

Free climate change workshops for Key Stage 2

The climate crisis is frequently in the news, due to increased public awareness and pressure on governments and local authorities for action. This awareness has been increased by campaigners like David Attenborough and Greta Thunberg.

The Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) has been offering free curriculum-aligned energy workshops to primary schools in South Gloucestershire since 2017 and have delivered over 40 workshops. With support from South Gloucestershire Council, this year we hope to deliver workshops to 20 schools in the 2022/23 academic year. South Gloucestershire Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and see these workshops as forming an integral part of their climate and nature emergency work.

The workshops will give an overview of climate change and energy as well as a practical session on how we can adapt locally. We will deliver the sessions online (via Zoom) and all the materials for the teachers will be sent at least 48 hours in advance. The sessions will be delivered by two experienced members of staff who have been DBS checked.

Feedback from the teachers:

“It [the workshop] sparked their interest in their local area and improving it. It made them think about their futures and building a better environment for this.”

“Both presenters came across really well, knowledgeable and motivating.”

“They really enjoyed the locality of it and finding out new things about renewable energy that they didn’t know before.”

CSE can deliver these workshops between September 2022 and March 2023.

If you are interested in having these sessions delivered to your school, please email tess.rushton@cse.org.uk with the following details:

- School name
- Address
- Contact name
- Contact telephone
- Contact email
- Class size
- Preferred date

Workshop 1: Climate Change and Energy (30 minutes)

'Climate change and Energy' This presentation will give an overview of climate change and how it is affecting us and communities across the world, this presentation will also include how energy relates to climate change and some of the actions we can take to help.

Exploring energy and climate change

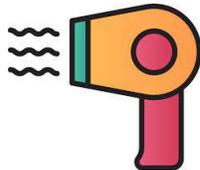


What is energy?

Energy is the ability to do work.



'What Uses Watt?' This activity will give the children a fun and active way to put into practice what they have learnt about energy and how they can save energy in their home and school. Children will be asked to think about the appliances they use on a daily basis. As a part of an active game, they will be given large images and as a class they will be asked to think about how much energy is used for each appliance.



Workshop 2: Community Planning for the Future (45 minutes)

We will begin with a short presentation about the sorts of issues that need to be considered when thinking about how to improve our local areas in the context of the climate crisis and how our communities can act.

Resources provided on how communities can respond to climate change

Planning to PROTECT OUR AREA from dangerous weather



Climate change is leading to more extreme weather like heat waves and flooding.



We can help by creating spaces for excess water from lots of rain to be drained away.

Adding more trees, plants and parks in towns and near rivers helps water drain away through the soil and prevent flooding. It also helps in Summer, as trees help absorb some heat and give us shade, as well as providing homes for wildlife.



Planning ENERGY to tackle climate change



We spoke earlier about burning fossil fuels for our energy, and we know we need to use more renewables instead to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions!



Have you seen a wind turbine or solar panel, or even a solar farm nearby? How would you feel if there were more in your local area? Where should they go on your map?



Planning to PROTECT WILDLIFE from climate change



Climate change and building new roads and houses can lead to the destruction of wildlife habitats – this means our animals and plants' homes.



To help, we can put more trees, hedges, ponds and wildflowers in a town to encourage more animals!



And we can build "green corridors": these are paths that link homes for wildlife so that they can move around freely without having to go into dangerous spots like busy roads or buildings.

We will then invite the students to get into groups and start thinking about what could be improved in their area, children will be asked to mark these improvements on the large-scale maps we have provided the teachers with. The children will have an opportunity to cut and stick different elements onto their map and explore ways in which their community can adapt to climate change. The sessions are offered as a package and will be delivered on the same day.

Local neighbourhood planning exercise



About CSE

CSE is a Bristol based charity that works in partnership with South Gloucestershire Council to promote energy efficiency and renewable technologies and to provide impartial advice and information to local residents. Our Key Stage 2 (KS2) energy workshops are on climate change, adaptation and energy. All staff who will work on the project are experienced in delivering educational workshops and are DBS checked.

Tess Rushton



Tess will be managing and leading the workshops. Tess joined CSE in 2021 and supports a variety of projects, including those working with children and young people. Tess currently supports schools to integrate the topics of energy, fuel poverty and climate change into their lessons. Tess has also worked on *Community Energy for Everyone* developing innovative approaches to tackling climate change in the UK that includes households from marginalised communities participating in the community energy movement. Tess collaborates with community groups, facilitating local workshops and follow up sessions with local groups whilst identifying and engaging with target communities.

Kate Elliot-Rudder



Kate joined CSE in January 2022 as an intern to the Local & Community Empowerment Team. Kate is Green Mentor for the Green Influencer programme for 10 to 14-year-olds, and also supports the Bright Green Future leadership programme for 16 to 19-year-olds. Kate has experience as a local campaign organiser with the Australian Youth Climate Coalition and as a student life coordinator for international students in university accommodation. Prior to joining CSE, Kate was a qualitative researcher on an Australian governmental review into mental health. She completed her undergraduate in Politics & International Relations at University of Wollongong (Australia), where her dissertation analysed media portrayal of school strikers.

Megan Blyth



Megan joined CSE in 2017 and a major part of Megan's role has been supporting young people through the Bright Green Future and Green Influencers programmes. Megan mentors young participants, and delivers research, recruitment, updating the website and social media account, and producing engagement and training materials. Megan also manages the Green Influencers for CSE, engaging with community groups, youth clubs and schools in Bristol to recruit young people and also acts as a Green Mentor for Green Influencers in the Bristol area, supporting their project design and delivery. For the *Community Consent for Low Carbon Future* project (2017-19) Megan was involved in events, including designing and running workshops for primary schools.



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Charity: 298740
Founded: 1979

We're a charity supporting people and organisations across the UK to tackle the climate emergency and end the suffering caused by cold homes. We do this by sharing our knowledge, practical experience and policy insights.

For over 40 years, we've supported people to take effective action on energy in their homes. We help communities and local councils to understand energy issues, set priorities, and put plans into action. Our research and analysis focus on making the energy system greener, smarter and fairer.

Find out more at www.cse.org.uk