

Solihull Council - how SMBC is currently supporting/delivering the #WMCA 2041 example actions

Sarah Lardner (Email: slardner@solihull.gov.uk)

Websites: <https://www.solgrid.org.uk/education/support-services/education-for-sustainable-development/>
<https://www.solihull.gov.uk/education4sd>

Theme - Changing our economy without leaving any of our communities behind	
WMCA example actions	SMBC contribution
Secure Government support for an enhanced 'Clean Air deal' for the region	<p>Sustainable Travel Team lead on the education strand of the Council's Clean Air Strategy.</p> <p>The team offers an extensive range of initiatives to the education and youth sector including the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Car exclusion scheme around schools initially at 3 schools, plans to roll out. -Lessons and training including lessons on air pollution and climate change, Year 6 Transition training in walking, scooting and all levels of cycling up to Level 3 Bikeability. -Bikeability National Standards Training, Junior Travel Ambassador scheme, ModeShift STARS accreditation scheme -Developing a package of clean air/ climate change/ sustainable travel initiatives for secondary schools
Launch communications campaign to celebrate the pride and skill of 'green jobs'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Education and Skills Team, Life Ready programme offers some opportunity for students to find out more about careers within the green/sustainability sector, mainly through the Life Ready web portal -Your Green Future event ran for 3 years, where students from local schools worked alongside businesses in interactive workshops focussed on 'green' careers, due to funding this event has not run since 2018. -Project with the Careers & Enterprise Company for local students around the use of 'autonomous electric vehicles'. -2 secondary schools work on the Big Ideas programme with 'Solutions for the Planet' young people learn about environmental issues supported by companies, a mentors with sustainability related careers. -Plans for 'green' careers element of the Interclimate Model COP Conference, takes place each November with Secondary School pupils. -Gro organic's Young Explorers programme is taking place in a few Solihull Primary Schools, links to 'green' jobs being delivered.
Theme - Investing in the resilience of our places	
WMCA	SMBC Education links
Build a workforce strategy and investment programme for the natural environment	To look into influencing local education providers
Launch WM 'thousand tree challenge' – planting 1,000 trees for every 100 new homes	New Public Realm Development Officer role with focus on tree planting. This will include schools engagement and planting in school grounds.

Theme - Using our industrial past to create a zero-carbon future	
WMCA	SMBC Education links
Roll-out in school education programmes e.g. UN Climate Teachers in schools	<p>-A developed Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) programme is in place including Engagement Officer in Sustainability Team, ESD Strategy, ESD Network (officers from various Council Teams), teachers training opportunities and schools visits.</p> <p>-Green Solihull Schools Award sponsored by local businesses</p> <p>-Annual Sustainable Schools Conference includes sharing best practice with focus on Energy and embedding SDG's into curriculum.</p> <p>-Partnerships with local and national organisations to deliver initiatives such as Ashden Less CO2, Earthwatch, Water Explorers, Interclimate, Your Green Future, Solutions for the Planet, SKIPS Education, Severn Trent, Wildlife Trust.</p> <p>-Ashden Less CO2 in fifth year of rolling out programme.</p> <p>-Successful Energy Management support for schools through Energy Officer in Property Services Team and Asset Management Team.</p> <p>UN Climate Change accredited teacher at Monkspath School</p> <p>-Wide range of good practice taking place at Monkspath and other Solihull schools (Monkspath School good practice includes joining Eco-team and Unicef Rights Respecting teams, embedding Global Goals into the curriculum. Awards include Water Explorer (Legend School 2019, National Winners 2018, Ashden Less CO2 Award, Woodland Trust Gold Award, RHS School Gardening 5 Star, Wellbeing Award, Solihull Enhanced Healthy Schools Status., UNICEF Rights Respecting School, Stone Wall Champion Schools. Other initiatives Hubbub plastic campaign on plastic free lunchboxes, Air Pollution Campaign)</p>
Work with Universities and providers to create regional 'cluster' of climate change education	A well developed ESD programme is in place. Attend and part of the West Midlands Regional Network. Need to ensure we link to 'cluster' activity

Theme - Working to decouple prosperity from consumption	
WMCA	SMBC Education links
<p>Public sector work to procure food with a smaller climate footprint</p> <p>Ensure climate smart nutrition is embedded in the school curriculum</p>	<p>Solihull Catering have an Eco-Plan in place, supported by the Schools Procurement Officer, this Eco-Plan includes elements of sustainable food procurement. Food is sourced locally where possible and they currently hold a Food for Life Silver certification. Effort has gone into the new Plant-based meals to offer pupils a more environmentally friendly meal option. School lessons teach about the Eatwell guide (consuming a diet in line with this guide will have 32% lower environmental impact than the current average UK diet).</p> <p>Some climate nutrition is taking place though no capacity for school support on food growing, some schools have good practice in growing taking place. Signposting is available to organisations like Gro Organic, RHS School Gardens, Edible Playground food growing initiatives for schools.</p> <p>The Schools in Food Group and School Food Strategy led by Public Health has not had the capacity to continue for the last few years.</p>
<p>Extend WMCA commitment to eliminate single use plastics from all activities by 2020</p>	<p>Solihull SUP Strategy in place, with current schools activity and schools Action Plan included as part of the strategy. The schools Action Plan has been developed with a number of Council Officers, it is in draft and to be shared with school stakeholders.</p>
Other information	
<p>Climate Commission representatives</p>	<p>Recruiting youth representatives for the Climate Commission</p> <p>-The Children and Education Team have been doing a promotional push with schools to get the Youth Council up and running again in Solihull. There are plans to recruit a representative from the Youth Council, this makes sense as Climate Change and Protecting the Environment were voted as Make Your Mark biggest issues in 2019.</p>