



West Yorkshire Eco Educators Network Newsletter 4. End of September 2021

Hi! It's a busy time for the Climate and we have had such a lot to discuss in the Eco Educators' meeting.

To help explain COP26 to your classes

This is such an important year for the Climate and we in the UK have such an important role to play as the UK Government is hosting COP26 in Glasgow, in November.

The **C**ongress **O**f the **P**arties meets for the 26th time to discuss the Climate Crisis that is here and wreaking havoc with the Climate and Nature already. New Actions need to be taken and we need to push our Government to take these actions now and to push the rest of the world to do the same. For all the talk and targets over the past 26 meetings, the crisis continues to escalate, **we must act now**. This is explained beautifully in a short kids-made film.

<https://youtu.be/hPMt03eZAoA>

In this newsletter

- Round-up of activities
- Oct 15th /16th Wakefield & Leeds Welcomes Spanish Marchers on their way to COP26,
- Wakefield Word Fest
- CPD for Week of Climate themed learning in the buildup, during and after COP26
- Next meetings of West Yorkshire Eco Educators Oct 12th/Nov 2nd- 7pm via zoom
- The Big Day Nov 6th

Reports from around the network

At our last meeting, we had reports of some of the great activities going on in schools: questions being asked about energy efficiency, use of plastics, and where on school sites to plant trees.

The Business manager at a Wakefield Academy is looking at natural shading and energy efficiency. This is an important development as last term science block temperature had frequently been at well above 35 and on some occasions went up to 39 degrees!

At another school, an Environment Committee has been set up run by the pupils. The committee has been looking at recycling across the school site and how to get the paper collected in paper bins actually put into paper bins for the Council to recycle etc.

One member reported that their school had signed up for **Lets go Zero** and are now working at how to fit the developments into the School Development Plan.

It is great to have the members of the network sharing experience, good practice knowledge and ideas

National Recycling Week 18 – 23 September

As well as the Great Big Green Week 18th – 26th September, National Recycling week was also on the schedule in several schools. De Lacy academy had booked Renewi, the company who operate the Council's waste facility to do workshops with groups of their students to highlight what happens to our waste. For details of the outreach programme for schools

<https://renewiwakefield.co.uk/education-outreach-programme/> .

This is a really important term for students to understand some of Climate issues that are being discussed across the media in the run up to COP26, to be held in Glasgow 31 - November 12th and that our schools respond to this Agenda.

Coming Up – Does your school teach Spanish?

Spanish Environmentalists are marching through Wakefield on their way to Glasgow COP26

On Friday 15th October

They will be walking from Mapplewell on the edge of Barnsley on a route probably following the A61, into Wakefield for a lunchtime rally and on to Middleton for them to continue into Leeds.

We are looking for Students and Educators to help with translation.

Could your pupils make placards or Banners to welcome them or with their concerns for the Future perhaps with some in Spanish and some in English?

Is your school near the route? (mostly along the A61) and could come out and wave to the walkers.

This is a really visible way to connect COP26 with Wakefield pupils and wider public, the Council leadership, the Mayor, the Cathedral and the Bishop are going to Welcome them to the City.

We would love to have delegations from schools coming to join us in town for the Rally at 12 noon outside the Cathedral.

After the rally Wakefield College students are going to feed the walkers, before they head to Leeds

There will be planning meetings for this over the next few weeks – do get in touch if you, and/or your school want to be part of this Catherine.porritt@neu.org.uk

Next meeting on Wednesday 29th September at 6pm

One of the reasons we are pleased to host a West Yorkshire Network is so that we can learn from each other and share good practice.

Wakefield October Word Fest

is all going to be about the Ecology and Biodiversity it has been organised by Wakefield Museums and Library Service's, supported by Wakefield Climate Change team

<https://www.wakefield.gov.uk/libraries-and-local-history/wordfest>

In the Former Market Hall (now called WX) there will be three biomes: enchanted Forest, Oceans, Polar landscape. **Liz Bonnin BBC presenter** zoologist and photographer will be coming to Wakefield to lead workshops during the week.



Use the link below to download the Word Fest brochure

<https://www.wakefield.gov.uk/Documents/libraries/WordFest-2020/wordfest-online-brochure.pdf>

At the end of the month there is going to be a **Youth Take over event** when the Young people take over the Wakefield Council Chamber to ask questions of the Council about their plans.

Stuart from our Eco Educators network has been recruiting students from the Sixth Form Colleges to join in on this exciting development of Climate policy by the next generation.

Also check Museum's World of Good Exhibition about Charles Waterton,
<https://experiencewakefield.co.uk/event/a-world-of-good/>

There is some great ECO CPD for you and your colleagues

The UK Schools Sustainability Network has just released its 1 hour long, professionally-produced Secondary School Staff Climate/Sustainability INSET video. It's really wide ranging, aimed at all staff and contains some excellent, thought-provoking contributions.

<https://youtu.be/pbbyzLhmKkk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pbbyzLhmKkk&list=PLyBrVh3nGjzAAAbJ4rKj35NkGwvPWnqxb8&index=1>

Aim Hi are now delivering their September cohort of on-line live course of 4 sessions of 1 hour. Members of the network have signed up, module 1 and 2 have been great, and it is possible to join in late and then catch the sessions you missed on You-tube. You can still join in live on Sunday for session 2. Please do have a look and see. It is being delivered on Mondays at 7pm and Sundays at 9.30 am

<https://www.aimhi.co/climate-course-for-teachers>

There is no homework, but plenty of reading and further information to follow up as desired. The training has been very carefully developed, and is very highly rated, and gives teachers the confidence and skills to teach the climate.

Curriculum Resources

There are excellent curriculum resources available from Transform our World

They have also produced a whole pack of excellent resources to help schools in their work for COP26.

This adds detail to the short ideas circulated earlier by the DFE

<https://www.transform-our-world.org>

The Great Big Lesson for Climate and Nature: Live from COP26

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-great-big-lesson-for-climate-and-nature-live-from-cop26-tickets-169106332593>

This might also be of interest - <https://yorksandhumberclimate.org.uk/event/yorkshire-and-humber-green-jobs-and-skills-summit>

The NEU is aiming to put a whole bank of Curriculum resources up on the NEU website, in time for COP26. Just as our West Yorkshire Eco Educators is open to educators from across West Yorkshire and from all unions, and the resources will be on the open to all, parts of the NEU website, so please do take a look when they are ready (very soon).

Themes your schools can engage with

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/cop26-launches-environment-education-packs-for-uk-schools-and-students>

And it would be great to have any reports of activities or photos(with appropriate permissions) or posters made by children during Big Green Week

Great Big Green Week 18th -26th September

<https://greatbiggreenweek.com>

or **Bike to School Week**: September 27th to October 1st.

<https://www.sustrans.org.uk/our-blog/projects/uk-wide/schools/bike-to-school-week>

Tree Planting

All schools are able apply for free/£1 trees to be planted over the next year
<https://shop.woodlandtrust.org.uk/tree-mixes-and-packs>

Wakefield Council is keen to find land which can be planted with trees. De Lacy Academy have already planted 250 trees, and have reserved a further 250 to be planted during the COP26 week.

Just a reminder

Schools Climate Education South Yorkshire organised a brilliant online conference last July, it is still available to watch on-line, check out the amazing project ideas
<https://www.scesy.org.uk/conference-programme-2021/>

Dates for the Diary – next Eco Educators meetings

Oct 12, 2021 7pm

Topic: WY Eco Educators- Spanish Marchers to COP26

<https://neu-org-uk.zoom.us/j/97150499298?pwd=T1MvNDhKL1lycG1DbU1LWnZpdzIGQT09>

Meeting ID: 971 5049 9298

Passcode: Cop26

Nov 2, 2021 7pm

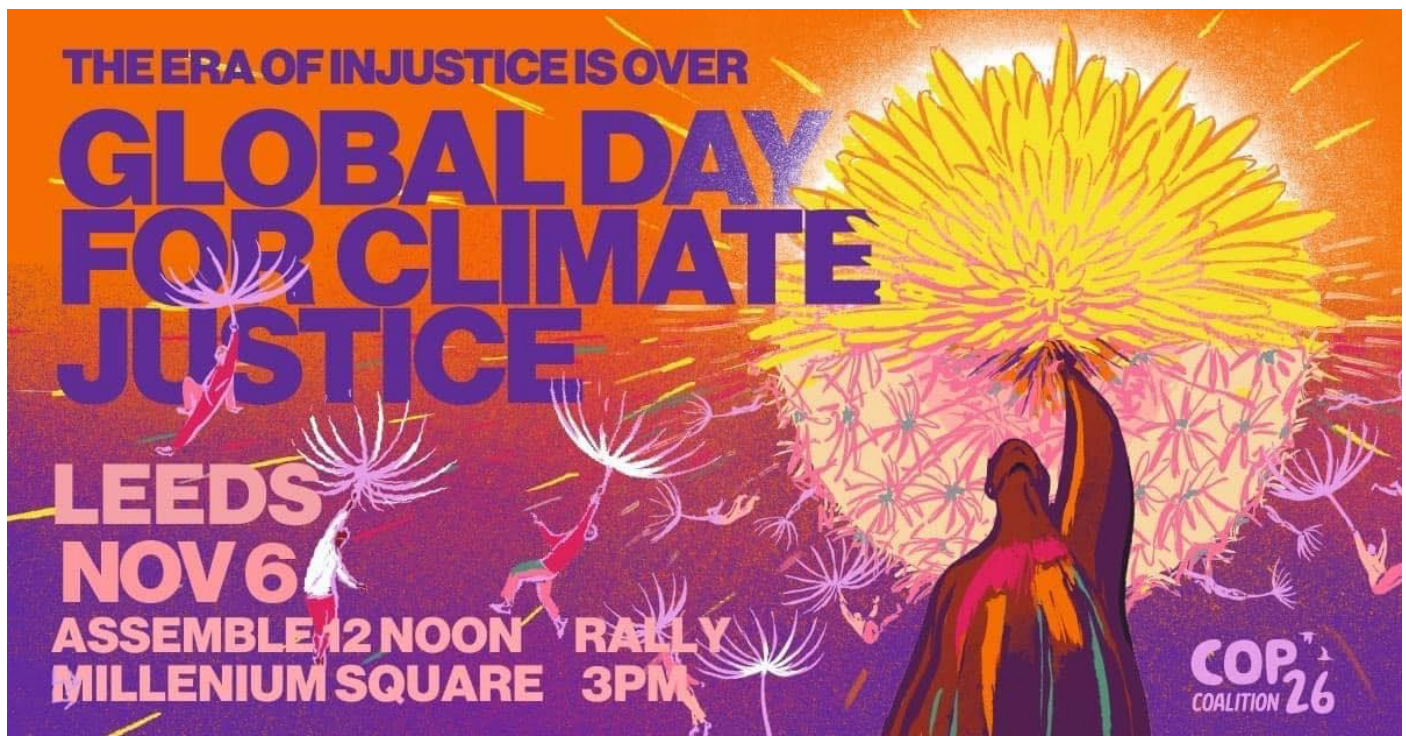
Topic: Eco Educators-COP 26 starts meeting to share resources and ideas for encouraging participation in the many opportunities that are being made for young people to interact with people across the country and wider about how the world is going to respond to the Climate Crisis that is now impacting all of us.

<https://neu-org-uk.zoom.us/j/7519150704?pwd=a1BQc212ek9BK2tuOEIJaE4ydTIImQT09>

Meeting ID: 751 915 0704

Passcode: Union

FINALLY - spread the word, if you are not able to go to Glasgow on Nov 6th, then go to Leeds instead and bring all your family and friends.



If you do want to get in touch, or have ideas you want some help with please share through WhatsApp or email to Catherine.porrirt@neu.org.uk