

## Covering Letter

April 2008

Dear....

### **Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change for Schools A CONSULTATION**

Following the success of the **Nottingham Declaration**<sup>1</sup> in helping to mobilise local government commitment on climate change (over 320 English councils are now signatories), efforts are now being made to develop similar commitments for other sectors, particularly where there is a justification for using the same successful 'brand name'.

In Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, where there is a long history of environmental education, a new draft version of the Nottingham Declaration has been drawn up which is specifically aimed at schools. As with the original, this will be a voluntary statement of commitment by a school to its community that it will take action where it can to tackle the causes and effects of climate change. More details of the rationale are given over the page.

Before this is publicly launched, the partners involved want to consult a range of stakeholders to test the level of interest and potential support. Your views on the wording of the draft Declaration, the draft guidance and the support and monitoring that may be needed would be most welcome. Please follow the link on the following web page to access the relevant documents and reply using the questionnaire (6 questions only) by **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June**.  
[www.emra.gov.uk/nottingham-declaration](http://www.emra.gov.uk/nottingham-declaration)

You are welcome to send any further comments or queries to this email address: [nottingham.declaration@collegest.org.uk](mailto:nottingham.declaration@collegest.org.uk)

Thank you for your time

Yours sincerely

*On behalf of the Nottingham Declaration for Schools working group (listed over the page)*

---

<sup>1</sup> [www.nottinghamdeclaration.org.uk](http://www.nottinghamdeclaration.org.uk)

## **Rationale**

According to the Carbon Trust, UK schools spend around £350m a year on their energy bills and emit around 5 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per year, some 15% of the whole public sector estate. There is tremendous scope for reducing emissions if schools can be engaged, mobilised and supported.

It is envisaged that the schools' declaration is complementary to existing environmental education initiatives, rather than competing. It is a statement of intent and a public declaration of commitment from the whole school to take action that can be implemented through existing models such as Eco-Schools or Sustainable Schools (in the context of increasing concern about climate change around the world).

Schools should in any case be using their educational remit to teach pupils about climate change, but in the spirit of the declaration should also extend this to demonstrate good practice in the management of their buildings and grounds, in actively involving pupils and in helping to raise awareness amongst parents and families.

This builds on the original Nottingham Declaration by bringing the commitment to a more local level, where there is an opportunity to support and extend the local authority's own climate change activities out into the wider community. Further to this, there is an urgency about what needs to be done to tackle climate change, and this new Declaration could help to galvanise more momentum and a collective approach to addressing this.

## **Why has the original Nottingham Declaration been successful?**

Other than the enthusiasm and peer pressure from within local government, the success of the original has depended to a large extent on the support of a national **Nottingham Declaration Partnership** (Carbon Trust, Energy Saving Trust, Environment Agency, Local Government Association, Improvement and Development Agency, UK Climate Impacts Programme) of key organisations set up in 2005, which has gone on to conduct marketing campaigns, develop online 'one stop shop' type guidance and supported it by training and regular profiling at local government events.

## **Nottingham Declaration for Schools working group members**

- Marlene Cassidy, Head of Sixth Form, Nottingham Girls' High School
- Maggie Crittendon, Environmental Coordinator, Nottingham Girls' High School
- Paul Goodburn, Environmental Education Coordinator, Nottingham City Council
- Laura Mayhew-Manchon, Children's Services EMAS Coordinator, Nottingham City Council
- Hugh McCahon, Schools' Environmental Coordinator, Nottinghamshire County Council
- Mike Peverill, Regional Climate Change Coordinator, East Midlands Regional Assembly
- Martin Smith, Outdoor and Environmental Education Manager, Nottingham City Council

## **Nottingham Declaration for Schools working group**

[nottingham.declaration@collegest.org.uk](mailto:nottingham.declaration@collegest.org.uk)

c/o Outdoors and Environmental Education, Nottingham City Council Children's Services,  
College Street, Nottingham, NG1 5AQ

Tel. 0115 947 6202

Fax: 0115 941 1073