



Dear Head Teacher,

We trust this finds you and your community well under these unusual circumstances.

We are writing to you on behalf of your local Eco Essex community. We are reaching out to all Essex schools on a proposal to reduce environmental impact this Christmas and beyond.

This year has been unprecedented due to Covid-19 and we understand that schools have been under much pressure to respond. However, Climate change is also considered an urgent threat and we are asking schools to consider their environmental impact as a priority.

With this in mind we want to support schools in finding positive ways to move forward with becoming more eco-aware and using 2020 & Covid-19 as a motivating factor to bring about long term, and necessary, positive environmental changes.

The pandemic has taught us that we can all adapt our behaviour quickly when required. Our community urgently wants to see schools making long term, positive changes for the sake of our environment. Since the 1997 Kyoto agreement each UK local authority has had an agenda 21 policy in place to encourage best practice. More recently many are updating Local Plans with the UN's 17 sustainability development goals; which I am sure you will be aware aims to reduce our collective environmental impact across a range of criteria.

With this in mind, we at Eco Essex are campaigning for schools in Essex to take the Eco Essex Christmas Pledge for 2020.

The pledge seeks that from this year onwards schools will suggest an alternative policy for Christmas card giving, with a *significantly* lower carbon footprint than each child giving cards to each of their friends. We do appreciate that card giving is a fun part of Christmas so we have come up with some alternative suggestions. Please see enclosed 'Information Sheet'.

If you would like to join other schools in taking part in this pledge, we would be extremely grateful if you could publicly post on your schools website and social media platforms - using #ecoexsex #ecoexsexschoolchristmaspledge2020 as we wish for your schools' pledge to inspire other schools.

If you would like to know about other creative ideas we have for schools and how you can collaborate with Eco Essex to make some extra cash for your school this Christmas (and beyond), then please email us at ecoexsex@gmail.com.

Also, we'd love you and your staff to join our online education community to get more inspiring ideas & support on reducing your schools environmental impact and also to share your pledges: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1101410233387546>

Thank you for reading this far; we very much look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Hannah, Sam & the Eco Essex community

