

# **Update – February 2018**

## **Thought for Update**

### **The 25 Year Environment Plan: Green future or green wash?**

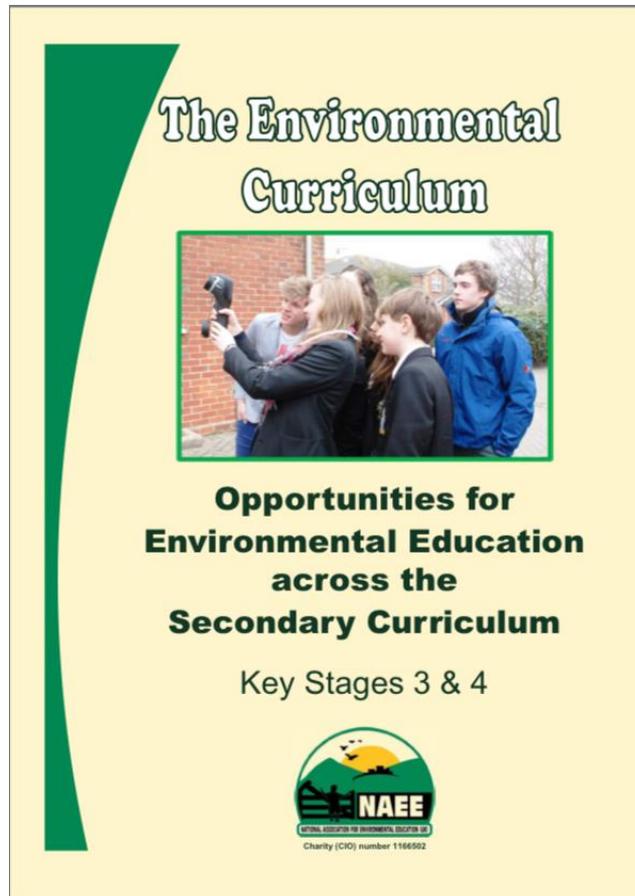
The long-awaited 25-year Environment Plan was launched on January 11 delivering on a Manifesto commitment from both 2015 and 2017. Has it been worth the wait? In Chapter 3, 'Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing' we find sections on 'Helping people improve their health and wellbeing by using green spaces', 'Encouraging children to be close to nature, in and out of school', 'Greening our towns and cities' and 'Making 2019 a Year of Action for the environment'. Digging further, we get to 'Helping primary schools create nature-friendly grounds' and 'Supporting more pupil contact with local natural spaces'. So much for the bones – what does the flesh look like?

The plan puts a responsibility on the National Park Authorities to double the 60,000 young people a year who they host on school visits. So that would be 120,000 of the 8.7m pupils in school in England – hardly scratching the surface but at least a recognition of the value of the great outdoors. Forest schools, which now seem to be part of mainstream education provision, are picked out for their approach which 'encourages children to explore nature and have a relationship with the outdoors'. Schools are encouraged to support a closeness with nature by the 'new science and geography curriculum and qualifications' which 'encourage pupils to undertake fieldwork as part of their course of study'. Farms, both rural and city are recognised for their work with schools.

The Government will be making £10m available to support a range of initiatives such as the Nature Friendly Schools Programme to help more communities in the most disadvantaged areas to 'create the kind of school grounds that support learning about the natural world and also keep children happy and healthy'. Another initiative, which isn't costed in the report, involves making it easier 'to take pupils on trips to natural spaces on a regular basis where they can combine learning with feeling healthier and happier'.

It's fair to say that the environment sector hasn't gone overboard with praise. Both the RSPB and the Wildlife Trusts noted the lack of any legal underpinning for some of the key initiatives and Craig Bennett, Friends of the Earth's chief executive, pithily noted that 'Twenty-five years is a long way off – particularly for a government that might not last 25 weeks'. The 25-year plan seems to miss a fundamental point. Without a sea change in the quality of environmental education in and out of schools, the admirable goal of a healthier environment is unlikely to come to fruition in 25 or even 50 years. Schools and their leaders have a key role in influencing public attitudes and empowering students to support the reverse decades of environmental degradation in both urban and rural areas, but this plan, for all its merits, only plays lip-service to a challenge that must be at the heart of social change in England and, indeed, all of the UK.

## Resources



Download it [here](#)

“The current secondary school curriculum, for all its faults, does provide numerous opportunities for schools, teachers and students to explore a wide range of the world’s most pressing issues. The power of this handbook lies not just in its careful analysis of what the curriculum says, but also in its excellent exemplification of how teachers are seizing opportunities to explore these issues with their students. The case studies of practice are particularly useful in helping us see what’s possible in today’s schools. There is something here for everyone: for experienced practitioners there will be insights from other people’s work; and for those just starting out, a wide range of teaching and learning opportunities are carefully set out for scrutiny, evaluation and adaptation.” Prof William Scott, NAEE Chair of Trustees.

If you would like to know more about NAEE, or have any questions for us, please do get in touch ([info@naee.org.uk](mailto:info@naee.org.uk)) – or follow us on Facebook and twitter.

## **South West Learning for Sustainability Coalition**

### **February 2018**

**DEED** - As some of you know DEED has been involved with the International Tree Foundation on a project called 'Tree Power' and we are delighted that the newly designed [Tree Power Teachers' Resource Pack](#) is now ready to download. The Tree Power Teachers' Resource Pack is a free downloadable activity pack which gives primary schools the tools to engage the next generation in protecting and caring for the natural world. It brings together the two educational strands of global and outdoor learning, to enable children to become both informed 'Tree Explorers' and active 'Tree Guardians'.

***"No one will protect what they don't care about,  
and no one will care about what they have never experienced"***  
**Sir David Attenborough**

Please feel free to share this resource with your colleagues and networks. You can download the resource here: <http://internationaltreefoundation.org/tree-power/>

**Profile - Severn Wye Energy Agency** present their current education work and the influence of national policy and strategy on the organisation.

The *Our Future's People (OFP)* project began in September 2017 in Powys, Wales. The project is primarily funded by the Welsh Government Rural Development Programme to support their focus on the sustainable management of natural resources, and climate action. OFP builds on the success of Severn Wye's *Young Energy People!* project and *Your Green Future* events, combining these projects into a local programme for Powys. The Your Green Future sustainable careers events continue to be a success with the 2017 events increasing understanding of a sustainable future by 55%.

The recent *Industrial Strategy* and *Clean Growth Strategy* have a significant influence on Severn Wye's work as a whole; the Education Team are keen to promote sustainability and low carbon related careers in the school curriculum, supporting the 4th Gatsby Career Benchmark and the STEM agenda. The organisation is also working strategically with partners to target ESD in areas of deprivation through the Build to Low Carbon project.

More information about projects and Gatsby's Career Guidance can be found at:

Our Future's People - <http://ourfuturespeople.org.uk/>

Your Green Future - <http://www.youngreenfuture.org.uk/>

Build to Low Carbon - <http://www.severnwyenergy.org.uk/our-work/live-activities/profile/project/show/SWAPProjects/build-to-low-carbon.html> or <https://www.interregeurope.eu/build2lc/>

Gatsby's Good Career Guidance (2014) -

<http://www.gatsby.org.uk/uploads/education/reports/pdf/gatsby-sir-john-holman-good-career-guidance-2014.pdf>

# **South West Learning for Sustainability Coalition**

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### **Events**

#### **Professional Development Events Outdoors in Gloucester and the Forest of Dean**

This Spring Outdoor Learning Solutions are, once again, delighted to offer accredited training for educators seeking to boost expertise and confidence providing learning opportunities outdoors.

[Outdoor Learning Practitioner](#) is a L2 Award supporting the development of skills and understanding required to deliver engaging curriculum-based activities outdoors in your own setting, whatever the environment offers. Based in a Gloucester school setting. 9th, 23rd March and (twilight) 23rd May 2018

Our well-established [Forest Leader \(L3\)](#) and [Forest Assistant \(L2\)](#) training will take place again in the beautiful Forest of Dean, starting in March 2018. [Please contact us](#) for further details.

For those who are looking for a toolkit of curriculum-based activities, our Curriculum Support workshops (non-accredited) '[Wonderful Words - Engaging Reluctant Writers Outdoors](#)' (EYFS & KS1 Wednesday 7th March 2018, 9.15am-12.30pm and/or Key Stage 2 Wednesday 7th March 2018, 1.15-4.30pm), and [Developing Maths Outdoors](#) (Reception & KS1 Tuesday 20th March 2018, 1-4pm; Key Stage 2 Tuesday 27th March 2018, 1-4pm) will provide plenty of ideas for you to take straight back to your setting and try out with your learners.

For [further details](#) please contact [Gillian Traverse](#) at [outdoorlearningsolutions@gmail.com](mailto:outdoorlearningsolutions@gmail.com).

#### ***Teachers, have you taken up your free training with GLADE yet?***

You have until 29 March to book CPD with us using GLP funding and until 29 June to attend training. Check out what we have available and get in touch asap to secure your free training. We invite you to take a look at some of our most popular courses undertaken so far by GLP schools including P4C, Level 1 Global Teacher Award, courses on 'British values' and human rights, those focused on learning through the curriculum, and courses that cover specific topics such as sustainability and the Global Goals. Booking deadline is 29 March, courses must be attended by 1 June 2018.

And we have courses specifically to do with the Sustainable Development Goals Courses:

**Distant Localities** - end of school workshop; <http://glp.globaldimension.org.uk/calendar/course/10748>

**World Outdoors** - end of school workshop; <http://glp.globaldimension.org.uk/calendar/course/10920>

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**Plants for learning about distant places & people** - end of school workshop; <http://glp.globaldimension.org.uk/calendar/course/10464>

**Global Goals; Understanding Education and Development** - an intensive one day course or 2 end of school workshops <http://glp.globaldimension.org.uk/calendar/course/9372>

Why not gain recognition for teaching about the global goals with a Level 1 course? The Level 1 Global Teacher Award is available across the South West region. The next course is being held on **Saturday 3 Feb 2018, Castle Cary, Somerset**, registration essential; <https://glade.org/services/global-teacher-award-course/>

Details of these and others we have available for free using CPD funding from the Global Learning Programme can be found on our website; <https://glade.org/services/training-workshops/#GLPAccreditedCPD> and via our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/globallearningcentre/>

Over 7,500 schools are benefitting, shouldn't your school be part of this too? Do make sure your school takes up and use this funding for CPD worth up to £500 from the Global Learning Programme & access a wide range of our workforce development courses.

Contact [Lynn@glade.org](mailto:Lynn@glade.org) to book any of our courses or to chat about how best we can support your school.

This month's Update was edited by Justin Dillon, Coalition Director.

If you have any comments or would like to contribute an item for our next Update please send it to [ssc203@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:ssc203@exeter.ac.uk)