SUSTAINABILITY LEARNING CONFERENCE

IMPACT REPORT 2026

25th June 2026 · Ewood Park, Blackburn Rovers Football Club

Held in association with Blackburn Rovers Community Trust and the Lancashire Schools Sustainability Forum

Delivered by Sustainability Learning CIC



About the conference

A not-for-profit, pupil-led sustainability learning event

Once again hosted at Blackburn Rovers Football Club with support from Blackburn Rovers Community Trust, the 2026 conference was delivered by Sustainability Learning CIC alongside the Lancashire Schools Sustainability Forum and a wide range of environmental, education and community organisations, bringing pupils, students, staff, governors and specialists together in one place to learn, share ideas and inspire action.



Pupil Voice

Primary pupils and secondary students led their own learning journeys through practical, interactive activities.

Peer-to-Peer Learning

Secondary students and cadets guided younger pupils, building confidence and leadership on both sides.

Cross-Generational Learning

Pupils carried ideas home to share with families and wider school communities.

Not-for-Profit Delivery

Funded by registration fees, sponsorship and the generosity of partner organisations and individuals.

Participation & reach

Strong engagement from schools across the North West, and beyond!

6000+

Participants over 9 years of the conference

10,000+

Participants over 20 years of the conference

48

Primary schools booked pupil places

384+

Pupil places booked

13

High schools represented on the day

190+

Key Stage 3 students took part

Schools travelled from beyond the North West, including Birmingham. On average, two members of staff attended per primary school. Secondary participation grew to 13 schools on the day, up from 11 initial bookings, despite three cancellations from unforeseen closures due to hot weather.

Peer-to-peer & cross-generational learning

Young people leading young people

52

Key Stage 2 groups supported by a guide





62

Group guides recruited, from 6 high schools, Police Cadets and local Scouts

Guides helped primary pupils move around the venue, supported engagement with activities, and encouraged questions and curiosity.

For secondary students and cadets, the guide role built confidence, organisation, communication and leadership, stepping outside their comfort zone in a way that benefits them well beyond the conference.

Smaller guided groups also helped marketplace organisations engage pupils more meaningfully, giving them more chances to participate, ask questions and talk directly with stallholders and workshop providers.

Marketplace & Professional Development

Connecting schools with sustainability organisations, employers and specialists

39

marketplace stands

Environmental groups, charities, employers, education providers and community organisations showcased their work. Pupils, students and adults engaged directly with representatives — from Octopus Energy and Friends of the Earth to Solar for Schools, the Bee Centre, Ribble Rivers Trust and Eco-Schools, among 39 organisations in total.



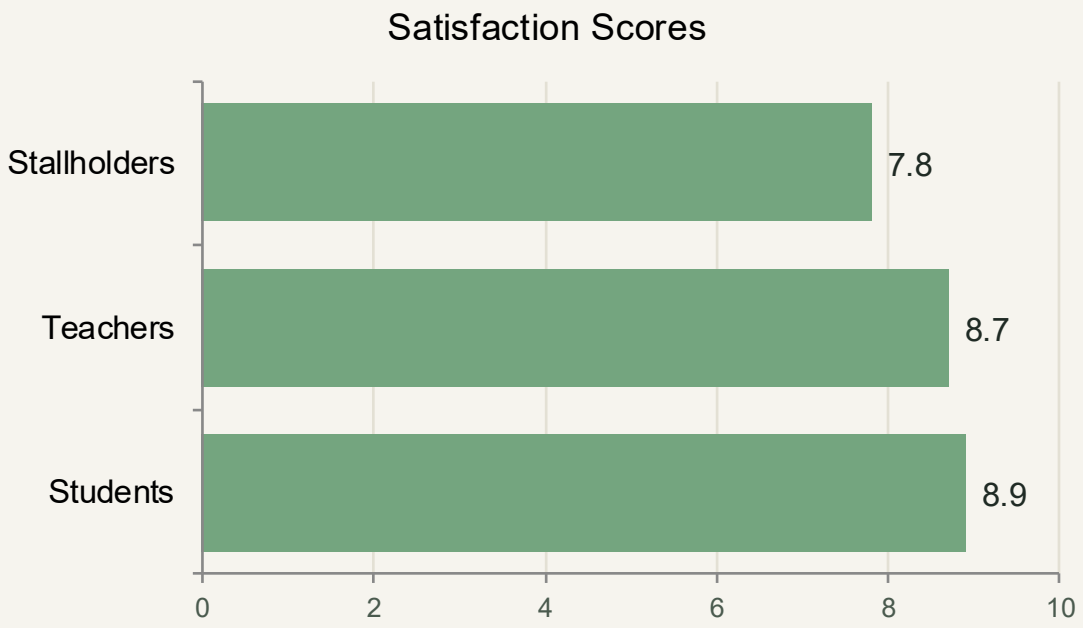
120

adults attended CPD sessions

Teachers, senior leaders, governors and other adults heard from specialists, shared ideas and considered practical action for their schools. Curriculum CPD offered classroom-ready ideas; leadership CPD connected whole-school initiatives, estate improvements and links beyond the curriculum. The marketplace itself doubled as a professional learning space, helping adults identify partners, resources and expertise to bring home.

Impact & feedback

Well received feedback across all stakeholder groups



Feedback highlighted the quality and variety of activities, high levels of student engagement, and a real impact on sustainability awareness and future career aspirations — several students linked the day directly to GCSE options and career interests, including a new interest in ecology as a career.

Key Strengths

- High student engagement and enthusiasm
- Wide range of hands-on sustainability activities
- Strong links to careers and future learning
- Positive behaviour and interaction from students
- Excellent attendance and vibrant atmosphere
- Strong willingness from exhibitors to return
- Well-received CPD opportunities for staff

Looking forward: Our 2027 conferences

Continuing to grow pupil voice, peer learning and climate action

22 April

Thu 2027

Midlands Sustainability Learning Conference - Earth Day

St Andrew's at Knighthead Park, Birmingham City FC

The first conference to celebrate Earth Day at Birmingham City FC.

24 June

Thu 2027

20th Sustainability Learning Conference - 10th Year Anniversary

Ewood Park, Blackburn Rovers FC

A milestone event celebrating twenty Sustainability Learning Conferences.

The aim remains to inspire children and young people, support educators and leaders, strengthen partnerships and help schools build the knowledge, confidence and motivation to contribute towards a more sustainable future.

Our supporters

































































Thank you

To every school, student, guide, sponsor, stallholder, volunteer and partner who made the 2026 Sustainability Learning Conference possible – thank you for inspiring action among pupils, leaders and governors.

www.sustainabilitylearning.co.uk

Sustainability Learning CIC

