

June 2022

Dear Headteacher

Announcing Climate Action Schools

A New Framework for Learning for Sustainability and Climate Change Education

As your charity for Scotland's environment, we work with you to make Scotland clean, green and sustainable. We have three key aims: to combat climate change; to tackle litter and waste; and to protect and enhance the places we care about.

Through Eco-Schools Scotland we have supported educators and learners for the last 25 years across all local authority areas in Scotland. Many of them proudly fly their Green Flag to communicate and celebrate their achievements in *Learning for Sustainability* (LfS), climate change action, and environmental education.

Our unique Climate Ready Classrooms (CRC) programme has, for the last five years, provided a vital platform for schools, educators and young people to take action and develop skills to respond to the climate emergency alongside progressing Scotland's climate commitments including the *Climate Change Plan* and the *Climate Emergency Skills Action Plan*.

CRC is a one-day accredited carbon literacy training course which supports the development of STEM skills and the Developing the Young Workforce initiative. We have recently extended the training offer into primary schools and launched our SCQF Level 4 Climate Emergency qualification. We also deliver *CRC: Train the Trainer*, an accredited course for educators designed to support practitioners to deliver carbon literacy training to young people and become more confident in linking climate change education through the curriculum.

Additionally, we have translated many of our Eco-Schools Scotland and Climate Ready Classrooms resources into Gaelic Medium in partnership with E-Sgoil expanding our reach and supporting the provision of Gaelic language skills in schools.

As our transition towards net zero accelerates, and the route map to a circular economy gains momentum, we believe that now is the time to reframe the support and resources that we provide. We are therefore proud and delighted to announce our new education framework **Climate Action Schools** through which we aim to grow and expand existing school participation in environmental and climate change education. Following the summer holidays, we will be asking schools to pledge and join a new Climate Action Schools Network and will be running a series of events during Climate Week in September.

Progressing both climate change education and LfS, Climate Action Schools (CAS) will combine and develop our education programmes and activities. CAS will build on the successes of our existing education offer increasing the opportunities for learning and skills development across five core components: learning for sustainability, climate emergency, biodiversity, litter and pollution, and amplifying pupil voice.

Enabling young people to become confident individuals, successful learners, responsible citizens, and effective contributors is the aim of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE). The programmes and activities offered through our CAS framework are designed to support children and young people to gain and develop the knowledge, skills, and attributes required to take positive action to tackle the challenges of life and work in the 21st Century.

The framework also offers wide ranging opportunities for continued professional learning linking environment and climate change issues to the CfE and the development of STEM skills. We have a strong record of providing teacher professional learning programmes which focus on environmental issues and aim to improve understanding so that this can be translated through to teaching practice.

Children and young people's rights and entitlements are central to CfE, including the right for each learner to experience LfS as well as developing the skills for learning, life, and work. At Keep Scotland Beautiful these are core to the work that we do, and pupil-led engagement and amplification of the pupil voice underpin all our education programmes and activities.

CAS provides opportunities for learners to contribute their voice to decision-making that shapes their education through activities such as Young Reporters for the Environment and in particular the Eco-School Committee aspect to the Eco-Schools programme, an activity that can influence the whole-school approach to environmental issues or topics identified by pupils involved.

We will be in touch after the summer break with further details about CAS. If, in the meantime, you have any further questions or queries about any of our education programmes or activities, you can [visit our dedicated CAS webpage](#) or please respond by return email to ecoschools@keepscotlandbeautiful.org.

I look forward to speaking to you and your team soon.

Yours faithfully

Daniel Barrie
Education & Learning Manager
Keep Scotland Beautiful