



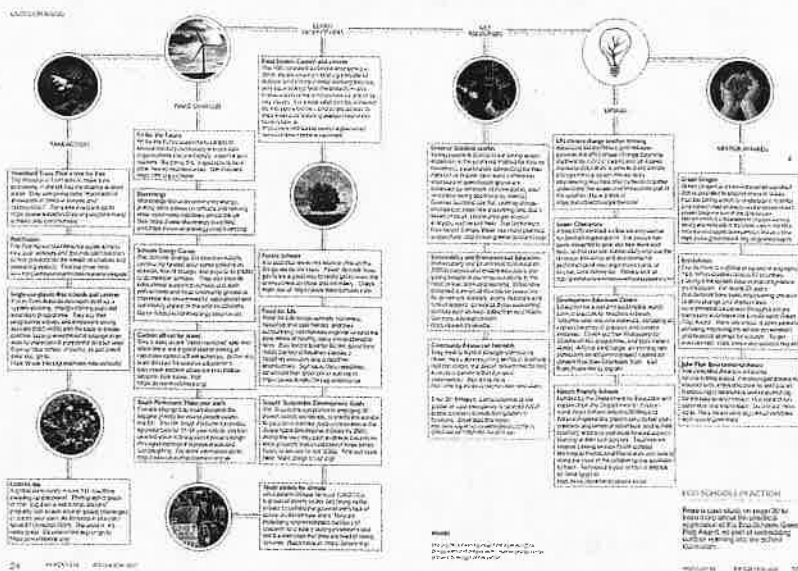
# Outdoors rising

Steps toward sustainability



**AUTHOR**  
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Marcus is passionate about the outdoors and the Outdoor sector. His interests have migrated steadily from adrenaline-pumped kayaking expeditions, to teaching rock-climbing and mountaineering, and to the conviction that adventure activities, when delivered well, have a powerful and beneficial effect on children and young people. These days his energy is focused on trying to ensure that the Outdoor sector plays a central role in the climate and ecological emergency we find ourselves in.



## DON'T MISS

Turn the page for information on environmental action, resources, training and awards.

**The Outdoors is indeed rising to the challenge of the environmental emergency, but we seem a long way off an agreed or common protocol that could be used across the Outdoor sector and provide guidance for practitioners on the ground, so keep your ideas coming in.**

## WHAT CAN I DO NOW?

- > Find out if your Local Authority has declared a Climate or Environmental Emergency and see how they are planning to respond to the emergency.
- > Take whatever steps you can to reduce the carbon footprint used to heat your home, school and work place. (Heating of buildings is one of the biggest contributors to UK emissions.)
- > Take whatever steps you can to reduce the carbon footprint of your travel. (Travel is another of the biggest contributors to UK emissions.)
- > Lobby central government, by whatever means you can, to bring international action to bear on the burning of rainforests in Brazil and Indonesia. This is one of the biggest contributors to global carbon footprint, by the burning itself and the loss of carbon-absorbing mechanisms.
- > Dip into the links to see what would work for you, your school or centre, or home.

**Together we WILL make a difference.**

All in all, this is what the *Outdoors Rising!* is starting to look like ■

**W**e were a disappointingly small, but encouragingly enthusiastic, group of delegates attending the climate emergency workshop at the *2019 Sector Strategic Forum* in Birmingham on 3 October 2019. The sub-title of the workshop was: Where is our collective responsibility to act, what are we doing about it, and what are we going to do about it?

We quickly established that there definitely is an emergency, but that it isn't just about climate. There is an ecological collapse underway with an unprecedented level of species loss, so it would be more appropriate to refer to it as an environmental emergency. Delegates wanted to know if there is an agreed Outdoor sector protocol for rising to the challenge of this environmental emergency but (at the time of writing) sadly, this is not yet the case.

Between us, we came to the conclusion that we didn't know who to believe about climate change. There seemed to be so much confusing information.

**What was clear, however, was that climate change is real, is serious, and requires urgent action.**

But where to start? We gathered our varied and diverse experience of

measures we knew about personally from across the wider sector, but realised they were all taking place in isolation and sometimes in opposition. There didn't seem to be any sort of coordination. Moreover, it was difficult to know where to get reliable information about the problem, let alone the solutions. There was, however, a richness of diverse and imaginative approaches.

We were encouraged that at some Outdoor Centres every session had an aspect of environmental awareness and a focus on sustainability. This, however, was far from widespread and the environmental passion of many instructors and tutors seems limited or non-existent.

We discovered that many Local Authorities have declared a climate emergency. And although there are lots of action plans this does not seem to result in a lot of practical action on the ground. Not unusually, practical action seems to be happening 'bottom-up'. So, we shared links to things we knew about and since the workshop these links have been followed, leading to other links, and yet more...

Here then, over the next few pages are a scattering of ideas that may be useful to you. Some big, some small, some local, some national, some international. But it's just a scattering. There's LOTS going on out there. Just dive in!

## HAS YOUR LOCAL AUTHORITY DECLARED AN EMERGENCY?

At the time of writing this article, 270 Local Authorities across the UK (out of a total of 408) have declared an emergency. If your Local Authority has not, then ask them why not. If they have declared an emergency, ask them what practical action they are taking and propose to take; then hold them to it! To check your Local Authority, visit:

<https://www.climateemergency.uk/blog/map-of-local-council-declarations/>

**WANT MORE IDEAS ABOUT THE BIG ISSUES?**

Read *Earthwise* from page 38.

MAKE CHANGES

TAKE ACTION

**Woodland Trust: Plant a tree for free**  
The Woodland Trust want to make sure everybody in the UK has the chance to plant a tree. They are giving away "hundreds of thousands of trees to schools and communities". For a free tree pack go to: <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/>

**Polli:Nation**  
The Polli:Nation maintenance guide aims to help both schools and grounds staff maintain school grounds for the benefit of children and pollinating insects. Find out more here: [www.ttl.org.uk/resources/pollination-maintenance-guide/](http://www.ttl.org.uk/resources/pollination-maintenance-guide/)

**Single-use-plastic-free schools and centres**  
Plastic Free Schools describes itself as a system-shaking, change-making pupil-led education programme. They say their programme equips and empowers young activists (KS1>KS3) with the tools to create positive, lasting environmental change in an easy to understand, purposeful and fun way! To sign up your school or centre, or just check them out, go to: <https://www.sas.org.uk/plastic-free-schools/>

**Fit for the Future**

Fit for the Future supports hundreds of environmental practitioners to make their organisations climate-friendly, adaptive and resilient. By doing this, organisations save time, money and resources. Get involved: <https://ftff.org.uk/home>

**Sharenergy**

Sharenergy focus on community energy, putting solar panels on schools and running other community initiatives across the UK. See: <https://www.sharenergy.coop/live/> and <https://www.sharenergy.coop/investing/>

**Schools' Energy Co-op**

The Schools' Energy Co-operative installs community funded solar panel systems on schools, free of charge, and pays all its profits to its member schools. They also provide educational support to schools and work with schools and local community groups to maximise the environmental, educational and community impact of the solar installations. Go to: <https://schools-energy-coop.co.uk/>

**Carbon offset for travel**

This easy to use 'ready reckoner' site, and others like it, are a good start in looking at reputable carbon offset schemes. At the very least this can be used as a basis for a classroom session about our own carbon footprint from travel. Visit: <https://www.myclimate.org/>

**Youth Parliament: Make your mark**

Climate change has been declared the biggest priority for young people across the UK. The UK Youth Parliament provides opportunities for 11 to 18 year olds to use their elected voice for social change through meaningful representation and campaigning. For more information go to: <http://www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk/>

**Litterati app**

A global community in over 117 countries cleaning up the planet. Photograph a piece of litter, tag it on a world map, discard properly, join in with local or global challenges or create your own. As featured in *Horizons* Issue 87 (Autumn 2019). The word is, it's really great. Download the app or go to: <https://www.litterati.org/>

**Field Studies Council and centres**

The FSC declared a climate emergency in 2019. As the country's leading provider of outdoor and environmental learning they say they have always held the protection and conservation of the environment as one of its key values. For a look what can be achieved by individual centres, and to get access to their extensive teaching support resources have a look at: <https://www.field-studies-council.org/about-us/our-commitment-to-the-environment/>

**Forest Schools**

It is said that we do not learn to cherish the things we do not know. Forest Schools have got to be a great way to really get to know the environment up close and intimately. Check them out at: <https://www.forestschools.com>

**Food for Life**

Food for Life brings schools, nurseries, hospitals and care homes, and their surrounding communities together around the core ethos of healthy, tasty and sustainable food. Bad food is bad for Britain; good food holds the key to healthier people, a healthier economy and a healthier environment. Sign up to their newsletter, download their brochure or just dip in: <https://www.foodforlife.org.uk/about-us>

**Scouts' Sustainable Development Goals**

The Scouts are committed to engaging 50 million scouts worldwide, to create the world's largest co-ordinated youth contribution to the *Sustainable Development Goals* by 2030. Along the way they plan to deliver two million local projects and an additional three billion hours of service for the *SDGs*. Find out more here: <https://sdgs.scout.org/>

**Youth strikes for climate**

UK Student Climate Network (UKSCN) is a group of mostly under 18s taking to the streets to protest the government's lack of action on the climate crisis. They are mobilising unprecedented numbers of students to create a strong movement and send a message that they are tired of being ignored. Read more at: <https://ukscn.org/>

## GET RESOURCES



### Greener Scotland toolkit

Young people in Scotland are taking action, especially in the youth-led Fridays for Futures movement, passionately advocating for their right to live in a net zero world (where the emissions of greenhouse gases are balanced by removals of those gases, such as carbon being absorbed by forests). Greener Scotland say that tackling climate change can seem daunting, but a series of small, simple changes in your everyday routine can help. The toolkit from their recent Climate Week has really practical suggestions: <http://www.greenerscotland.org/>

### Sustainability and Environmental Education

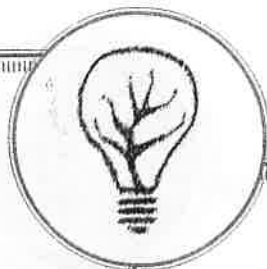
Sustainability and Environmental Education (SEEd) support and enable educators and young people to place sustainability at the heart of their work and learning. SEEd have compiled a series of informative resources for governors, bursars, pupils, teachers and school leaders, as well as those supporting schools, such as local authorities and NGOs. Get more information from: <https://se-ed.co.uk/edu/>

### Community Resources Network

They exist to build a stronger community reuse, repair and recycling sector in Scotland that can create real social, environmental and economic benefit within our local communities. See more here: <http://crns.org.uk/about/mission-vision-and-values/>

Their 2019 report, *Local solutions to the global climate emergency*, is jammed full of practical action already being taken in Scotland.

Download the report: <http://crns.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/CRNS-IMPACT-REPORT-A4-2019.pdf>



## UPSKILL

### UN climate change teacher training

eduCCate Global™ is a joint initiative between the UN Climate Change Learning Partnership (UN CC:Learn) and UK-based Harwood Education. It aims to build climate change literacy across the world by empowering teachers and students to better understand the issues and to become part of the solution. Have a look at: <https://unccelearn.org/educate/>

### Green Champions

A free, CPD certified, online training course for Scottish organisations. The course has been designed to give you new skills and tools so that you can successfully improve the resource efficiency and environmental performance of your organisation and, of course, save money too. Have a look at: <http://greenchampionsresourceefficientscotland.com/>

### Development Education Centre

Education for a just and sustainable world. Look at courses for teachers in South Yorkshire and resource materials, including an impressive array of previous and current initiatives. Check out their *Philosophy for Children (P4C)* programme, and *Non-Violent Action: A Force for Change*, an exciting new curriculum development project funded by Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust. Visit: <https://www.decsy.org.uk/>

### Nature Friendly Schools

Funded by the Department for Education, with support from the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and Natural England this project aims to fuel pupil creativity and sense of adventure, and to help teachers embrace and drive forward outdoor learning in their own schools. Teachers will receive training on how to link outdoor learning to the National Curriculum and how to make the most of the outdoor space available to them. To find out if your school is eligible for funding go to: <https://www.naturefriendlyschools.co.uk/>



## AIM FOR AWARDS

### Green Dragon

Green Dragon is an environmental standard that is awarded to organisations in Wales that are taking action to understand, monitor and control their impacts on the environment. (Green Dragon is part of the Groundwork network.) Have a look: <https://www.groundwork.org.uk/greendragon/>

### Eco-Schools

Eco-Schools is a global programme engaging 19.5 million children across 67 countries, making it the largest educational programme on the planet. For nearly 25 years Eco-Schools have been empowering children to drive change and improve their environmental awareness through a simple framework to achieve the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award. There are a host of other benefits including improving the school environment and financial savings for schools. To get involved visit: <https://www.eco-schools.org.uk/>

### John Muir Environmental Award

The John Muir Award is a national environmental award. It encourages people to connect with, enjoy and care for wild places. It encourages awareness and responsibility for the natural environment, in a spirit of fun, adventure and exploration. To find out more go to: <https://www.victa.org.uk/our-services/earn-award/john-muir/>

## ECO-SCHOOLS IN ACTION

Read a case study on page 30 to learn more about the practical application of the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award, as part of embedding Outdoor Learning into the school curriculum.

## IMAGES

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