

LEAF Newsletter



Communities Leading Climate Action

Summer 2026

Welcome to the LEAF (Leicester Environmental Action & Future) newsletter for Summer, bringing you all the latest updates regarding our exciting climate action project funded by the National Lottery Community Fund.

De Montfort University has been working in partnership with five local community organisations in Leicester - ZamZam Unlimited, Saffron Acres, One Roof Leicester, Somali Development Services (SDS), and Leicester Nirvana, to support the communities they serve in adopting more sustainable behaviours and reducing carbon emissions, helping to build a better future for all.

May and June have been busy months, with ongoing initiatives, training sessions and major events such as Riverside Festival. Read on to discover some of our key highlights.

LEAF at Riverside Festival



SDG Hub student volunteers at Riverside Festival supporting the LEAF stalls holding selfie banners

On the 6th and 7th of June, our LEAF partners joined Leicester's biggest free festival and arts event engaging with over 350 people including children and adults from the local community. The partners did a brilliant job showcasing their work and raising awareness of the project through a range of interactive activities including games, arts and crafts with the support of DMU's SDG Hub student volunteers.

SDS ran an 'Aalool' traditional Somali weaving activity giving visitors the chance to learn and try something new. Saffron Acres offered seed sowing, sparking conversations around composting, while ZamZam's communal tapestry encouraged children to express their creativity. One Roof Leicester engaged visitors with fun sustainability games and Leicester Nirvana drew people in with darts and their 'Goal for the World' exercise.





Participants getting involved in crafts presented by SDS and ZamZam Unlimited Possibilities.



A young girl drawing her 'Goal for the World'.

It was a fantastic weekend that brought a diverse range of people together through conversations, creativity and community engagement hoping to shape a more sustainable Leicester.

Leicester Nirvana FC Presentation Day

Leicester Nirvana FC hosted their annual presentation day back in May, celebrating players across age groups with matches, a BBQ, inflatables, awards and stalls. DMU's SDG Hub student volunteers took part by facilitating SDG related games, quizzes, drawing activities and prizes, engaging with over a hundred attendees, mainly young children from the club. This also supports the United Nations Football for the Goals initiative highlighting the link between football and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Partner Project Highlight: SDS Repair & Mend Workshops

Somali Development Services have been delivering 'Repair & Mend' workshops as part of their LEAF activities, helping service users learn new skills and repair their own clothing. The sessions have been really successful and provided a welcoming space for members of the community to come together while encouraging more sustainable habits through repair and reuse. Sessions are regular with the next ones coming up on the 14th, 21st and 28th July.



Two children posing with the SDG selfie banner



A participant using the sewing machine at SDS

Carbon Literacy: Train the Trainer

Some of the LEAF partners took part in the Carbon Literacy 'Train the Trainer' course. All partner leads are already Carbon Literacy certified, providing them with a deeper understanding of their carbon footprints and actions they can take to reduce this - this training built on that knowledge by equipping them with the skills to deliver the course themselves to their service users and other VCSE organisations.

Across the sessions, they explored the Carbon Literacy toolkits, how adults learn, classroom management skills and more before delivering their own practice sessions to other participants and receiving feedback.

It was a valuable experience for LEAF partners and we look forward to seeing how they apply their learning and progress through the Carbon Literacy certification stages.

Action Learning Session

Action Learning was back this June with LEAF partners coming together to reflect on project progress and challenges so far. Some of the points discussed were around delivering a sustainable event, barriers to engaging local communities and cooperating with such a diverse range of people. Actions included liaising with organisers around recycling facilities and promoting sustainable transport to the venue and sustainably sourcing items such as gazebos. There were also suggestions around organising a youth panel and recognising the value of the work that is already being done.



LEAF partners sitting around a table having meaningful discussions about the project

Upcoming Events / Key Dates

11th July: ZamZam Unlimited Community Action Day in Beaumont Leys.

30th September: Community Climate Action - Your First Steps (Conference). Sign up using the QR code on the right.



Register your place for our Community Climate Action event now!