# LEAF Newsletter

*Communities Leading Climate Action*

August 2026

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

De Montfort University (DMU) 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.

Read on to discover key highlights from July and August and any upcoming events.

## LEAF Partner Visits



LEAF partners including SDS, ZamZam Unlimited, Leicester Nirvana, Saffron Acres, One Roof Leicester and DMU

Over the past two months, all the LEAF partners had the opportunity to host and visit each other's organisations, learning more about all the amazing work they do both in relation to LEAF and beyond. These visits were really beneficial, allowing the partners to share ideas for collaboration, have meaningful discussions and take part in a range of engaging activities.

For instance, Somali Development Services got partners involved in their Repair & Mend workshop, Saffron Acres welcomed the group with a cyanotype printing activity, and One Roof Leicester invited everyone to unleash their creativity by making a collage reflecting on what home means to them. A big thank you to all the teams for making these partner visits a great success. We look forward to continuing to strengthen our partnerships and working together on sustainability and climate action.



LEAF partners taking part in apple pressing



Turning art into nature through cyanotype printing

## Community Action Day with ZamZam Unlimited

Back in July, ZamZam Unlimited Possibilities organised a Community Action Day – a free event delivered as part of the LEAF programme. The day featured a range of enjoyable and interactive activities from litter picking in the Beaumont Leys area and pot planting, to recycled-can drawing with Pencil Club and having a go on the smoothie bike.

With support from DMU student volunteers and young people the event welcomed over 40 community members, including local residents, families and young people. It was a fantastic opportunity to engage the community with environmental initiatives in various ways and empower them to create an impact. Great job team!




DMU student volunteer on the smoothie bike



22 bags of litter picked in the Beaumont Leys area as part of the Community Climate Action Day

# Partner Project Highlight: Saffron Acres

Thanks to funding from LEAF, a group of local people from the community have the opportunity to gain a certificate in Permaculture Design (PDC). Permaculture is a way of designing our land, health and well-being, career-paths, organisations and more by learning from nature.

So far, the group have carried out soil tests at Saffron Acres to see what will grow best and looked at what plants grow naturally on the site and what that can tell us about soil conditions and nutrients. They also looked at water conservation and water in the landscape and went on a short trip to a local river, the Saffron Brook to test the water quality there. The next sessions will involve learning more about running a small-holding and how we can retrofit houses to save energy and water. Permaculture and Climate Action go hand in hand as permaculture helps us to appreciate nature's abundance while treading lightly on the Earth.



Permaculture teaching at Saffron Heath



Participants visiting the Saffron Brook to test the water

## Upcoming Events

**Wednesday 30th September:** Community Climate Action - Your First Steps

Bringing together charities, community organisations, social enterprises and local partners from across Leicester and the wider East Midlands, the event will explore practical ways organisations can embed sustainability into their work.

The day will include:

- Keynote speaker
- Interactive workshops
- Networking opportunities
- A Community Marketplace
- Practical funding and strategy advice

Sign up using the QR code on the right.

Register your place for our Community Climate Action event now!

For any questions about the LEAF project or to unsubscribe from the mailing list please contact Jasmine Walker or Maab Abdelatif: jasmine.walker@dmu.ac.uk
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