

Dandelion

www.dandelion.scot



www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/dandelion-schools



“I was instantly impressed by both the design and scale of Dandelion, but I was most impressed by the opportunity that the project gives young people across Scotland to learn in both a meaningful and interdisciplinary way while helping build a legacy from COP26. Combining citizen science, music, storytelling, festival celebration and of course ‘tattie growing’ is not an easy thing to do but becomes possible through good planning and strong partnership. Dandelion has already assembled a unique range of partners to deliver this project and now there is a chance for schools across Scotland to join and add further strength to the Dandelion eco-system.”

Ollie Bray, Strategic Director, Education Scotland

INTRODUCTION

The Dandelion Schools’ Growing Initiative (DSGI) is Scotland’s largest ever community growing initiative. Taking place from April to mid-September 2022 in schools across Scotland, pupils involved will be citizen scientists in Scotland’s largest community-led growing experiment, as well as creative producers of their own Harvest Festivals, sharing learning, lunch and live music.

DSGI will include specially designed Growing Cubes (secondary and ASN schools only) and tattie growing supported by a Tattie Team, recruited by Scotland’s Rural College (all schools).

Over the course of the DSGI approximately 100,000 children and young people from 500 schools will be involved and the project will culminate with hundreds of Harvest Festival celebrations in schools, playgrounds and sports fields (all schools) on Friday 9th September 2022.

The data gathered by your citizen science has a purpose beyond pupils’ own learning. It will contribute to Scotland’s food future. It will be used in real time to help shape the emerging stories from the Dandelion project. It will also be collated and published by SRUC and used in their conversations with Scottish Government, growers, scientists and industry stakeholders to help build strategy around new technology for food growing and sustainable, fair food production.

PROJECT AIMS

The Dandelion Schools' Growing Initiative aims to:

- Provide integrated STEAM learning opportunities with strong connections across the project elements creating relevant and memorable learning experiences
- Support transition processes and planning for choices and changes within Curriculum for Excellence Health & Wellbeing as well as Green Careers.
- Create experiences through which young people can connect with their place, its past, and possible futures through food, culture and music.
- Develop high quality engagement with local networks of people, including musicians, and community growing groups.
- Improve practitioner confidence in using sustainable food as a context for learning.
- Lead to a better understanding of the complexity of sustainable development in communities and the process of learning for sustainability.

PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES

- Learn about vertical farming and the use of hydroponics and LEDs in growing using Dandelion cubes (secondary and ASN schools)
- Grow potatoes, using sustainable growing medium provided by Dandelion, with your friends and family and bring them back to share as a dish at Harvest
- Explore what your school would look like on a plate by creating a bespoke menu using resources created by food innovator, Simon Preston
- Access resources created by Dandelion Creative Ethnologists Steve Byrne, Mairi McFadyen and Gary West
- Learn newly commissioned songs written in Gaelic, English and Scots
- Create a pupil-led Harvest Festival and invite your school community to celebrate.

WHO WILL BENEFIT?

This project will benefit young people in year groups P7, S1-3, their teachers, school management and the whole school community. It will be particularly relevant for those leading on Enterprise, Transition, Green Careers, Skills for Work and Life, DYW, and Learning for Sustainability initiatives.

The project will be especially beneficial for educators wishing to develop their practise in interdisciplinary approaches to Learning for Sustainability, linking to the Eco-Schools programme as well as other whole school awards.

Young people with passion and the relevant skills, knowledge and experience will be at the heart of a thriving Scottish food culture, a sustainable food industry and happy, healthy and connected communities that celebrate local culture and diversity. The Dandelion Schools Growing Initiative supports young people to develop in these areas in creative, fun and educational ways. It is delivered in partnership with Keep Scotland Beautiful, a charity providing education initiatives that focus on environmental issues for children, young people and educators.

WHAT IT COSTS?

- Participation in Dandelion Schools' Growing Initiative is fully funded.
- Secondary schools receive the growing cube and related computer technology.
- All schools receive seed potatoes, growing medium, £350 towards your Harvest Festival and a support pack (fully aligned to CfE) free of charge.

PROJECT PHASES AND TIMELINE

SUMMER TERM

(April to
June 2022)

Secondary schools -
receive and assemble the
cube, commence growing
experiments

All schools - The Great Tattie
give away and experiment.
School and community
growing in informal spaces,
including at home in unusual
containers and in the ground!

Reporting to Citizen Science
app. dashboard and Dandelion
blog

Planning for your Harvest
Festival

SUMMER HOLIDAYS

(optional)

Connection to local Dandelion
activities, including Free for
All events and Unexpected
Gardens

Possible maintenance of crops
/ growing at home

Practise your Harvest Festival
dish with family and friends

AUTUMN TERM

(August and
September 2022)

Harvest your crops

Promote and prepare for your
Harvest Festival on Friday 9th
September 2022

Host your Harvest Festival
celebration

Share your Dandelion
experiences and learning

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Associated training opportunities are offered by Keep Scotland Beautiful in the period Jan – March 2022 for pupils and staff to help you prepare to take part. They are not a requirement but will give you additional skills and knowledge to support your engagement in Dandelion. These opportunities include:

- Climate Ready Classrooms: delivered to pupils to help them navigate the science behind climate change and reducing their carbon footprint.
- Young Reporters for the Environment: supports young people aged 11-25 to share an informed view on environmental issues on an international platform using the media of writing, photography, and videos
- Eco-Schools Scotland: provides a framework and support for you to continue to develop your engagement beyond the life of the project.

WHERE?

Dandelion will work with schools and communities across 12 Local Authority areas, including:

Local Authority	Unexpected Garden (cultural) host
Argyll & Bute	Cove Park
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	Taigh Chearsabhaigh
Dumfries & Galloway	The Stove with Stranraer Development Trust
Dundee	TBC
Edinburgh	Lauriston Farm
Falkirk	Unexpected Garden curated by Dandelion in partnership with Falkirk Council and Scottish Canals
Fife	The Leven Programme (The Green Action Trust – lead)
Glasgow	Unexpected Garden curated by Dandelion at Govan Graving Docks in partnership with Aproxima Arts
Highland	Fèis Rois and Lyth Arts
Inverclyde	RIG Arts
Moray	Findhorn Bay Arts
Scottish Borders	Alchemy Film & Arts

REGISTER FOR Dandelion

Please note that DSGI is open to targeted schools by invitation only. If your school is in one of the Local Authority areas listed above and you have received this information from a Local Authority contact and you would like to participate, please use the link below to register.

The wider Dandelion project includes community-based events and resources. Invited schools have been particularly targeted for the potential to benefit from these community links as well as considerations of inclusion and opportunity. All participating schools will receive seed potatoes and £350 towards a pupil-led harvest festival. Schools may wish to host their own festival or to pool their resources for a larger event, depending on their context.

As a cluster project, the majority of the primary schools from the cluster group must participate along with the secondary school. Please arrange to discuss with your cluster /associated school group how, as a cluster, you would like to be involved. Each school in the cluster that wants to participate should register their own school.

The next step is to register on this link and complete the [online form](#).

Please register by close of business on Monday 31st January 2022.