensure pupils gain as wide a perspective of the world as possible. It costs just £40/yr if you have under 50 pupils, £75/yr for over 50 pupils, and £100/yr for secondary schools.

- Loan our resource boxes, which include a rich collection of artefacts and activities on world religions and countries, the Early Years, the environment and sustainability as well as art and design
- Receive a dedicated members' e-newsletter with suggestions for resources to follow the global calendar and other news from CDEC
- Be the first to hear about opportunities for schools to be involved in CDEC's projects
- Receive 10% off our continuing professional development open course programme when the course is run by CDEC
- £10 off our Creative Assembly (normally £40)
- 10% off our Creative Classrooms programme (where we take a class for you on one of our themes)
- Receive a session with your staff on how to use the boxes to greatest effect or an assembly during the year on a global learning theme
- Ask us for advice and support on how to work towards accreditation of a number of schemes that support global learning – like Christian Aid's Global Neighbour's Programme, becoming an EcoSchool and gaining Fairtrade School status.

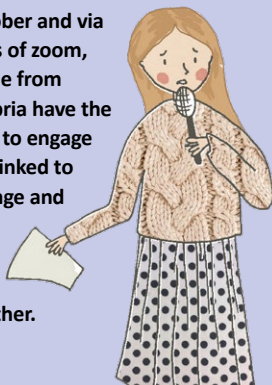
Get in touch to find out more!



## CUMBRIA'S 3<sup>RD</sup> YOUTH CLIMATE SUMMIT

OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup> 2021

On 15<sup>th</sup> October and via the wonders of zoom, young people from across Cumbria have the opportunity to engage with issues linked to climate change and share their ideas and solutions with each other.



### AGENDA

9.30 - Summit Opening

Workshops:

1. Activism, resilience and COP 26
2. Getting your voice heard and influencing others
3. Making my school carbon zero
4. A day in the life of...

Sharing success stories between schools and young people  
Taking action and getting involved – generating ideas



For more information and to book your place, visit: <https://bit.ly/3E5LVcN>



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CDEC is a member of the Consortium of Development Education Centres Find out more at [CoDEC.org.uk](http://CoDEC.org.uk)