

Our Approach to ESD

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is a vision of education that empowers people to take responsibility for creating a sustainable future.

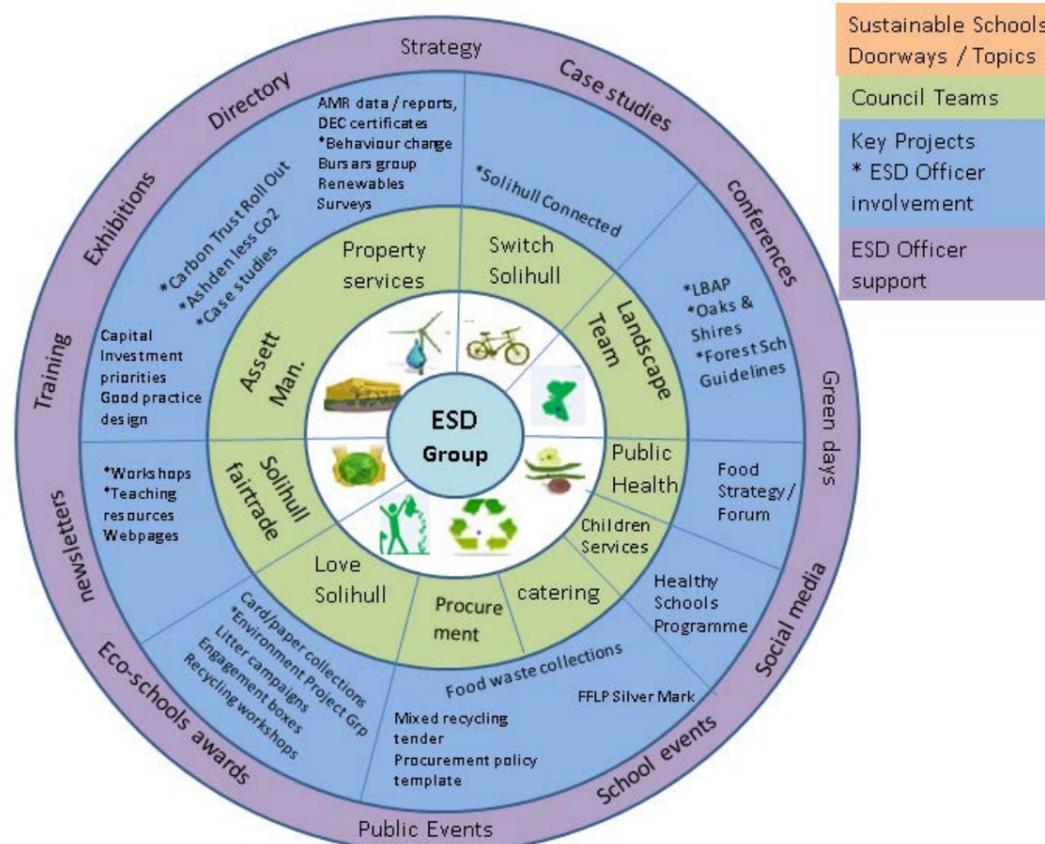
Solihull's ESD strategy is to support learning organisations particularly schools and to recognise the importance of embedding ESD. The ESD strategy and Sustainable Schools projects fit under the Solihull Green Prospectus key theme of 'Communication, Education and Engagement'.

The ESD Network group was established by the Sustainable Development Team and is led by the ESD officer and includes staff from a wide variety of teams. Through partnership and sharing of information the group aims to promote understanding of ESD, raise awareness and coordinate an improved level of support to schools. For Council staff involved in ESD it is about engaging and having a participative approach and increasing understanding that ESD is a way of life.

For the year 2015-2016 Solihull schools gained 7 Eco-school awards including 3 Green Flag renewals, as Green Flag no requires payment for renewal these are promising figures that some schools are continuing to pay to renew. Solihull Council ranks 18th in Local Authority statistics for the percentage of schools registered on the programme.

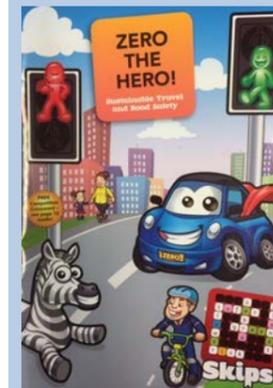


ESD group model of recent projects and activities linked to various sustainability themes



Key partnership projects

SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS ACTIVITY DAY



At the Solihull Sustainable Schools Taster Day' CPD Training held in March 2017 at the National Motorcycle Museum teachers attended from ? schools. SKIPS Educational ran the event with the Council's Sustainability team to create greater awareness in teachers about sustainability, climate change and global issues and how to tackle them in the curriculum. As part of the training schools received free parental engagement books for all of their year 5 pupils from SKIPS Education. The SKIPS workbooks are educational resources that help to create behavioural change in the family environment. The books were provided with a practical toolkit and lesson ideas produced by Solihull Council. The teachers received the 'Zero the Hero' book that communicates effective messages regarding road safety and sustainable transport. The homework books help families learn together. ESD Officer provided information on the future of Transport in Solihull including sharing information on the HS2 Hub planned and Arden Cross also provided feedback from the Solihull Connected Schools consultation and lesson ideas for teachers to use in

UNITY COLLABORATIVE CPD TRAINING

Sustainability and Outdoor learning CPD training session, With support from National Association for Environmental Education session with 20 teachers from schools from the UNITY collaborative in the North of Solihull. Teachers took part in practical outdoor activities and gained advice on linking outdoor activities to the curriculum. The UN's Sustainable Development Goals were explained and teachers were signposted to funding, environmental award schemes and other sustainability opportunities.



GO BANANAS FAIRTRADE TRAIL

For Fairtrade Fortnight in Solihull banana artworks were created by a number of local schools and displayed in shops around both Solihull and Chelmsley Wood Town centres to form a Fairtrade Trail. The trail increased awareness of fairtrade to the schools and the general public by providing information about Fairtrade along the way. At a Fairtrade schools event held at the Civic Suite with the Mayor attending schools showcased their Banana art work, took part in Fairtrade activities and enjoyed Fairtrade refreshments. A short film with Haslucks Green School was produced of pupils taking part in the Banana trail.



YOUR GREEN FUTURE

Your Green Future event returned for the third year to Solihull College Conference Centre in March 2017 for schools across Solihull and Birmingham. Across the two-day event over 400 students, from 19 local secondary schools, had the chance to work alongside businesses and university students in a series of workshops which addressed businesses' real life sustainability issues. Council officers from various teams also got involved in the event supporting the students in the workshops including Property Services, and the Recycling Team. Speakers included Young Rail Professionals talking about careers in the rail industry and Councillor Ian Courts, SMBC

Throughout the day participants will have the opportunity to listen to talks, visit the Career Pathways Exhibition finding out about the diversity of sustainability related jobs and take part in a range of interactive workshops, including:

- Your Business Future where teams of students engage their creative side, developing a retail item of today (e.g. food, fashion, cosmetics) into a product fit for 2025.
- Your Energy Future students developed a sustainable energy plan
- Your Innovative Future a Dragon's Den style workshop where leading businesses pitched innovations, based on real industry developments, to teams of students
- Your Resourceful Future involving Students devising a creative solution to tackle a real-life waste issue



LOVE SOLIHULL

Recycling video with Coleshill Heath School

School pupils offer top tips for recycling in the new video. Some people aren't quite sure what goes in their recycling. One of the main reasons why recycling is not collected is because the wrong items have been put in residents' brown bins or clear sacks. The children of Coleshill School stepped in, producing 'A guide to recycling in Solihull'.

Mini Greenhouses and Recycling Trucks

Amey and Solihull Council were invited to visit Mulberry Bush Nursery School in Marston Green to show the pre-school children (3 and 4 year olds) the recycling truck and to do an activity. Children decorated empty pop bottles, which were then cut near the base. The children then placed cotton wool into the small part of the bottle and then planted and watered their seeds. With a little bit of help the tops of the bottles were put back on. The children are growing pumpkins, cress, runner beans and poppies.



Litter Bin designs

At the end of the summer term a competition took place for students to design a litter bin sticker that would encourage litter being placed into the litter bin and not dropped. After much deliberation, the winning design came from Merstone School. The sticker is now on the bin and is located on Windward Way.

Streetsbrook School also held a litter bin design competition, designs were put on social media and the public voted for the winning design. Tesco Farm to Fork project supported the competition and staff from Tesco visited the school to help with the litter workshop.

Green Thumbs Up For Bulb Planting In Castle Bromwich!

Back in November a class of school children from Castle Bromwich Junior School came out to help plant bulbs in the community. An alley way running from Bradford Road to Clayton Drive in Castle Bromwich was identified as the place for the planting. Recent efforts by local residents had involved creating some painted art work along the route and to compliment this, the planting of spring bulbs was decided. Native Bluebell and snowdrop bulbs were planted by the children to add some spring colour. Even with the weather being rather cold all the bulbs were planted and the children enjoyed taking part. The alley way, particularly in spring, will now be a pleasant, colourful place for people to walk along. The project was organised by Love Solihull in partnership with the school and local community collaborative group 'Image'

ASHDEN LESS CO2 PROGRAMME

The second year of the Ashden Less CO2 programme has ? School booked on the programme The first 2 workshops took place in January and March 2017. The programme focuses on 3 key aspects managing energy use in school buildings (heating and lighting), engaging with staff and students (starting up and Eco club), using sustainability in teaching (learning about energy use in local and global context). Each school also receives a free energy survey, with a report that outlines the best type of energy projects that the school could potentially install for little or no cost.

The benefits to the schools are that the schools learn how to save energy and cut their costs and carbon emissions. They are empowered by engaging with their students and staff. The Programme is run with the assistance of the Council's Energy Team, Sustainability and Asset Management.



ASSET MANAGEMENT

Asset Management and Development Plans are currently either complete or work in progress for 33 Solihull schools and academies; part of which has a detailed section on Energy Management and Carbon Reduction. The team continue to promote sustainable school design with the outcome being a more energy efficient estate such as two new Fordbridge and Coleshill Heath Primary Schools and two extended schools completed in summer 2016 and totalling c£17m. There has been improvements to the structure, fabric and mains services and also improvements to the functionality and energy performance of number of schools. Work is nearing completion on c£3.5m of additional floor space and resolving inherent maintenance improvements, such as a kitchen ventilation upgrade, at Greswold and Blossomfield Schools thereby improving the schools energy ratings.



SOLIHULL NEIGHBOURHOODS IN BLOOM (SNIB)

It was another successful year for schools entering the school category of SNIB, the event is organised by the Neighbourhood team and is an opportunity for schools to showcase their school grounds projects, the winning 'Gold' schools in 2016 were St Anne's Catholic Primary, Merstone, Cranmore, Coppice.

OAKS AND SHIRES

The annual event led by the Landscape Team took place in Palmers Rough Woodland in November 2016 with local schools including Haslucks Green, Streetsbrook, Blossomfield and Reynolds Cross taking part in activities during the week. It was attended by around 350 local school children helping them to gain an understanding of woodland management. Children took part in various games and activities and also got to see a wood carver sculpting tree stumps into woodland animals.



REPIC RECYCLING STORYBOOK CHALLENGE

St Patricks Academy took part in the The REPIC Pass It On Storybook Challenge, creative pupils in Year 4/5 put their thinking caps on and wrote an epic recycling adventure for REPIC'S mascots, a robot made out of end of life electrical products and his battery sidekick Amp. A total of nine schools across the UK were invited to take part in the challenge, with each one taking responsibility for a single chapter of a maximum of 350 words. When the class had written its chapter, the story was "passed on" to another school for the next exciting chapter. The Eco-leader at St Patricks school nominated a small team of writers to work on the chapter and every pupil receive a recycling activity pack and a copy of the book.

GLOBAL LEARNING PROGRAMME

Solihull schools have taken part in the Global Learning Programme (GLP), a local network of like-minded schools committed to sending a teacher to the programme to support them in delivering effective teaching and learning about development and global issues. Our Lady of Wayside school became the GLP expert centre in the area and has a led network offering free training sessions, the network included schools from the ? col-



CHOLET VISIT ECO-SCHOOL



The Mayor of Solihull was joined by the Mayor of Solihull's twin town Cholet and his guests for a tour of St Patrick's C of E Primary Academy, an eco-school in the borough. The visitors listened to an eco-rap, written and performed by children in the school's eco-committee, and a presentation on what it means to be an eco-school.

The tour showed off eco displays around school, which recently received a Silver Award, and involved visiting the school gardens, greenhouse, and forest school area. They were able to see how schools in the borough are working towards becoming more eco-friendly.

FOOD GROWING

Over half of Solihull Primary schools took part in a Survey Monkey on food growing in schools. It will help the Council to understand the current extent of food growing projects and activity in local schools and determine how best we can support schools.

Schools PSD teachers were also invited to a Healthy Schools session at Sans Souci to find out how they can use their food related activity to gain Enhanced Healthy Schools status. Teachers attending were shown the results from the survey. A presentation was delivered on organisations that can provide support with food growing and signposting to websites with teaching resources to help embed food into the curriculum.

