Climate Emergency
Learning Collaborations
Leicester and Carbon Literacy Training

COP26 Race to Zero, Nottingham, 24th September 2021
Dr Andrew Reeves, De Montfort University and RCE East Midlands
“our ambition is for Leicester to become ‘carbon neutral’ by 2030 or sooner. This means reducing the city’s and the council’s CO₂ emissions to nearly zero – low enough to be able to ‘offset’ what’s left.”

Leicester Climate Emergency Strategy


• Intermediate carbon budgets from 2020 towards the 2032 and 2045 targets
• Divest from any investment in fossil fuel extraction by 2023
• Work with Leicester City Council and other partners to support local action on the climate emergency
• Engage staff and students on climate change issues through the Carbon Literacy project
• Establish cross-university working groups in relation to key areas e.g. energy, procurement, and travel
• Complete an analysis of climate-induced risks to core operations of DMU
• Establish a communication strategy and brand for DMU’s climate change and sustainable development initiatives
Local Collaborations To Date

**Carbon Literacy Training:**
A day of interactive learning developing understanding of the causes of climate change and inspiring individual and collective action to address it.

- Spring 2020: With City Council EcoSchools Team, training students to co-deliver training to staff at local schools
- Spring 2021: With Local Enterprise Partnership (LLEP) – jointly delivered training to all staff
- Summer 2021: Webinar series initiated by LLEP for local Small and Medium Enterprises on Climate Action
- Ongoing: *Experts’ Reference Group*, both universities and local authorities
  - Formal feedback on local climate strategies
Local Collaboration across sectors – an RCE Approach

**EDUCATORS (formal and informal)**

- Local Authorities
- Business Support
- Universities
- Schools
- Voluntary Sector Trainers

**COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS**

- Students
- Businesses
- Citizens
- Local Government
- Voluntary Sector
- Public Sector

**Principles:** Collaborative, Cross-sector

**Challenges:** Reaching all sectors, Learning to Action

Regional Centres of Expertise for Education for Sustainable Development: [https://www.rcenetwork.org](https://www.rcenetwork.org)
Next Steps

• Resources and Training to support sectoral action
  • Businesses (of all sizes) online toolkit (LLEP)
  • Community Organisations Toolkit (Leicester City Council)
  • Training for specific sectors (textiles; health...) – Community Renewal Fund (TBC)
  • Major local emitters through city-wide Climate Partnership (City Council-led)

Get in touch: areeves@dmu.ac.uk