



Upstream Battle Professional Learning Programme Twilight One – Feedback Report

This Programme is funded by The West Partnership and implemented by Keep Scotland Beautiful in partnership with Education Scotland.

Prepared September 2019

Background

Focused on the River Clyde and its tributaries, Upstream Battle aims to raise awareness, gather evidence and inspire action to prevent marine litter at source. Communities, individuals, schools and the private and public sector are all encouraged to work towards one common goal: to stop litter from getting into the Clyde.

Available for teachers across the West Partnership Collaborative, the aim of the Upstream Battle Professional Learning Programme (PLP) is to develop confidence in delivering on each pupil's entitlement to Learning for Sustainability (LfS) and build STEM skills through the context of source to sea litter. The PLP is delivered through a blended learning model combining four face to face twilight sessions and online learning. An interdisciplinary approach supports skills in enquiry-based learning.

Online applications were received from 61 applicants representing 57 different establishments (Early Years, Primary, Secondary and ASN) across all eight local authorities of the West Partnership Collaborative (table one).

Local Authorities	Number of applicants	Establishments represented	Early Years	Primary	Secondary	ASN
East Dunbartonshire	11	10	2	6	3	0
East Renfrewshire	6	6	1	3	1	1
Glasgow City	9	9	1	8	0	0
Inverclyde	4	3	0	3	0	1
North Lanarkshire	5	5	0	5	0	0
Renfrewshire	10	8	1	9	0	0
South Lanarkshire	11	11	1	9	0	1
West Dunbartonshire	5	5	1	2	2	0
Total	61	57	7	45	6	3

Table One: Breakdown of applications for the Upstream Battle Professional Learning Programme



Programme Outcomes

- To build confidence and develop STEM skills in the context of source to sea litter.
- Support HGIOS best practice by taking a whole school approach to Learning for Sustainability.
- Collaborate across schools, communities and partners in the STEM family to learn and share best practice.
- Create applied local learning opportunities in a range of STEM activities, raising attainment and achievement
- Receive direct support to gain or renew an Eco-Schools Scotland Green Flag Award.

Twilight One

Twilight one introduced the PLP and its connections to LfS, STEM skills and Eco-Schools Scotland. This was an opportunity for participants to get to know each other and participate in teambuilding activities to explore the issue of source to sea litter.

Four introductory twilights were held between Monday 16 - Thursday 19 September 2019. Hosting schools included Kirktonholme Primary, Mosshead Primary, Bridge of Weir Primary and Darnley Primary.

Participants

A total of 52 participants from Early Years, Primary, Secondary and ASN establishments took part across the first four twilights, representing all eight local authorities in the West Partnership Collaborative. Two participants engaged via remote learning due to other commitments during the twilights. Resources have also been shared through the Dumfries and Galloway STEM team to promote cross-collaboration across local authorities.

Some participants are long standing Eco-Coordinators within their establishments while others are new to the programme. All participants shared they were looking forward to the opportunity to collaborate, build STEM capital and learn new ideas to take the agenda forward within their own establishments.

Groups were asked to rank their current knowledge and confidence levels to deliver Learning for Sustainability and STEM skills through the context of source to sea litter. On a scale of 1-7 (1 being none and 7 being a large amount), the majority (65%) placed themselves between 3-4 of having some knowledge/confidence. This activity will be done again at the end of the programme to measure impact.

Activities

Activities included:

- An icebreaker to introduce participants and explore themes within the topic of source to sea litter
- Introductory discussions on the PLP, LfS, STEM skills and Young Reporters for the Clyde



- Group work to build confidence levels and understanding of the issue of marine litter (source to sea pathways, litter levels/types and degradation rates)
- Q&A session on online learning activities and upcoming twilights

Online learning

The PLP uses the online platform of Microsoft Teams to support participants, engage in conversations, share resources and complete a series of online learning activities (table two):

Activity	Timeframe	Duration
Online learning activity 1/2: GTCS self/whole school evaluation	September - October 2019	2.5 hours
Online learning activity 3: Planning/implementing your unit of enquiry	October – February 2019	2.5 hours
Online learning activity 4: Reflect on your unit of enquiry	February 2019	3 hours
Online learning activity 5/6: GTCS self/whole school evaluation	March 2020	2 hours

Table two: Online activities taking place throughout the Upstream Battle Professional Learning Programme

Most participants (89%) now have access to the online platform. Those who are awaiting GLOW login details have been emailed resources separately in the interim. Some users have experienced difficulties accessing GLOW/Teams. These issues have been reported to Local Authority digital support officers for troubleshooting and guidance. In the first online activity, participants were asked to reflect on areas of strength and areas for development within the themes of source to sea litter, STEM skills and Learning for Sustainability. The exercise focused on both individual and whole school development and will be completed again at the end of the programme to assess the impacts made.

Highlights, Opportunities and Next Steps

Participants shared they enjoyed the opportunity to meet and learn together with colleagues across different local authorities. Twilights provided a valuable opportunity to support participation on the Eco-Schools Scotland programme, particularly for new coordinators who had the opportunity to seek guidance. Early Years practitioners were excited about the potential to co-collaborate on the development of resources within this theme. Participants were also able to draw from previous Upstream Battle experiences, such as the regional Stem the Flow competition. For many educators, the PLP has provided an opportunity to build capacity in utilising and sharing online resources via Microsoft Teams.

Twilight two will take place between 7-10 October 2019 and focus on exploring local learning opportunities and citizen science. This will form the basis of plans to start engaging in enquiry topics within practitioner's own context. Formal evaluation is planned mid-way through and at the end of the programme.