

# Yorkshire and Humber Eco Educators

## Happy New Year!

We do hope you have had a good break and have gathered your reserves and resources for the next term at school. Its time to get pupils outdoors for the RSPB Garden Birdwatch. It will be great to compare notes in our meeting on Monday 26th January we do hope you can join us.

In this Jan 2026 edition of our Newsletter we have:

- The RSPB Great Garden birdwatch 23 - 25 and how schools can join in over the next month
- Temperature in classrooms - why we need to ask for thermometers now
- COP30 - highlighting pupil and school involvement
- National Education Nature Park
- Report on Sixth Form Climate action by Stuart Strathdee
- Details of our next meeting - on 26th January at 7pm

## Big Garden Birdwatch

Each year in January the RSPB organises the largest citizen science project in the World asking everyone to go outside and count the birds. They have been doing this since 1979 counting birds, and most worryingly, as the number of people counting the birds increases, the numbers of birds they count continue to decrease.

Nature is under attack, and we need to do all we can to support. The first step is for all pupils to gain familiarity with birds and their habitats and all of us in education can help children to develop this key understanding.

**For the public the bird count is over the weekend of 23-25 January but for schools any time in January,**



There is some great advice about keep in the bird tables clear and infection clear, so birds don't catch Bird Flu.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/get-ready-for-big-schools-birdwatch>.

## Temperature in classrooms

In the summer we met about hot classrooms, this week many of you have been struggling with cold temperatures. Have you got thermometers in the classrooms in your school? - Do ask - there should be one in every workspace. It is easier to ask in the winter because the lower temperature limits are better defined for workers. 16 degrees is the lowest it should be. Ask to be moved to a warmer place if it is colder than that. And remember if you take photos of even basic thermometers you have a time and date data with the temperature readings.

**COP30** At our last meeting we spoke about amazing live lesson organised by our wonderful Sarah linking schools around the country and Leeds and Jenny C whilst she was part of the COP30 process in Belem in Brazil. It shows what is possible when people talk to each other and work together.

**Tree Planting** Rachel reported about tree planting in school, and how timetable restrictions mean that tree planting has become an after school activity. As one small part of the National Education Nature park funding the school has also purchased bluebell bulbs which are being planted around the school site to increase biodiversity.



## National Education Nature Park

There have been changes to the mapping tools for the [National Education Nature Park](#) and the team has been developing more teaching resources are available .

## Climate Action at Greenhead Sixth Form College this academic year.

Stuart Strathdee gave a detailed report on what they had been working on at the College in this academic year. They have been very busy !! Here is a very brief synopsis with links provided so you can follow up

Stuart S has joined the **Climate Ambassador's network** and will be doing some training for Science trainee teachers at Huddersfield University in January.

He has also completed the **Water Literacy course** with Groundwork Trust East. There are free places available still. "It's well worth doing for both teachers and operational staff"

[Water Literacy | Train to Become Water Literate](#)

The Sixth Form students been working with local environmental groups:

1. **River Holme Connections** - the students are going to be doing a pilot **Sustainable Urban Drainage** project with RHC. Students will learn about SuDS, design and build rainwater capture systems and planters on site (with help of RHC volunteers and a local company doing CSR volunteering) and planting them up, then hopefully telling other local schools about what we've done.

2. **Environmental Projects in Kirklees** the College has a good relationship with EPIKS - together they have carried out practical conservation work in the local area. Have applied for funding for a longer term project locally. <https://epiks.org.uk/>

3. Students are now involved doing **Riverfly and water quality monitoring** with Calder River Trust at a local site. Equipment provided by the **River's Trust and by Yorkshire Water**

4. **Yorkshire Wildlife Trust**- students are visiting Stirley Farm Nature reserve on Wednesday to learn about the work of YWT and help prepare an area for wildflower meadow planting.

The students are also planning a Clothes swap and digital device donation during sustainability week [About Solidaritech - Solidaritech](#)

5. Others have been **Litter picking** and logging what we find on Planet Patrol app [Home - Planet Patrol](#)

## CPD and further Climate courses

Greenhead has found time in CPD, Green Weeks and Green careers weeks for students to complete **Carbon Literacy training**. Aiming to train 60+ colleagues during CPD day in January.

They also took a group of female students to the Climate Justice for Women conference at the University of Bradford to hear experts from the UN, Environment Agency, Met Office, Climate Change Committee, and the University of Bradford, to discuss how women are unequally affected by climate change, the vital roles they already play in tackling the climate crisis, and why their voices must be central to shaping climate policies.

*It will be great to see you lovely Eco Educators and hear what you have been doing in your schools, and what you have been struggling with*

*Best wishes,*

*Catherine and Katherine*

## About Yorkshire and Humber Eco Educators

### Who are we?

We are a group of eco conscious educators - teachers, forest school educators, teaching assistants, Members of schools' SLT, advisory teachers, curriculum developers, ...

### What do we do?

We come together as a network to:

- Share ideas and resources that we have found and tried
- Support, encourage and inspire each other,
- Build the network to bring in more educators from more schools and to support those starting out on the Eco school journey
- Circulate a Newsletter to a wider group of educators to encourage further Eco Action
- Use the power of the collective network to achieve more together

## Next Meeting on Monday 26th January at 7pm

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.

When: Jan 26, 2026 07:00 PM London

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://neu-org-uk.zoom.us/j/9KbcEFpR6SL-hv8ZnTdNw>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting  
We meet at least each half term online. We meet thanks to the the NEU zoom account, and the meeting is open to members of all the education unions.

**And don't forget - coming up soon NEU MEE Unison UCU Climate And Nature Education Conference**

**On Saturday 14th March in London**