

# Generations of tomorrow: sustainability and climate change

## Family Learning Conference

Thursday 20 June 2024 | Online | 9.30-2.00pm

Sustainability and climate change are the defining issues of our age. Yet whilst people are keen to take action for the environment and be more sustainable, it can be challenging with many feeling anxious and overwhelmed by information.

Family learning can connect families to real-life, day-to-day sustainability and its wider benefits from health and wellbeing to financial resilience. Learning about sustainability can help families build an understanding of the issues, and introduce them to new technologies, ways of living, and green jobs and careers. As an intergenerational discipline, family learning has the potential to support a generational shift towards mindful consumption, environmental stewardship and social equity.

Join us for this half-day conference where we'll explore the role of family learning in addressing sustainability and climate change. We'll hear from inspiring speakers about how to build engagement and positive action for the environment and their successful family learning and community-based initiatives.

### This conference will give delegates opportunities to:

- explore attitudes towards sustainability and climate change and what this means for family learning.
- hear about innovative projects that are bringing family learning and real-life sustainability learning together.
- connect with other professionals to exchange ideas and inspire each other to make positive changes for the planet.

Join our online conference for:

-  inspiring keynote speakers
-  information rich workshops
-  opportunities to connect and share with other professionals
-  access to all event recordings and resources.

Feedback from the family learning conference

**"This invaluable event was constructive, practical and challenging in the best way. The quality of the speakers was exceptional and I learned a huge amount in a very short time."**

Helen Jacobs, Head of Learning & Engagement, RWA Bristol

**Ticket £75+VAT**

**10% discount for members of the National Centre for Family Learning - join the centre for free, see booking page**

**[Book your tickets now](#)**



## Programme

- 9:30am** Welcome and overview
- 9:40am** Keynote: Dr Christina Demski, Deputy Director, Centre for Climate Change and Social Transformations  
**Agents of change: putting people at the heart of climate change action**
- 10:10am** First workshops: Choose one session from 1-2  
All sessions will be recorded and be available to watch after the conference.
1. **Brilli-ANT** with Daniel Clark, Director of Creative Programme, The Story Museum
  2. **How can family learning support primary schools in climate change education?** with Dr Carol Davenport, Associate Professor and Director, NUSTEM, Northumbria University
- 11:10am** Break
- 11:20am** Keynote: Sabirah Ali, Head of Community and Cultural Learning, Westminster Adult Education Service  
**Connecting families to real-life sustainability learning - the Green Live Learning Lab**
- 11:50pm** Networking rooms
- 12:10pm** Networking feedback
- 12:20pm** Lunch
- 12.45pm** Second workshops: Choose one session from 3-5  
All sessions will be recorded and be available to watch after the conference.
3. **Early childhood education for sustainability** with Dr Diane Boyd, Honorary Research Fellow, University of Hull
  4. **Creating a Green Live Learning Lab** with Sabirah Ali, Head of Community and Cultural Learning and Amy Dunkley, Sustainability Learning Coordinator, Westminster Adult Education Service
  5. **Reuse, recycle, reduce: how embedding sustainability and climate action in family learning delivery supports families to build financial resilience** with Juliette Collier, National Director, Campaign for Learning
- 1:45pm** Group discussion
- 2:00pm** Evaluation and close



## Agents of change: how to put people at the heart of climate change action

The Centre of Climate Change and Social Transformations (CAST) is a global hub that researches and develops the social transformations needed to produce a low-carbon and sustainable society. It aims to answer the question 'How can we as a society live differently - and better - in ways that meet the urgent need for rapid and far-reaching emission reductions?' Dr Christina Demski, Deputy Director of CAST will present the centre's research and findings on public attitudes to climate change and its implications for putting people at the heart of climate change action, including the importance of non-environmental co-benefits such as health.

Dr Christina Demski is Deputy Director of the ESRC-funded Centre for Climate Change and Social Transformations where she leads on exploring visions of desirable and feasible low-carbon futures. Christina's expertise includes public attitudes and acceptability towards environmental and energy issues, as well as low carbon futures. A key thread in Christina's research is early and meaningful public engagement with climate change and energy issues. She has been a Net Zero Public Engagement Advisor to the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy and is currently a reader in the Department of Psychology at the University of Bath.

## Connecting families to real-life sustainability learning - the Green Live Learning Lab

Sabirah Ali, Head of Community and Cultural Learning at Westminster Adult Education Service will share their learnings from the Green Live Learning Lab, an innovative 'live' classroom for local families in the neighbourhoods of north Westminster. This area is changing as low-carbon and retrofit regeneration and investment projects are being implemented. Westminster Adult Education Service took this as an opportunity to connect local families to real-life sustainability developments and the professionals involved. The Green Live Learning Lab aimed to demonstrate to families what these changes mean for them in terms of their homes and day-to-day lives, as well as living in a low-carbon city. The project aimed to provide a valuable "see it, understand it, be it" opportunity, which tackled the lack of diversity in the sustainability sector by involving children and families from under-represented communities to foster interest and aspiration towards future jobs in the green economy.

With over 20 years' experience in the adult education, FE and cultural sectors, Sabirah Ali leverages her skills and credentials in curriculum development, linguistics, coaching and widening participation to design and implement innovative and impactful community education programmes. She focuses on creating inclusive and accessible learning opportunities that upskills and raises the confidence of diverse and under-resourced communities. In her current role, she leads a multi-disciplinary team, overseeing complex and nuanced delivery. She develops strategic partnerships with community hubs, libraries, the voluntary sector, social enterprises and grassroots organisations to better serve under-represented communities. Sabirah is a qualified Level 7 Coach, has an MA in Applied Linguistics and a Certificate in Education.

# Workshops

1

## **Brilli-ANT with Daniel Clark, Director of Creative Programme, The Story Museum**

Daniel Clark, Director of Creative Programme, and the team at the Story Museum will share their creation of their family friendly positive climate action exhibition, Brilli-ANT - how someone small changed a big story and helped families tackle climate anxiety and connect to the natural world. The exhibition featured giant cardboard insects made through recycled cardboard and eco-friendly materials and ink and featured the opportunity for families to make their own climate friendly mini-beast.

2

## **How can family learning support primary schools in climate change education with Dr Carol Davenport, Associate Professor and Director, NUSTEM**

The Department for Education published its Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy for Education in April 2022. Schools in England may already have written a climate action plan and spent time thinking about climate change education for their learners. This session delivered by Dr Carol Davenport will look at how family learning can support primary schools to connect their school community to issues around climate change and sustainability, including climate action plans. Participants will look briefly at the research literature on this topic, hear about examples of family learning in schools and then reflect on the implications for their setting and organisation.

3

## **Early childhood education for sustainability with Dr Diane Boyd, Honorary Research Fellow, University of Hull**

This session delivered by Dr Diane Boyd will support your understanding of the relevance and importance of early childhood education for sustainability through the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The workshop will highlight the importance of place-based learning in woods, rivers, parks, beaches and the community. Diane will share a free online resource for early childhood education, Sustainable Development Goals and STEM which will support your understanding of how these connect pedagogically.

4

## **Creating a Green Live Learning Lab with Sabirah Ali, Head of Community and Cultural Learning and Amy Dunkley, Sustainability Learning Coordinator, Westminster Adult Education Service**

Join Sabirah Ali and Amy Dunkley to explore the Green Live Learning Lab toolkit and teaching resources. The Green Live Learning Lab is an innovative project which connects local families to real-life sustainability. The free resources can be used with learners for similar projects in other areas of the country that are undergoing retrofit and regeneration work. The teaching resources, covering 5 topics, include a variety of activities and are accessible for participants who do not have English as a first language. They have been developed through participative sessions with Westminster Adult Education Service students and low-carbon and renewable energy technical experts.

5

## **Reuse, recycle, reduce: how embedding sustainability and climate action in family learning delivery supports families to build financial resilience with Juliette Collier, National Director, Campaign for Learning**

The concepts of sustainability and climate action can seem remote and even irrelevant when parents are focused on day-to-day survival against a cost-of-living crisis. This workshop will explore how we can provide families with clear and meaningful routes to think about sustainability and how this increases their financial resilience. We will share some engaging family learning activities that enable families to enjoy learning together and leverage peer support to benefit family budgets.