



## LCAW SCHOOLS CLIMATE SUMMIT (Tuesday 29 June 2021)

### 0. INTRODUCTION

This year [London Climate Action Week](#) (26 June – 4 July 2021) will host a **Schools Climate Summit** bringing together London's school sector as a major force for climate action. London has an ambitious climate agenda and schools have a vital role to play in delivering it. However, meeting the city's net zero, circular economy and broader Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 will require a step-change. While individual school efforts are inspiring, only a sectoral approach can create impact at scale. The LCAW Schools Climate Summit calls on London's 3500 schools to ***think like a system & act as a sector***.

The idea for a Schools Climate Summit came out of reflections after LCAW 2020 on how to enhance the impact of schools, youth and education sector climate initiatives. Most importantly by using a 'whole school' perspective engaging school leaders, governors, business managers, teachers, students, staff and the local community. The objective being to overcome fragmentation, address structural issues and build a cohesive sectoral response to the climate emergency. More on the rationale [here](#).

The Summit will bring together London's diverse education sector, local and national policy makers, youth and communities. Providing a platform for engagement, monitoring and recognition of achievement for schools of different types: state schools, independent schools, special schools, faith schools, alternative provision and international schools.

With an initial focus on secondary and primaries, the Summit will build on LCAW work with London's world-class universities including Kings, Imperial and LSE to develop a schools-university mentoring & support partnership on climate action and sustainability.

The Summit will showcase work across London schools, including initiatives such as Eco-schools, Youth Climate Summit, Transform Our World, Let's Go Zero, London National Park City schools, World's Largest Lesson, Teach the Future, Fridays for the Future, etc.

Working with the Department for Education, Greater London Authority, London Councils, OFSTED, teaching unions and teacher networks, the Summit will highlight the policy reform agenda. And working with finance



and private sector leaders from the Green Finance Institute, London First, Thames Water and London Employers, the Summit will address the finance, resilience, skills & careers agendas.

The [GLOBE Student-MP Climate Surgery](#), following on the heels of the Summit, on Friday 2 July 2021, will provide an opportunity for practical dialogue with London's 73 Members of Parliament on their role in addressing the climate emergency.

## 1. SUMMIT OBJECTIVES

The School Climate Summit's objective is to create a platform for debate and action on the role of the education sector in the climate and sustainability transition. Scale is everything and schools can be a significant delivery mechanism for London's net zero & circular economy goals. This will not happen overnight and the LCAW Summit will provide an annual focal point geared towards delivery by 2030. The first step is overcoming fragmentation and re-tooling to think as a school system and deliver as an education cluster.

The Summit will promote adoption of the **GLA's [climate adaptation guidance for schools](#)**, cooperation with **London Councils** and **LWARB** on strategies to reduce consumption emissions and food waste. The Summit will also see the release of a *Schools Climate Action Map* showing which schools are engaged in which eco/ climate-related initiatives, to promote networking and collaboration.

The Summit seeks to raise awareness of the **UN Sustainable Development Goals** and promotes SDG targets 13.3 and 4.7 on climate and sustainability education.

As countries emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is fitting that public health and clean air are cross-cutting themes for LCAW 2021. The Summit will be working with the [UN's BreathLife campaign for clean air](#) and schools are invited to actively participate.



## 2. GLOBAL REACH AND LINKS TO COP26

London has often set the pace for educational innovation and where the city leads, others have followed. The Schools Climate Summit will also leverage London's status as a major global city to engage international education leaders and the youth and global climate communities. Working with partners including the UK and Italian co-presidencies for COP26 climate summit in Glasgow, the British Council, OECD, IUCN, UNESCO and others, the Summit will advance education for sustainable development in this pivotal year.

## 3. SUMMIT STRUCTURE

Mindful of continuing pandemic constraints, the Summit will be a hybrid digital/ on-site event based on a distributed model. To promote inclusion and reflecting the range of schools across London, different schools across London's geography will lead on particular themes. Each participating school is encouraged to organise events during the Summit using a 'whole school' model addressing the following core Summit themes:

<b><i>The four 'Cs'</i></b>	<b><i>And the one 'F'</i></b>
Campus	Finance
Curriculum	
Community	
Careers	

## 4. MENTAL HEALTH & CLIMATE COMMUNICATION

As the country emerges from lockdown and children return to school, the damage wrought by the covid-19 pandemic to children's mental health is being widely acknowledged. According to the Royal College of Psychiatry, one in six children in England is estimated to have a probable mental health condition, and the number of children being referred for help is increasing. England's recent children's commissioner, Anne Longfield, has warned that current provision for children is nowhere near sufficient to meet children's needs and new government targets to increase access to care are needed. Schools are on the frontlines of this mental health pandemic, with staff, parents & carers and other members of the school community also affected.

Already in 2020, prior to the covid-19 pandemic, LCAW had begun to engage with the [Climate Psychology Alliance](#) to ensure that our engagement with children and young people did not exacerbate eco-anxiety and communication with young audiences was carefully crafted. This work has taken on greater meaning since the pandemic and we are working with the CPA and experts towards guidance for schools on climate communication. Mental health and climate communication will be integrated into the LCAW Schools Climate Summit agenda and longer-term work programme.

## 5. HOW TO TAKE PART

It's easy to get involved! Participation is a bottom-up process. We encourage schools, students, staff, parents/ carers and other members of the school & broader education community to organise their own events using the [LCAW event registration](#) site for 29 June 2021. If you wish to attend any registered event, including the Summit opening & closing plenaries, please sign up once the events are publicised from May 2021 onwards.

## 6. RESOURCES

In the coming weeks, LCAW will be producing a **Tool Kit** to support school engagement. This will include suggestions for activities and audiovisual resources drawing on LCAW partners.

The **LCAW Education Group** holds fortnightly community Zoom calls featuring inspirational initiative and speakers from the UK and abroad. Previous speakers have included Gillian Burke, BBC Springwatch/Autumnwatch presenter; Outdoor Classroom Day; Backyard Nature; Keep Scotland Beautiful & Scottish youth activists; EcoPeace Middle East and Koen Timmers, founder, Climate Action Project, etc. If you could like join, please get in touch.

The regular [DOORWAYS to Sustainable Schools](#) podcast by Martin Crabbe, London Sustainable Schools Forum, is an excellent resource featuring regular interviews with leaders in the schools and sustainability space in London and beyond.

Schools can already begin to use the [LCAW London Climate Curriculum](#) – a series of 4 unique lesson plans designed to introduce pupils to climate change and the UN Sustainable Development Goals in both local and global context. Aimed at Key Stages 2 and 3 (ages 10-14), the lesson plans draw on London as a classroom, using London landmarks and features such as the River Thames, the London Plane tree, cultural and scientific institutions such as the British Museum and Imperial College to illustrate climate impacts and solutions.

Originally designed for the debut LCAW in 2019 by Globe International, London Sustainable Schools Forum and World's Largest Lesson, the curriculum is updated every year to tap into London's unique cultural offerings and exhibitions to enhance student learning.

The 2021 curriculum will include London landmarks such as Tate Modern, Battersea Power Station, the Thames Barrier, London Wetlands and Highgate Cemetery. It will be ready for direct download from mid-May onwards.

**Any questions? Please contact:**

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