

# YOUNG ACAN



## Highlights of 2024-2025



Thanks to funding from the Transition Network, this year's Young ACAN Schools' Partnership project was named 'Treasure Not Trash', with the aim of educating our young people about waste. The biggest event was our 3<sup>rd</sup> Eco Conference which was held at Alton College in January and attended by 12 local schools. Through an afternoon of talks and workshops, the event aimed to educate the children about waste. Pupils were also set a challenge to return to school and to teach their peers about the issues of waste and how to reduce it by leading a whole school assembly.

As well as the conference, this year schools have also had the opportunity to participate in a range of opportunities, planned by the schools' partnership during their meetings. These included: a Christmas 'Reuse, Regift, Relove' stall, Waste Beast Animation Competition, Secondary art workshops at Alton College, Repair Cafe film in collaboration with Alton College Film Students and a Pollinator Poster competition.



One of our most exciting projects this year is our Waste Beast Animation. Launched at the Eco Conference in January, students of all ages were given the opportunity to create a storyboard for a children's animation to educate them about the problems of waste and how to tackle them. Working with local animator, Flossy Waters, who also designed our logo, Emma and Scott, have ensured that the children's ideas and words are reflected in the final animation - it truly is a collaborative project, written by children for children. Last week, some of the winners of the competition worked together at the Butts Primary School to record the dialogue and rap for the upcoming animation (see photo above) which will be released in September.

**"Young ACAN is wonderful! It gives our pupils a real opportunity to be an active citizen; to show them that if they are worried they can act and take steps. This is important for mental health and well-being as well as the environmental impact." Local teacher**



**The Young ACAN Schools Partnership has continued to grow and develop this year both locally and nationally. In January, thanks to funding from the National Lottery, Scott Gudrich from Eco Streets joined to support Emma with the organisation of Young ACAN. Scott brings with him a wealth of experience in education, including running environmental workshops in local schools. Together Emma and Scott are hugely passionate about environmental education and love generating exciting and engaging ways to motivate young people to get involved in environmental action.**

### **Climate Action Plans - Lets' Go Zero**

As part of the DfE Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy, all schools will be required to have a sustainability lead and climate action plan. Although this is non-statutory, Young ACAN believes that this is a really positive step forward, in ensuring that schools are responding to the climate and nature crisis. This year, Young ACAN has hosted a series of CPD sessions for its partners to get ready for this. In February and April, it was great to welcome Libby Terraz from Let's Go Zero to our partnership who led two sessions to support schools with their Climate Action Plans (CAP). Libby helped us make sense of the CAP and supported us with lots of useful ideas and resources to realise our actions within our settings. For more information, visit the Let's Go Zero website - <https://letsgozero.org/schools/>

### **Curriculum - Ministry of Eco Education**

Curriculum is an important element of the CAP and so we were very fortunate to have a session with Paul Turner recently from the Ministry of Eco Education (MofEE) who talked about the resources that are available for free for all settings to use. Paul also helped us with ideas for integrating food into our curriculum, linked with our upcoming project 'Eating for our Planet'. For more details, visit their website - <https://www.ministryofeco.org/>

## **Eating for our Planet**



From September our next project will focus on food with the aim of connecting young people with food and educating them about healthy eating, food production and the impact it has on our planet. We would very much like to engage all schools with this project with a range of opportunities including an Eco Conference in the Spring Term. If you have any ideas or contacts, please do get in touch with Emma via our email - [young.altoncan@gmail.com](mailto:young.altoncan@gmail.com).



**Thank you for being part of Young ACAN. We look forward to working with you next year! Have a great Summer!**



**"I really enjoy being part of Young ACAN and have found it so helpful in my role as eco-lead at school. I have been given lots of great ideas and have been able to share these and activities with both staff and pupils." Local Teacher**