

School Eco Savers League

Sefton Council





Welcome, and thank you for joining the Eco Savers League! By taking part, your school is not only demonstrating a clear commitment to sustainability but also taking meaningful steps to reduce its environmental impact and lead by example.

This guide is here to help your school get started! It offers a simple overview of how the League works and support and inspiration to get started. For more detailed information, please refer to the full *Eco Savers League Handbook*.

What Is the Eco Savers League?

The Eco Savers League, led by Sefton Council, is open to all schools across the borough and provides a fun, supportive way to take meaningful environmental action through a friendly competition.

The League is built around eight action areas, with points awarded based on the scale and impact of the work your school has done in each one. That might mean delivering an assembly on energy saving, running a litter-picking campaign, or supporting students to carry out their own environmental audit on site. How you choose to make an impact is entirely up to you. The more points your school earns, the higher it will climb on the leaderboard. Those making the biggest impact will be recognised with awards and prizes.

By taking part, your school is:

- Demonstrating its commitment to the Department for Education's strategy on sustainability and climate change
- Showing proactive leadership to Ofsted, governors, and the wider school community
- Empowering and inspiring young people with the knowledge, skills, and experiences they need to thrive in a changing world
- Contributing to a borough-wide effort to build a greener, more sustainable region



Participating in the League can fit easily around your school's schedule. Most schools spend just a bit of time each term gathering and submitting updates, but you can invest more time if you want to take on bigger projects.



How it Works



1. Autumn Term

Your school will receive an online submission form to share all current actions across the eight impact areas.

2. Initial Review

The Council will review all submissions and award points based on the scale, innovation, and impact of your actions. Your school will then be placed on the leaderboard.

3. Spring & Summer Updates

Submit updates later in the year to show new actions or improvements. Leaderboard positions will be updated after each review, so you can track your school's progress.

4. End-of-Year Awards

At the end of the school year, the top schools will be contacted by the Council. Awards and presentations will take place the following September, including special recognition for Most Improved School and Best Student-Led Project.

What are the Topics and How do I earn Points?

Schools can earn points by taking action across eight action areas, from reducing waste and improving energy use to promoting healthy lifestyles and helping nature. You may decide to focus on as many topics as possible or just focus on one area of impact, it is entirely up to you.

Each action your school takes is scored based on its depth, scale, and impact. Whether it's a small awareness campaign or a whole-school initiative, every effort is recognised. The scoring framework rewards a wide range of activities, from sparking conversations and shifting behaviours, to making measurable improvements and leading innovative, student-led projects. The more ambitious and inclusive your actions, the more points you'll earn, helping your school climb the league table.

THE 8 AREAS OF IMPACT AND SCORING MATRIX



Awareness and Engagement

1-3pts

Activities that raise awareness or spark discussion

Behaviour Change

4-6pts

Actions that shift habits or routines

Infrastructure or Measurable Impact

7-10pts

Infrastructure or Measurable Impact

Whole-School Action or Policy

11-15pts

School-wide or policy-level initiatives

Student Leadership or Innovation

10-20 pts

Original, student-led, or collaborative projects

How to Get Started



By now, you've hopefully had a chance to read through the information above and maybe you're already full of ideas. But if you're not sure where to begin, don't worry! This next section offers simple, inspiring ways to get going. Whether you're starting small or thinking big, there's something here to help every school take that first step.

You could:

- **Set up a student eco group.** This could be as simple as inviting a few interested pupils to meet during break or lunchtime to share ideas. It doesn't need to be formal just a space where students can get involved and help shape what happens next.
- **Use an assembly or form time to introduce the Eco Savers League.** A quick chat about climate or the environment can go a long way. Students are more engaged than ever, and this is a great way to explain why the league matters.
- **Do a quick "what are we already doing?" scan.** Chances are, you're already doing more than you think, and it all counts towards your autumn submission.
- **Carry out a simple sustainability audit.** This can be done by staff or students. Sefton Council's Climate and Utilities Team have some availability to support if needed. It's a great way to understand where you're starting from.
- **Pick one impact area to focus on this term.** Choose something manageable, like energy or waste, and think about how it could link to what's already happening in lessons or around school. You don't need to do everything at once.
- **Put up a simple eco board or display.** Use it to share updates, student ideas, or even just a "coming soon" message. It's a visible way to show your school is getting involved.



Case Studies & Inspiration

Over the years, schools in the Eco Savers League have done some great environmental projects. Many joined national campaigns like Walk to School Week and Switch Off Fortnight, helping students walk, cycle, and save energy every day. Some took part in the Walk

Once a Week challenge (WOW), encouraging families to choose healthier, cleaner ways to get to school. Resources such as “Clean Air Crew” from the Southport Eco Centre have helped students learn about air quality and sustainable travel in their communities.

Beyond these campaigns, schools have transformed their outdoor spaces by planting wildflowers and trees, creating forest school areas full of wildlife, and building minibeast hotels to support insects. Many have installed water-saving devices in toilets to cut down on waste. Inside classrooms, students have led eco brick projects and made posters reminding everyone to switch off lights. They’ve also explored important topics like the impact of palm oil and joined lively debates about climate change.



Creative projects have brought whole schools together through eco fashion shows made from recycled materials, murals that brighten up local spaces, and competitions turning old wellies into flowerpots. Many schools have also helped their communities with book swaps, uniform reuse schemes, and food bank donations.



Resources & Tools

To support you on this journey, we’ve put together a list of useful resources to help with your environmental initiatives across the school. These are some popular and trusted options, but feel free to explore and use any tools or websites that work best for you and your school.

[Eco-Schools UK](#)

[Southport Eco Centre](#)

[WWF UK – School Resources](#)

[The Pod](#)

[Better Planet Education](#)





What is it?

A friendly competition for schools in Sefton to take action on sustainability and earn points.

Who can join?

All schools in Sefton.

How do we take part?

Use the starter pack and send us your first update form.

What do we need to do?

Take actions in areas like energy, waste, nature, and climate learning. Big or small, it all counts.

Do we need to be in Eco-Schools?

No, any school can take part.

What do we get out of it?

Certificates, awards, recognition, and support from Sefton Council.

How much time will it take?

As much or as little time as you like; even small steps earn points.

Does this help with DfE or Ofsted?

Yes, it supports your Climate Action Plan and shows leadership on sustainability.

Who do we contact for help?

The Energy & Environment Team at Sefton Council.



Contact & support – Sefton Council

If you need help or have any questions, please contact the Energy and Environmental Management team at Sefton Council:

General Enquiries

Email: Energy.Support@sefton.gov.uk

Address: Energy and Environmental Management Team

Sefton Council

Ground Floor, Magdalen House

Bootle, L20 3NJ

Key Contacts

Oliver Stenson

Project Officer – Energy & Environment for Schools

Email: oliver.stenson@sefton.gov.uk

Anne-Marie Clegg

Utilities & Climate Team Leader (Schools & Corporate)

Email: anne-marie.clegg@sefton.gov.uk

Southport Eco Centre (For Schools & Teachers)

If you're a teacher or school staff member looking for support or resources:

Email: teachers@southportecocentre.com

Data Privacy

All information submitted through the League is used solely to assess progress and award points. Your school's data will be treated confidentially, in line with GDPR regulations. Information will only be shared with members of the team who manage and support the coordination of the League and will not be passed outside the Council without your permission.



Eco Calander

October 2025

World Vegetarian Day

1st October 2025 - World Vegetarian Day is an annual celebration of all things vegetarian. For those new to vegetarianism, it serves as an enticement to give meatless fare a try (even for a day) and learn about its many benefits.

World Animal Day

4th October 2025 - World Animal Day is a day that aims to raise the status of animals to improve welfare standards around the globe.

World Food Day

16th October 2025 - World Food Day promotes worldwide awareness and action for those who suffer from hunger and for the need to ensure healthy diets for all, leaving no one behind.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			 1	2	3	 4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	 16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



November 2025

World Vegan Month

1st to 30th November 2025 - World Vegan Month, set up by the Vegan Society, is celebrated around the world as a time to shine a light on the vegan movement. You'll find the promotion of vegan events, recipes, clothing and more during this month-long celebration.

National Tree Week

22nd to 30th November 2025 - National Tree Week is the UK's largest annual tree celebration. Here people are encouraged to plant trees to mark the start of the winter tree planting season.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						 1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	 22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29


December 2025

World Soil Day

5th December 2025 - World Soil Day is held annually on 5th December to focus attention on the importance of healthy soil and to advocate for the sustainable management of soil resources.

International Mountain Day

11th December 2025 - International Mountain Day was set up in 2003 by the UN to highlight the importance of sustainable mountain development.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	 World Soil Day5	6
7	8	9	10	 International Mountain Day11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January 2026

National Bird Day




5th January - National Bird Day encourages the support of wild bird habitat conservation programs and captive bird rescue organizations and sanctuaries.

Red Squirrel Day

21st Jan - This one-day event helps raise awareness of red squirrels and their conservation and is an opportunity to celebrate their beauty.

International Zebra Day

31st January - International Zebra Day is a day to raise awareness of this amazing animal and the conservation issues that it faces.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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4	 5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	 21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	 31

February 2026

World Wetlands Day

2nd February - World Wetlands Day seeks to raise awareness and understanding of what wetlands are and how they can contribute towards restoring them.

World Whale Day

16th February 2026 - World Whale Day is observed on third Sunday of February each year. many species of whale are endangered.

International Polar Bear Day

27th February 2026 - International Polar Bear Day, run by Polar Bear International, is an annual event celebrated every 27th of February to raise awareness about the conservation status of the polar bear. As part of the day's celebrations, Polar Bear International focus on the need to protect denning polar bear families across the Arctic.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	 2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	 16	17	18	19	20	21

22	23	24	25	26	<div data-bbox="1482 225 1731 395">  <p>World Polar Bear Day</p> </div>	27	28

March 2026

National Panda Day

16th March - Due to decades of reproduction efforts in zoos, reforestation and conservation campaigns, pandas are considered “vulnerable” to extinction, rather than endangered. However, they are still subject to loss of habitat.

Global Recycling Day

18th March - Global Recycling Day urges leaders around the world to adopt a joined-up approach to recycling, which is urgently needed.

International Day of Forests

21st March - International Day of Forests celebrates and raises awareness of the importance of all types of forests.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	 16	17	 18	19	20	 21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28



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