**Further information**

The National Education Nature Park represents the land of the entire education estate as one whole environmental asset. That asset has great potential for improving biodiversity if education institutions are supported to develop its natural capital but also to make best use of it as a valuable learning resource for children and young people.

The Climate Leaders Award is designed to incentivise and celebrate the contribution of children and young people in improving biodiversity on their estates and communities as well as taking wider climate action.

The following videos give additional context:

* Video of the Secretary of State for Education launching NP & CLA at COP26 in November - [Climate Leaders Award and National Education Nature Park - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AfncYuLrWUU)
* [Sustainability and Nature Park animation video](https://design102.wistia.com/medias/ksl8g4file) which was used at the COP26 launch of the NP and CLA to explain both initiatives.

The NP will help develop the sustainability and climate resilience skills of children and young people. If we consider the whole of the land on which the education estate sits, schools alone in England would cover an area over twice the size of Birmingham. Through the NP, we will encourage education providers to think of this land as one whole ‘Park’ which, if stewarded well, has a vast potential to help halt the decline and eventually improve the biodiversity in this country. Even small strips of land on the most urban of sites have potential to increase scope for insect life, wildlife habitats and biodiversity.

The NP initiative was inspired by the Dasgupta Report - the outcome of an independent, global review on the Economics of Biodiversity led by Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta (Frank Ramsey Professor Emeritus, University of Cambridge) which highlighted the economic value of nature. It is also in response to the knowledge that children and young people’s mental health and wellbeing improves with increased time connecting with nature.

In addition to improving biodiversity across the country and engaging children and young people in nature, through use of tools such as biodiversity mapping, it will help develop their skills in mapping, numeracy, data analysis and analytical thinking. We plan to partner separately with an organisation that delivers high quality geospatial mapping services to deliver the digital elements of the NP. This tool should provide valuable data sets on the biodiversity of the education estates as well as information on flood resilience, water and energy usage and other data.

The NP will also act as a digital hub where early years practitioners, teachers, children, and young people can find learning resources and ideas for nature-based activities for children and young people to do to support the curriculum, bringing together useful resources, activities, and contacts from other stakeholders with established track records for working successfully in this area.

The CLA will act as an ‘umbrella’ for the many excellent existing awards and activities that stakeholders currently provide. In doing so, it will help increase participation in nature-based activities and celebrate and recognise the enormous effort that so many education providers and children and young people put into improving their local environment.

We will continue to develop this initiative in conjunction with children and young people.

We have worked with the Natural History Museum to engage with stakeholders to conduct some initial research to help scope the NP and CLA. If you would like to see a copy of this research, please email the Sustainability and Climate Change Unit at DFE.Sustainability@education.gov.uk with the subject ‘NP&CLA Engagement – NHM RER’.