

Lancashire Schools Sustainability Forum
NW Eco-Schools Sustainability Conferences 23rd June 2022
Blackburn Rovers Football Club in association with BRFC Trust

Conference Report

The Lancashire Schools Sustainability Forum places education at its very heart by offering children and young people a range of hands on, learning beyond the classroom opportunities not covered by statutory curriculum funding. It attracts support from (and promotes) Outdoor Education Programmes (LOtC); LEAF Ed (Link Education and Farming): forest schools' activities, and provides teachers continued professional development.

The 13th conference was hosted at Blackburn Rovers Football Club with support from the Blackburn Rovers Community Trust.

The aims were to-

- provide an effective, stimulating learning environment where a targeted audience of high school students and Key Stage 2 pupils from schools in Lancashire and beyond would add to their knowledge linked to Education for Sustainable Development.
- provide workshop and marketplace learning experiences for the KS2 children, and school team competitions and challenges for high school students.
- involve environmental groups in delivering learning activities linked to Global Citizenship, Healthy Living, Biodiversity, School Grounds, Water, Marine, Waste, Energy, Litter and Transport in workshop settings or in the marketplace.
- invite guest speakers to deliver presentations to students and school personnel.
- invite high schools to showcase some of their ESD linked projects.
- provide a platform for environmental groups to promote their services to schools. To share good practice and inform school staff.

The Conference was run as a not-for-profit event and was dependent on securing sponsorship. As in previous years there was input from members of the Lancashire Sustainability Forum; students from St Christopher's CE High School's Eco-Group and Blackburn Rovers Community Trust personnel who assisted with safety guidance and were represented in the marketplace.

Children built on their existing knowledge and left with innovative ideas to share with others in their schools. High school students learnt through engaging with team events and marketplace learning activities. There was an opportunity for the sharing of good practice and cross-generation learning. School staff increased their understanding of learning for sustainability; taking away ideas to introduce in their school from September 2022

Marketplace organisations networked and made links with schools attending the event.

The Conference offered a range of biodiversity related opportunities including input from, WWT (Martin Mere) Pendle Hill Partnership. WildAid and other eco groups. Organisations were encouraged to promote their services to schools. There were strong curriculum links including Sciences, Physical Geography (including the global dimension), Literacy Maths, and creative subjects.



David Luke Schoolwear sponsored the Upcycled Garment Competition and Trashion Show.

Aqua Explorer provided the bonus for the winning Production Line Team.

Sponsorship from Solar for Schools met the cost of complimentary lunches for marketplace personnel and tea and coffee for school staff attending both CPD sessions.



Sodexo allowed us to use the Legend Suite areas

Registration fees helped meet running costs including production line wages, conference bags and administration costs.

The event received support from the Co-op. This included Fairtrade tea and coffee for marketplace groups, and compostable bags used as school conference bags.

Thirty-four primary schools sent on average 6-8 children and two school staff. Approximately two hundred and fifty Key Stage 2 children were allocated between workshops, presentations and marketplace learning activities. One hundred and thirty-two students from six high schools were entered in team challenges or took on the important role of group guides. Schools travelled from Accrington, Blackburn, Blackpool, Bolton, Bury, Chorley, Great Harwood, Lancaster, Leyland, Morecambe, Oswaldtwistle, Preston, Rochdale, Rossendale, and Wigan to experience the day's activities. More than 20% of schools took advantage of the 'early bird' registration deal.

Separate schedules were run for school staff, KS2 children and KS3/4 students.

1. **Learning Means the World** delivered by Dimensions Curriculum. CPD session for audience of teacher and teaching assistants
2. **Kick Start Sustainability** leadership session for headteachers, deputy heads business managers and governors. Guest speakers included Tom Cardale (Solar for Schools) Dr Emma Fieldhouse (Director Future We Want), Jasmina Geororgovka (Dr Jane Goodall's Roots and Shoots) Lydia Meryll (community activist and environmental educator), Wendy Litherland (Director of Sustainability, St Christopher's CE Academy, Accrington)
3. **The Production Line** roleplay activity that transported Year 7 and 8 students into Mrs Jagatia's sweatshop environment in a newly industrialised country. No fair trade here; no minimum wage, pensions, or union representation; no national health service or free education. Quite an eye-opener.
4. **Global Warning**, a drama production delivered by Odd Socks Entertainments from Liverpool. The two performances were both informative and entertaining
5. **Wayne and Koda**, a presentation about Wayne's coastal walks picking up litter with some input from Amy Meeks (Kids Against Plastic), Heather Dixon (A Bag a Day, Keeps the Litter Away) and Elizabeth (TLC Elizabeth, Caring for Wirral).

The Marketplace attracted new groups as well as organisations that had attended the event over many years. Organisations and businesses provided an excellent range of learning activity.

New groups included NW Air Ambulance Charity, Permanent Education, Aqua Explorers, Move-ability, Hedgehog Friendly Campus, Little Bats CIC, WN1 Lighting Solutions, Brockholes on Windermere and Yorkshire Dales National Park

Glynis Goldsbrough (Conference Facilitator) performed front of house and behind the scenes tasks. She was on hand to liaise with attending schools, workshop, and marketplace providers.



Conference strengths were judged to be:

- Blackburn Rovers Football Club's impressive venue with input from Martin Winters and Ryan Loftus.
- The support provided by Lancashire Schools' Sustainability Form members.
- Support and input from Balshaw CE High School (Leyland), Pleckgate Academy (Blackburn) and St Christopher's CE High School (Accrington) with students taking on the important role of group-guides.
- Designated time for school staff to explore the marketplace without their pupils. (School staff had time allocated for exploring the marketplace without their children. The Passport activity proved effective in encouraging teachers to seek out stands.) This needs to be extended to all stalls next time.
- CPD session Delivered by Dimensions Curriculum.
- Kick Start Sustainability leadership session lead by Lydia Merryll.
- Marketplace learning activities linked to learning for sustainability,
- The excellent number of workshops and the range of topics covered.
- Kids Against Plastic afternoon presentation to high school students and staff by Amy Meeks (Plastic Clever Schools)
- Animals on site; always popular with children of all ages.
- St Christopher's TRASHION SHOW
- Proceeds raised from the Cake Stall donated to NW Air Ambulance Charity.
- Complimentary Lunches prepared by Amelia, Megan and Jorja
- 'The Brew Crew' keeping up with the demand of teas and coffees from the Stewards' Room
- Technical support from David Reid and Alex Jeffery.

Areas for improvement identified in 2019

- To attract more Headteachers and SLT staff- the people who manage school budgets. This was achieved by offering additional places for SLT members and governors so they could attend the Kick Start Sustainability leadership session which was well attended
- To improve the speed getting KS2 children into their workshops. This was achieved by not having a 10.00 initial session for everyone in the Legend Suite.

Area for improvement 2023

- To attract more school governors.
- Better signposting to Legend Suite activities.
- More time for school personnel to investigate the marketplace with extended passports.

Competition winners

Production Line Challenge	Bashaw CE High School	
Zero Waste Lunch Competition	Wensley Fold Blackburn Brabins Endowed, Chipping Thurham with Glasson, Lancaster	
Zero Waste Lunch Poster Competition	Medlar with Wesham	
Upcycled Garment Competition	1 st prize	Belthorn Academy Blackburn
	Runners Up	Park Community, Blackpool
Passport prize	Thomas Booth (Hutton Grammar) Henry Wilkinson (Priory Academy)	

Our thanks go to:



Martin Winters,
Ryan Loftus
Community
Trust Team



Steven Alday
Stacey



Julie
Zoya



Amy & Tim Meeks



Elaine Sutton
Steve Birchall
Ian Sharples



Jamie Morley
Samantha Leigh
Mathew Thompson
Amber Bogumil



Brockholes Windermere
Victoria Ireland
Oliver Barnes



Hayley Blackwell
Joanne Hills



Sarah
James
& Thomas



Mel Frances



Dan Green

Rob Hall
Lee Bolam
James



Susan Debra
Margaret

Friends of the Earth

Jane Wood
David Penning



Joan West



Solar for Schools
Georgia Gallimore
Tom Cardale



Dr Emma Fieldhouse



Ama Chaney



Jo
Bethany



Kirsty Grayson



Katy Pallas



Charlie Pass



The Eco-Heroes
Stephen Parkinson



Jeanette Gennoe
Brandon Cherry
Chole Jameson
Helen Earnshaw Joel Henderson



Permanent Education
Rebecca Gough
Paula Moses



Jo-Anna Stanley
Belinda John



Rebecca Swift

Martin Mere

Lydia

Wayne Dixon & Koda

Wayne Dixon
Amy Heather Elizabeth



Church & Oswaldtwistle
Rotary-
Dawn Taylor Julia O Hara
Cath & Lyndon Heap



Nana-Essi Susan Murphy
Margaret Rand Joanna Pollard



Adelle
Joanna



Simon Cordingly
Kath Cordingly
Ethan



Sarah Jeffery
Ryan Chambers
Catherine Kenny



Production Line

Sheila Booth Nadya Booth
Kylie Wilkinson



Jasmina Geororgovka



Jeanette

Little Bats Learning CIC

Elanor Gordon Joshua Charley
Sammie-Joe

Cambolian Crafts (Eco-bricks)



Bob Turner



TRASHION

Ann Morris
& Textile students



Alison Cross
Christian
Murray-Moon

Cake Stall

Donations from schools sold by
Faye Gladsdon & Julie Kent

BREW CREW

Peter Booth
Trevor Goldsbrough



St Christopher's CE Academy Support Team

John Gerard Tom Maryon Matthew Houldsworth
Trevor Smith Bekki Mulhall Amy Smith Jordan Smith Ric West
Matt Rigby

FEEDBACK

General repeated comment- Organisations welcomed the new format. They got much more time to talk to teachers about what they do and made lots of new contacts.

'Thank you for a very successful event. So glad to be invited again. Confident, enthusiastic, and engaging children and teaching staff visiting everyone in the marketplace!'

'An incredible day at The Sustainability Conference at Ewood Park with likeminded schools. The afternoon 'Trashion Show' was spectacular.'

'A brilliant day connecting with old friends at the NW Eco Schools Conference, at Blackburn Rovers Football Stadium ♥'

'The children have had a fantastic time and are fired up to continue to move Cop Lane forward with its eco focus. Thank you.'

'Hot and busy just about summed it up, but a resounding success! Was inspiring to see how absorbed & focused the young people became when given the chance to whittle their own skewers, then choose their own kebabs. Pineapple, banana, tomatoes, crumpet & malt loaf' Elanor Gordon Little Bats Learning

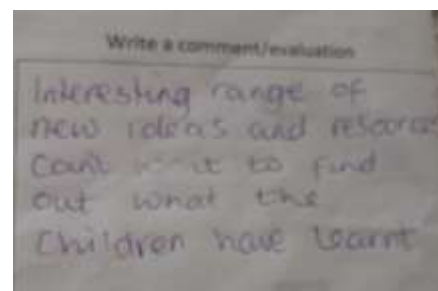
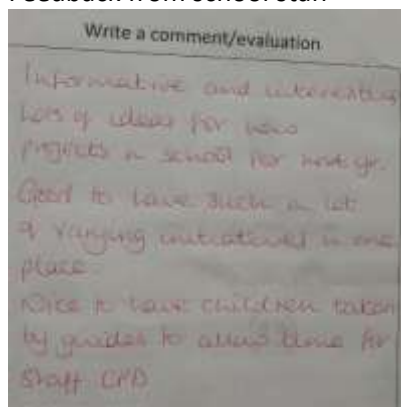
'It was superb to be back in the marketplace being visited by such engaging and interested young people. Particularly good to see new faces attending and familiar faces from before the Covid-19 lockdowns. It was just a tremendous day! it was great to meet up with some old friends.' Charlie Pass WildAid

'Met some inspirational truly wonderful people who are on the same journey of sustainability. Can't wait for the next conference. The next generation were inspiring.' Move Ability Learning.

'A great day, it was great to meet up with some old friends.' Wayne Dixon

'This was a very successful conference for both exhibitors and schools. Our exhibition frame full of naïve British Honeybees caused a real buzz with students and teachers alike. We feel privileged to have been part of such a wonderful day and look forward to next year when we hope to be able to offer even more. We are still replying to all the enquiries about school visits with our buzzy bees and bees in schools programme which we launched at the conference.' **The Bee Centre**

Feedback from school staff



Press releases and advertising

Glynis and Wendy tweeted regularly about the forthcoming conferences and picked up some useful new contacts; some of whom attended. @Sch_ESD_Conf. Our Twitter Account was used to keep followers informed about organisations supporting the conference. #NWEcoConf2022 Delegates were encouraged to tweet comments about the event and activities. This provided useful feedback- all positive.

The Sustainable Schools Conference Facebook Page attracted visitors.

www.facebook.com/schoolsustainabilityconferences The page includes pictures, organisations' logo, and comments. It proved useful in keeping viewers updated about behind the scenes planning activities.

A folder of 2022 Conference photographs has been added to our Facebook Page (JULY 2022)

The Sustainable Schools Website will be updated by David Reid in September 2022. This report and a gallery of pictures will be added to the Site. www.school-sustainability.org

The Lancashire Schools Sustainability Forum thanks to everyone who supported this event and made it a great place to learn lots about Education for Sustainability.

The date and venue for the 2023 conference will be Tuesday the 27th of June 2023.

We hope that readers of this report will want to be part of the next event.

Our effective learning environment- just a few pictures that reflect the day



Learning for Sustainability.

Learning beyond the classroom.