

# London Sustainable Schools Forum

May 2009

Dear Forum member,

Welcome to the 11<sup>th</sup> London Sustainable Schools Forum E-Bulletin!

Several exciting developments to report in the world of London sustainable schools...

First of all, I am delighted to announce that LSSF now has 697 members, which include nearly 300 (10%) London schools! It also includes a representative from every London Borough, as well as a whole range of fantastic organisations working to support sustainable schools in the capital. This is a wonderful resource of ideas, enthusiasm and commitment of which we can all be proud, but which relies on the continued support and energy of all its members to be a success. We hope that you will continue to contribute your enthusiasm and ideas for action as we move into 09/10.

We will be striving to maintain momentum and will continue to promote and share the wide variety of expertise and experience that the LSSF members bring, through more events and E Bulletins tailored to your needs. Please do let us know if there are particular subjects that you would like to see addressed in future events or communications – we are sure that another LSSF member could provide the advice or idea you are looking for!

Another exciting development is the springing up of lots of local, Borough networks around sustainable schools. Some of these have been pioneering activity for a while, but it does seem that many more clusters of schools and Boroughs are now working together to share practice and support one another on this agenda. A group of schools, including Glebe, recently established such a network in Bromley, and are now looking forward to an official 'launch' event at the beginning of June. If you have a similar local network experience that you would like to share with Forum members, please do get in touch!

Finally a very interesting WWF study has recently been launched. 'Learning for Sustainability: from the pupil's perspective' involved the researcher, Dr Chris Gayford, working with groups of pupils in 15 schools over 3 years. I hope that others will find the study useful – it makes some interesting recommendations.

As always – if you have any suggestions or contributions for a future Bulletin, please do get in touch – you can email [sustainableschools@gol.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:sustainableschools@gol.gsi.gov.uk). We look forward to hearing from you!



Martin Crabbe, Head of Sustainable Geography, Glebe School  
Deputy Chair of London Sustainable Schools Forum

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## Sustainable Schools News

- **WWF Report launched at the House of Commons** (18<sup>th</sup> May)

The research report 'Learning for sustainability: from the pupils' perspective', was launched at the House of Commons today.

Dr Chris Gayford, who led the research, worked with groups of pupils from 15 different schools over a 3 year period to gauge their progressing engagement with and understanding of sustainability, and their ability to respond and take action with confidence. Most pupils considered environmental sustainability to be important, and said that they needed to feel that it was valued in the school community. Dr Gayford also indicated that he felt there was a clear link between learning for sustainability and the general socialisation of children.

The study was conducted in parallel with an Ofsted study of the same schools, which will be launched in the coming months.

To download a copy of the report, please visit:

[http://www.wwf.org.uk/what we do/working with schools](http://www.wwf.org.uk/what_we_do/working_with_schools)

- **Sir Jim Rose's Review of the Primary Curriculum – final report released** (30<sup>th</sup> April)

The final report was published on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009. It has looked to reduce prescription and content so that schools have greater flexibility to shape how the curriculum is taught and to supplement it to meet local circumstances and pupils' individual needs. The final report builds on the interim report, published in December 2008.

One difference from the Interim report published in December, is that the proposed 'area of learning' of 'human, social and environmental understanding' has been changed to: 'historical, geographical and social understanding'.

A final consultation is now open. If you wish to contribute your thoughts and comments, please click on the link below. The consultation is open until **24<sup>th</sup> July** and implementation of the revised curriculum will begin from September 2011.

Consultation: [http://www.qca.org.uk/qca\\_22256.aspx](http://www.qca.org.uk/qca_22256.aspx)

To access the Final Review and Interim Report: <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/primarycurriculumreview/>

- **PM aims to get all young people helping communities** (24<sup>th</sup> April)

The Prime Minister has outlined his ambition that every young person will be expected to get involved in making a difference in their communities.

During a podcast released on the Number 10 website, the PM set out some key steps towards realising this ambition that would aim to encourage "a new era of respect and responsibility".

He announced a new programme for 16 to 19-year-olds starting this September that will see 20,000 school leavers a year undertake full time community service alongside training.

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page19106>

- **The 'F' that became a dirty word** (24<sup>th</sup> April)

Twenty-first century schoolgirls are continually trying to distance themselves from feminism, despite its ongoing relevance to their lives, a research project has concluded.

67 sixth-formers were interviewed about their attitudes towards the women's movement and many repeatedly denied any suggestion they might be feminists.

Several insisted that differences between men and women were down to personality and circumstance rather than institutionalised sexism. About housework, one said: "I think it's more of an individual thing than a gender thing." Her classmate believed that male underachievement in exams could be similarly explained. "I think it's more of a stereotype than anything else," she said. "You can find some patterns, but I think everything in the end is down to individuals."

<http://www.tes.co.uk/article.aspx?storycode=6012288>

- **Local4Global looking for a Secondary Headteacher to join regional Policy Group** (April)

Local4Global is the regional response to DFID's Enabling Effective Support (EES) initiative in London and South East England.

DFID seeks strategic management and development of the EES initiative from stakeholders in the wider education system. Local4Global has a Policy Group which meets four times a year and meets as an extended Policy Group twice a year.

The Policy Group, which includes Headteachers and representatives from universities and NGOs, is currently looking for a secondary school Head teacher, or suitable Deputy, to join the Group and attend six afternoon meetings a year. An attendance fee of £200 per meeting, plus any travel expenses, are available.

For more information, please contact Angus Wilson on [angus.willson@btinternet.com](mailto:angus.willson@btinternet.com) or visit the Local4Global website at [www.local4global.org.uk](http://www.local4global.org.uk).

- **Teachers report 'racist bullying'** (23<sup>rd</sup> April)

Nearly half of teachers say racist bullying is a problem in their schools, a survey has found.

A Teachers TV survey of 802 teachers found two thirds said their schools had no policy on such bullying, and many worried about religious intolerance.

A third of teachers said more training would help them tackle the problem. One in five said they were aware of Islamophobia in their schools. Some of those who said racist bullying was a problem said teachers had been targeted.

The government said all schools should have a strong anti-bullying policy, which should also include measures to tackle racist bullying.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/8014880.stm>

- **22<sup>nd</sup> April: Earth Day** (22<sup>nd</sup> April)

Earth Day is an annual global effort to raise awareness of environmental issues. There are thousands of local Earth Day events happening on 22 April around the world. The Guardian has rounded up a summary of some of the 'best' on their website:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/ethicallivingblog/2009/apr/21/earth-day-2009-best-web>

- **UK ranked low on youth wellbeing (20<sup>th</sup> April)**

A table of young people's wellbeing in 29 European states - the EU plus Norway and Iceland - has ranked the UK 24<sup>th</sup>.

The Netherlands was top while only Romania, Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania and Malta came lower than the UK. The table, about youngsters aged up to 19, was compiled by York University researchers for the Child Poverty Action Group using mostly 2006 data.

The researchers assessed the countries on 43 separate measures, ranging from infant mortality and obesity to material resources - like poverty and housing. Also included were how children felt about their lives, schools and relationships.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/8008926.stm>

- **Oxford Circus to get pedestrian-friendly revamp (14<sup>th</sup> April)**

Oxford Circus has long been one of London's least appealing destinations for pedestrians. Cattle have more freedom to move on market day. Pedestrians are made to feel as if they're an irritant to be penned in by barriers and cajoled forward only once the road traffic has passed.

But this is soon set to change with the introduction of the "Barnes Dance". No, this isn't a new move sweeping the nation – even if you did have enough room to shake your hips while waiting for the green man to appear at Oxford Circus – but the nickname for the type of pedestrian crossing where all road traffic is periodically stopped and pedestrians are allowed to cross all at once, even walking diagonally across the intersection if they so wish.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/ethicallivingblog/2009/apr/14/oxford-circus-pedestrian-friendly>

- **DEA launches policy recommendations (30<sup>th</sup> March)**

DEA Chief Executive Hetan Shah launched the organisation's Policy Recommendations at an evening reception on 24<sup>th</sup> March.

The event was well-attended by representatives from many educational organisations including Development Education Centres, subject teaching associations and teaching unions, as well as government and public bodies such as DCSF, DFID, QCA and TDA.

Young people face a future in a complex interdependent world. Globalisation, climate change, the need for community cohesion and social mobility and the challenges of international development all require young people to have a global outlook. DEA's research with Ipsos MORI with both young people and teachers shows an unmet need for global learning. There are some positive education policy foundations but much more needs to be done to ensure that schools have the support they need.

<http://www.dea.org.uk/news-7aa21310733b24136e2407da8b2ea0ba>

## **Dates for your Diary.... May - June 2009**

MAY

- **Valuing our future: leading sustainable schools, Leadership Network event, 22<sup>nd</sup> May, Hampton Hill Junior School, Richmond**

Hampton Hill Junior is one of the pathfinder schools for the NCSL sustainable schools toolkit. Led by Bill Jerman, Hampton Hill has an impressive track record in making real differences to the way the school and its community work in terms of sustainability issues.

Bill will share their journey, talk about the partners with whom they've engaged and the international dimension to his work. Delegates will hear from some of his partners in and beyond his local authority, and have an opportunity to look at the toolkit in more detail.

Target audience: All school leaders  
Region: London and South East

For more information, and a programme, visit: <http://www.ncsl.org.uk/aboutus-index/aboutus-calendar-index/aboutus-calendar-event-display.htm?id=25733>

- **National Walk to School Week 2009: 18 – 22<sup>nd</sup> May**

The theme this year is "Walk 'n' Talk" to highlight the social side to walking to school; it can be fun and fascinating! Start exploring ways you can promote walking in your area, if you think of a cracker do email [walktoschool@livingstreets.org.uk](mailto:walktoschool@livingstreets.org.uk) ! Visit the website for ideas and materials as you try to get more children walking and talking.

<http://www.walktoschool.org.uk/>

- **Walk London 'Spring into Summer Weekend' 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> May, across London**

Funded by Transport for London, Walk London has worked with the local authorities to develop an impressive network of quality walking routes so whether you are looking for a place to feed the ducks, a short stroll in your lunch hour, or an energetic walk to make you feel more alive - Walk London!

What better way to start summer and beat the credit crunch blues than by taking part in one of 40 free guided walks on offer during Walk London's 'Spring into Summer' weekend. There are forty walks to suit all abilities.

[www.walklondon.org.uk](http://www.walklondon.org.uk)

- **Deadline for Tree Council 'Trees for Schools Fund' grants 31<sup>st</sup> May**

This grant is open to all schools within the United Kingdom with pupils aged sixteen or under. If you're interested in applying for a grant to plant fruit trees, please have a look at the revised guidelines in relation to the funding of fruit trees.

To apply for a grant, please visit: <http://www.treecouncil.org.uk/?q=node/23> . The closing date for applications is **31<sup>st</sup> May**.

JUNE

- **Love London! 4<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> June, across London**

The Love London Green Festival is believed to be the largest annual green festival in the world. From 4th to 28th June 2009, over a hundred green events will take place across the capital, bringing communities together to share ideas and celebrate innovations. These events provide fun days out and engage Londoners in building a sustainable future for our city.

Visit the website to find out about exciting events taking place in your Borough!  
[www.lovelondon.org.uk](http://www.lovelondon.org.uk)

- **London Environmental Educators Forum (LEEF) AGM 2009 – 13<sup>th</sup> June, Greenwich**

2009 is a time of enormous challenges and opportunities for environmental educators in London. At this year's AGM, LEEF members are going to share their expertise of how to rise to the challenge.

You are warmly invited to the LEEF AGM 2009 on Saturday 13th June. The National Maritime Museum has kindly offered to host the event and the key note speaker is going to be a show at the planetarium called "Ice Worlds". Many LEEF members are going to host workshops focused on "Rising to the Challenge" of being an environmental educator in 2009.

Places are limited so it is essential to book, please email or phone Anna Portch on [aportch@wildlondon.org.uk](mailto:aportch@wildlondon.org.uk) or 07891 837 120. Cost for the day including lunch will be £25 for LEEF members and £40 for non-members.

- **Help build a Sustainable London! London RCE launch event – 5<sup>th</sup> June, London South Bank University**

Join us at this **free** event to celebrate the creation of London's own 'Regional Centre for Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development' (RCE) on World Environment Day!

What is a Regional Centre for Expertise (RCE)?

An RCE is an active and diverse network of people and organisations working to promote Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in their region. RCEs have a central role in an exciting global network, to support the UN 'Decade of ESD' (DESD).

What's happening in London?

London RCE will be the first European Capital City to join the network and aims to promote ESD across all sectors of the London community. Membership of the London RCE will be open to all London Stakeholders with an interest in promoting a sustainable London.

The launch of the London RCE is an opportunity to:

- celebrate the establishment of the one and only London RCE
- find out about its working groups and how you can get involved
- help to shape the regional network
- contribute to the development of work plans for the working groups
- network with colleagues from different sectors

Who can attend?

Universities, schools, non-governmental organisations, businesses, community and voluntary groups and interested individuals!

Key Speakers:

- A representative from the Lord Mayor's Office (TBC)
- Professor Charles Hopkins - UNITWIN/UNESCO Chair of ESD University of Toronto
- Ann Finlayson - Commissioner for Education, UK Commission for Sustainable Development; Director SEEd (formerly CEE)
- Dr. Dorcas Otieno - Director, Greater Nairobi RCE, Kenya
- Chris Church - Chair of London 21 Sustainability Network
- Erina Detlefsen - Munich RCE

Programme: [http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/efs/conference/RCE\\_programme.shtml](http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/efs/conference/RCE_programme.shtml)

RSVP

Please let us know that you wish to attend the launch by clicking on this link:

[http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/efs/conference/RCE\\_booking\\_form.shtml](http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/efs/conference/RCE_booking_form.shtml) and completing your booking on line asap – places are very limited!

- **Teach Climate Action! ActionAid event, 19<sup>th</sup> June, Queen Mary University, Mile End**

With possibly the most important decision ever to be made by humanity at Copenhagen this December, ActionAid has teamed up with Queen Mary University to create Teach climate action!

This teachers' event is purposefully timed after KS4 and KS5 exams but ahead of the autumn term. We are very keen for Geography teachers at all stages of their career to attend. Please pass on the following details to anyone who you think would be interested.

Confirmed speakers include:

- Yasmin McDonnell, Emergencies and Conflict Team, ActionAid
- Lizzie Gillett, Producer, The Age of Stupid
- Dr Victoria Johnson, New Economics Foundation
- Dr Robbie Sutton, Department of Psychology, University of Kent
- Dan Box, Journalist and winner of the RGS/IBG and BBC Journey of a Lifetime Award
- Dr Nicole Blum, Institute of Education

...and several others. Delegates will also receive a free PowerDown toolkit. Tickets are £10. For more information, visit: [www.actionaid.org.uk/teachclimateaction](http://www.actionaid.org.uk/teachclimateaction)

• **National School Grounds Week: 8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> June**

Every year around 8,000 schools and early years settings get involved and for many it's a regular event in the school calendar. This year physical activity is the theme: The Big Play Experiment. By getting involved you'll not only be benefiting your children, you'll also help inspire parents and the wider school community about the value of learning and play outdoors and bring about long-term changes in children's health and wellbeing.

The Big Play Experiment is being run in partnership with the government's Change4Life campaign. By joining in you can help in the aim to get children to enjoy their "60 active minutes" every day". Because this recommended daily exercise can be taken in ten minute bursts, getting children involved in more active play can make a significant contribution to their health.

Free resources are available with a fun and challenging range of activity ideas plus tips and support on how to manage and assess your experiment.

<http://www.ltl.org.uk/nsgw.htm>

• **National School Environments Week: 19<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> June**

This year National School Environments Week will be bigger and better than ever. BCSE will be celebrating great schools and excellence in the school design and construction industry through a series of events and activities around the country which will culminate in a glittering awards ceremony in London.

Activities include:

- \* 19th June - Launch at the House of Commons
- \* 24th June - BCSE Industry Awards Dinner
- \* 25th - The Big Debate -- Future Schools: where next?
- \* 26th June - Great Schools Friday -- schools across UK open to the public for the day

<http://www.bcse.uk.net/menu.asp?id=160>

• **SAUCE – Schools at University for Climate and Energy 22<sup>nd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> June, Islington**

In the week of 22-26<sup>th</sup> June, London Metropolitan University Department of Applied Social Sciences (DASS) will host SAUCE: a programme of energy and climate awareness for 10-13 year olds. SAUCE is a partnership with Islington Environmental Learning Partnership, six other universities in Europe, UK scientists, environmental NGOs, artists, actors and magicians. The programme will consist of activities such as: interactive lectures, theatre, quizzes, experimental activities, carbon training, a 'climate

breakfast', demonstrations of sustainable transport, urban gardening and an exploration of the child-friendly city environment.

SAUCE aims to:

1. Develop awareness of climate and energy issues, link these into an understanding of appropriate behaviours and encourage action in local schools and communities.
2. Develop an appreciation of the value of higher education for children from all sections of the community,
3. Develop an understanding of the role of the sciences – natural and social – and the arts in addressing climate and energy problems.

The programme is **free**, and addresses key elements of the national curriculum in exuberant style.

- **If you are a school interested in taking part in the programme:**

Your school is invited to attend the programme for a day, with up to 60 pupils from year 5/6/7. The programme runs from 10 am – 2.30 pm at the London Metropolitan University main campus on Holloway Road.

- **If you are interested in presenting (to children) or exhibiting to schools during the programme:** Please contact Mark or Nicholas below.

For further information, please contact: Mark Coombes - [m.coombes@londonmet.ac.uk](mailto:m.coombes@londonmet.ac.uk) or 020 7133 5022 , or phone Dr Nicholas Watts on 020 7133 5064.

- **Fairtrade Schools Conference – 29<sup>th</sup> June, Reading**

The Fairtrade Foundation is running a conference in Reading this summer for schools interested in putting Fairtrade into their school ethos. The event is open to primary and secondary schools, and caters for all levels of knowledge, from those who already have the Fairtrade Schools Award to those who are completely new to Fairtrade.

These events have been kindly funded by DfID and are therefore offered to schools for **free**. Due to the popularity of these events places are limited to a maximum of 2 pupils and 2 members of staff per school.

The conference will be taking place at the University of Reading. For more information and to book a place, visit:

[http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/schools/support\\_resources/school\\_conference\\_2009.aspx?dm\\_i=574023164](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/schools/support_resources/school_conference_2009.aspx?dm_i=574023164)

## Links and Resources – themed by Doorway

### Energy and Water

- **Carbon Trust Resources** [www.carbontrust.co.uk](http://www.carbontrust.co.uk)

**Action Energy from the Carbon Trust** – Provides a series of free booklets on the different aspects of energy management in schools. Action Energy can also supply speakers for training sessions, carry out free energy surveys in larger schools, give free impartial advice over the phone to all schools, provide free energy design advice for schools developing plans for large extensions and make interest-free loans to schools that qualify as small and medium sized businesses for them to invest in improved lighting, heating and insulation. Visit: <http://www.thecarbontrust.co.uk/energy>

**Building Energy Efficiency in Schools** – A guide to a whole school approach:

<http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/publications/publicationdetail.htm?productid=CTV037>

**School Campaign** - If schools spend more than £50,000 on energy, the carbon trust will carry out a free energy audit. The audit recommends measures which reduce energy consumption by introducing simple measures. To receive your school campaign pack Tel: 0800 917 3030.

- **Phase 2 of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP2)**  
<http://www.lowcarbonbuildingsphase2.org.uk/index.jsp>

Grants for the installation of microgeneration technologies are still available to public sector buildings - including schools. Applications are being accepted now until the **end of June 2009**.

For more information visit the website above.

- **Ashden Awards Schools Resources** <http://www.ashdenawards.org/schools>

The Ashden Awards has developed this new area of the website to encourage primary schools to explore sustainable energy solutions which can reduce carbon emissions and improve quality of life.

Ashden Awards are for individuals and organisations which have made a difference, by successfully using sustainable energy at a local level, including UK schools which have integrated sustainable energy in their teaching and practice. The free educational materials have been developed around the examples of some Ashden Award winners, to promote and encourage thinking about sustainable energy solutions.

There are a range of teaching activities, supported by downloadable Teacher notes, Powerpoint presentations and Ashden films. These can be used to promote and encourage thinking about sustainable energy in many curricular areas, while dealing with broad issues such as climate change.

The School Action page has information for governors and school management teams on how the whole school community can become more sustainable in using energy.

### Purchasing and Waste

- **The Renewable World** <http://www.renewableworld.org.uk>

Explore the fast-changing world of renewable materials, and their role in building a sustainable future.

Play the Renewable World game to see how materials have changed in the last 100 years, and how they might develop in future. Then visit the Student Information Centre or the Resources for Teachers for a wealth of additional information and ideas for further investigation.

### Buildings and Grounds

- **BBC Breathing Places Schools** [www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces/schools](http://www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces/schools)

BBC Breathing Places Schools aims to encourage teachers and pupils to get outside the classroom and 'Do One Thing' for nature each school term. Schools across the capital have been busy making small areas for wildlife in their grounds by following easy to use instructions. Topics covered so far include seed planting, minibeasts, feeding wildlife, making wildlife homes and currently – water for wildlife, all of which are still accessible to teachers who would like to participate.

Feedback from teachers not only in London but UK wide, has been very positive with them citing it is a realistic hands on experience for their pupils who are enjoying getting outside and learning more about nature. They also liked the fact that each term's activity was a simple, short, achievable idea that fits in with the curriculum. London schools are part of the bigger picture, with over 9000 schools in the UK participating in this project. We would like to encourage more schools from the London region to step forward and start 'doing one thing' for nature in their grounds benefiting both pupils and biodiversity across the capital.

The project is free to take part in and all schools, regardless of whether they have green spaces or not, are able to participate. When a school chooses to take part they can register on the Breathing Places Schools website and they will receive their free activity pack to get started.

It's never too late to take learning into school grounds and to help nature. To find out more please visit the BBC Breathing Places Schools website.

### Inclusion and Participation

- **'Thinking Rights' – UNICEF** <http://www.unicef.org.uk/tz/resources/assets/pdf/thinkingrights.pdf>

Thinking Rights is a brand new, stimulating, practical and free resource for the secondary classroom, from UNICEF.

Thinking Rights is a resource pack that builds on pupils' previous experience of working on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The activities support Citizenship Education, are in line with the Philosophy for Children approach and address a range of aspects of Personal and Citizenship Education. The activities involve the use of drama and role play and are therefore also particularly relevant for English and drama classes.

The main aim of this resource is to encourage young people to develop concepts and skills that will improve their thinking about the nature of human rights. This approach provides structures to help the teaching of thinking skills and opinion forming, as well as speaking, listening, reading and writing skills.

- **Envision supports schools with active citizenship and sustainable development**  
[www.envision.org.uk/education](http://www.envision.org.uk/education)

Envision is a national education charity set up in 2000 to challenge the stereotype of the "youth" as apathetic and disengaged. For the past 8 years they have run a post-16 active citizenship programme which supports young people to design their own community projects tackling issues ranging from street crime to climate change. This year the programme ran in 100 schools/colleges in London and Birmingham.

For the past 2 years they have offered schools/colleges their "**Agents for Action**" programme. This consists of off-timetable active citizenship workshops which can run for a whole or half day. They educate students around sustainable development and social justice issues and empower them to become agents of change. The workshops usually consist of 3 sections: Provoke, Inspire, Create but can be tailored to a school's requirements. They are suitable for students at Key Stages 3, 4 and 5. The emphasis is on taking action with practical projects emerging around making a difference.

Envision has 5 years experience of delivering active citizenship workshops in HE institutions for PGCE Citizenship courses. They have started offering INSET on active citizenship and community involvement. INSET can be tailored to a school's requirements and they can help staff understand the Government's National Framework for Sustainable Schools.

Visit the website or contact: [rosanna@envision.org.uk](mailto:rosanna@envision.org.uk)

- **The Challenge** <http://www.the-challenge.org>

'The Challenge' is an opportunity for young people in Year 11 to gain real world skills that employers and universities look for. Over a number of weeks, young people master leadership, management and communication skills.

'The Challenge', is delivered with a range of partners including the Outward Bound Trust, the Youth Hostelling Association, the Prince's Trust and Skill Force. 'The Challenge's operations in Hammersmith and Southwark are being supported by the Hammersmith and Fulham Borough Council and Southwark Borough Council.

To apply, young people must be in Year 11, and **either live or go to school in LB Hammersmith & Fulham or LB Southwark**. There are plans to expand the programme in future. Visit the website for more information.

### Global Dimension

- **Bright Green Youth** <http://www.brightgreenyouth.org/page19.aspx>

August 8th-11th 2009. Four days in Sønderborg. 500 of the world's most talented, engaged and creative youths. Bright Green Youth pools the creative powers and diverse experiences of visionary youths to produce more ambitious, practical solutions.

Bright Green Youth is sharply focused on concrete, practical, workable solutions. Participants will meet leading scholars for inspiration. Their thinking and modes of cooperation will be constantly challenged by experts in innovation, allowing for new perspectives and the generation of otherwise improbable ideas.

It will be up to the participants to choose the themes and ideas to be developed in Sønderborg – to access the latest ideas and discussion areas visit the website.

### **Young People Perspective – Envision Students at Clapton Girls' Technology College, Hackney, tackle Purchasing & Waste**

*Envision and Clapton Girls' Envision team*

The Envision team at Clapton Girls' decided to encourage the people of Hackney to recycle more. In just 6 months, they have planned a summer community festival to celebrate green living and the importance of recycling. They have researched current recycling rates and met with a member of the Hackney Recycling Team to discuss their ideas.

The team was awarded £500 at Envision's Dragons' Den event and have secured another £5000 from the Big Challenge. This has enabled them to organise a large scale event, working alongside Hackney Council. They have secured a venue for the festival and set 25<sup>th</sup> July as their date. The team have taken part in an event planning workshop, shared out roles and responsibilities amongst themselves and have started to order the equipment they need. Team members attended Envision's press officer training session during February half term to learn how to get media coverage of their project.

One member of the team, Nosheen, has been offered a place on the v20 advisory board, a youth steering group that influences decisions within national volunteering charity v. Lesley Harrison, Head of Sixth Form, attests that the students' Envision project has "developed confidence and team work and gives the students a sense of responsibility and pride in their community".

*Interview with Kaysha Wright, 17, a member of the Clapton Girls Envision team:*

#### **Why did the team choose recycling?**

We want other young people to know that small things go a long way. We think that there are many small things that can make a difference to world we live in, or even our community, and recycling is one of the most important.

#### **Why is 'green living' important to you?**

We hadn't understood the importance of green living until now. The small things that you do makes such a big difference, Now we turn off the taps while brushing or teeth, and switch off the plugs when they're not in use. I personally have started to make my mom switch off her t.v at night.

**What do you feel that you are getting out of the project personally?**

We feel that we have improved our lives in terms of sustainability and health, we re-use plastic bags and even donate clothes, our lives have been changed since envision and our project. We have more control.

**How have you found working with the council and other external organisations/groups?**

The council has been really welcoming and helpful especially Rachel Riding, who has set up meetings and have helped us with the legal side of the event.

**How will you know the project has been successful - what do you hope to achieve / change?**

We hope to help young people and generally everyone to show them that recycling could be done in such simple, fun and helpful ways. We will know that we have achieved something if more young people and families do just a few more things than they have done before to help make Hackney a greener borough.

Kaysha

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**Learning outside the classroom: Go and visit.....****...Butterfly Jungle at the Natural History Museum!**

Come and meet free-flying butterflies, live tarantulas, scorpions, an iguana, beetles and many other rainforest inhabitants living in our Butterfly Jungle. Immerse yourself in the rainforest world and you're sure to have a fun and fascinating encounter.

There's also an exciting outdoor jungle trail to explore, with hands-on games, physical activities and brain teasing puzzles to test your jungle know-how.

Butterfly Jungle opens on Friday 1 May, until 27<sup>th</sup> September. It is suitable for Reception, Key Stage 1 and 2. It offers an exciting jungle adventure for children, full of interactive experiences and learning activities. Learning themes include the rainforest, animals and plants, habitats and homes, life cycles, feeding, growing, variation, adaptation, and camouflage.

The cost is £2.50 per pupil. Teachers and helpers free. Call 020 7942 5555 for more information, or visit: <http://www.nhm.ac.uk/visit-us/whats-on/butterfly-jungle/butterfly-jungle-schools/index.html>

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**Inspirational Quote**

How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.  
*Anne Frank*

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