LEAF Newsletter

Communities Leading Climate Action

October 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.

The project has just entered Year 2! Well done to all our partners for all their amazing work and achievements so far. Read on to discover recent highlights and any upcoming events.

LEAF Conference - Community Climate Action



Attendees during the Networking Lunch

To mark the end of the first year of LEAF, the team hosted a conference titled "Community Climate Action - Your First Steps" at Voluntary Action Leicestershire.

Local organisations and VCSE's from in and around Leicester and Leicestershire came together to network and hear from keynote speakers including Penny Poyzer and Katie Jones at UNESCO discussing topics such as the importance of water in the context of daily life and climate change as well as what community-led action means and looks like in the city. This was followed by an inspiring panel by our LEAF partners themselves who discussed their climate action journeys, reflecting on their successes and challenges along the way. Later on, we had three excellent workshops Nature & Biodiversity by Sam Woods, Community Energy by Ben Dodd, and Funding by Christina Wigmore and Chris Shaw hopefully providing practical solutions and ideas for participants to take away.



LEAF Partner Showcase (Panel)



Keynote Speaker Penny Poyzer

"We are really pleased with how the conference went - it was brilliant to see everyone sharing ideas about how they embed climate action in their work, and plans for the future."
Jasmine Walker, Climate Action Officer for LEAF

Community Climate Coaches

The first of three community climate coaching sessions took place at the end of October, hosted at De Montfort University and delivered by the Permaculture Association. Participants including our LEAF partners and other VCSE's had the space to think about their engagement with community and climate action so far, reflect on their resilience, connect with others, learn about various frameworks and take part in a coaching activity themselves. It was a great success and we are looking forward to the next one!

DMU Student Volunteering Opportunities

At De Montfort University we have launched a volunteering programme where students have the chance to work directly with our LEAF partners on various flexible roles! This exciting opportunity is available for any DMU student, providing them with valuable CV experience and transport will be provided by the university. Roles include Marketing Assistant with SDS, Buddy Up Volunteer with Saffron Acres, Communications & Marketing Assistant with One Roof Leicester and lots more. For more info, students should email maab.abdelatif@dmu.ac.uk



Community Climate Coaches group of participants



Student Volunteers and MP Shockat Adam at a previous LEAF partner event

Upcoming Events

As global leaders gather in Antalya, Turkey for the United Nations Climate Conference (COP31), we will be hosting a series of events at DMU over the two weeks. This includes:

- 11th November, 5pm - 7:30pm, SDG Hub: A free screening of the People's Emergency Briefing (a 50 minute film) followed by a facilitated discussion. Sign up link: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/XxmPEfU4sc

- 9th November, 4:30pm - 6:30pm, VJ Patel: Sustainability and Policy event. Sign up link: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sustainability-and-policy-making-an-impact-on-practice-tickets-2003311615971

Both are free to sign up to and aimed at community members. To find out more check out the DMU COP31 website: https://www.dmu.ac.uk/about-dmu/news/cop/index.aspx

You can also view the full COP31 Schedule by scanning the QR code

LEAF Short Film is out now!



We created a short film with CrossCut Media, capturing the significance of the LEAF project, what it means to each partner organisation and some of the brilliant activities that they have been up to throughout the year. You can watch the film now on our website: tinyurl.com/dmuleaf

SDS - The Essence of Being Somali Exhibition



SDS have launched "The Somalinimo Exhibition - The Essence of Being Somali', celebrating the rich history, heritage, culture, traditions, literature, and contribution of Somali people. It is free and will be available to see from now until the 9th February 2027 at Leicester Museum & Art Gallery.

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