

ACL

applied creativity lab

IMPACT REPORT & CASE STUDY



CLIMATE CHANGE AWARENESS & AGENCY

February 2025

The
Sheffield
College



The
Sheffield
Sixth Form



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JESSICA RICK

Environmental Sustainability
Manager

The Sheffield College

Our partnership with IVE has flourished over the past year, with students from a wide variety of subject areas in the College taking part in ACLs. This programme has awakened student's enthusiasm and interest on issues around climate change and sustainability, as well as helped them develop valuable employability skills and grow in confidence.



IVE have been delighted to deliver our Applied Creativity Labs (ACLs) to various students at The Sheffield College. It has been a pleasure to work with these young people, developing their transferable skills whilst finding creative and practical solutions to Climate Change.



JO LEE

IVE Project Manager

WHAT IS AN APPLIED CREATIVITY LAB?

Young people develop new solutions for real world problems, often climate change related, including: new ways to reduce air pollution, ensure food sustainability, improve waste management and reduce fast fashion; or improve mental health. Applied Creativity Labs® develop the possibility mindset and metacognition to support young people to become effective and resilient, giving them new creativity skills & behaviours that:



help them think divergently, freely and more creatively.



develop problem-solving, critical-thinking, presentation & literacy skills.



develop resilience, confidence, independence, team work & the ability to innovate.

In September 2024, IVE became a Skills Builder partner and incorporated essential skills within ACL delivery.



Students were asked to identify a 'Build Skill' (a skill they wanted to consolidate and build upon) and a 'Challenge Skill' (a skill they needed to develop) to work on as they undertook the project. IVE associates supported reflection on these skills throughout the journey.



CONNECTING WITH EXPERTS

The ACLs start and end with expert speakers connected with sustainability. These experts share short presentations of 5-7 minutes where they outline the Climate Change issue from their perspective, and within a Sheffield specific context, inviting the learners to come up with their own solutions. The experts then return for the final pitch event, to hear the ideas that have been generated. They offer advice and ask clarifying questions. By sharing their professional experience and supporting the ideas being shared, the ACLs provide learners:



Douglas Johnson (Sheffield Cllr)
 Laura Ellendale (Sheffield City Council)
 Sophie Hunter (IVE Associate)



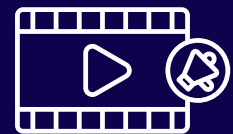
Up to date information about Climate Change



Insight into different careers



An opportunity to engage with adults beyond their community



Gravitas and a sense of occasion for the final pitch event

Lee Jowett, Climate Change and Sustainability Fellow at Sheffield Institute of Education & Sheffield Hallam University shares images of local flooding in Sheffield in his expert presentations.

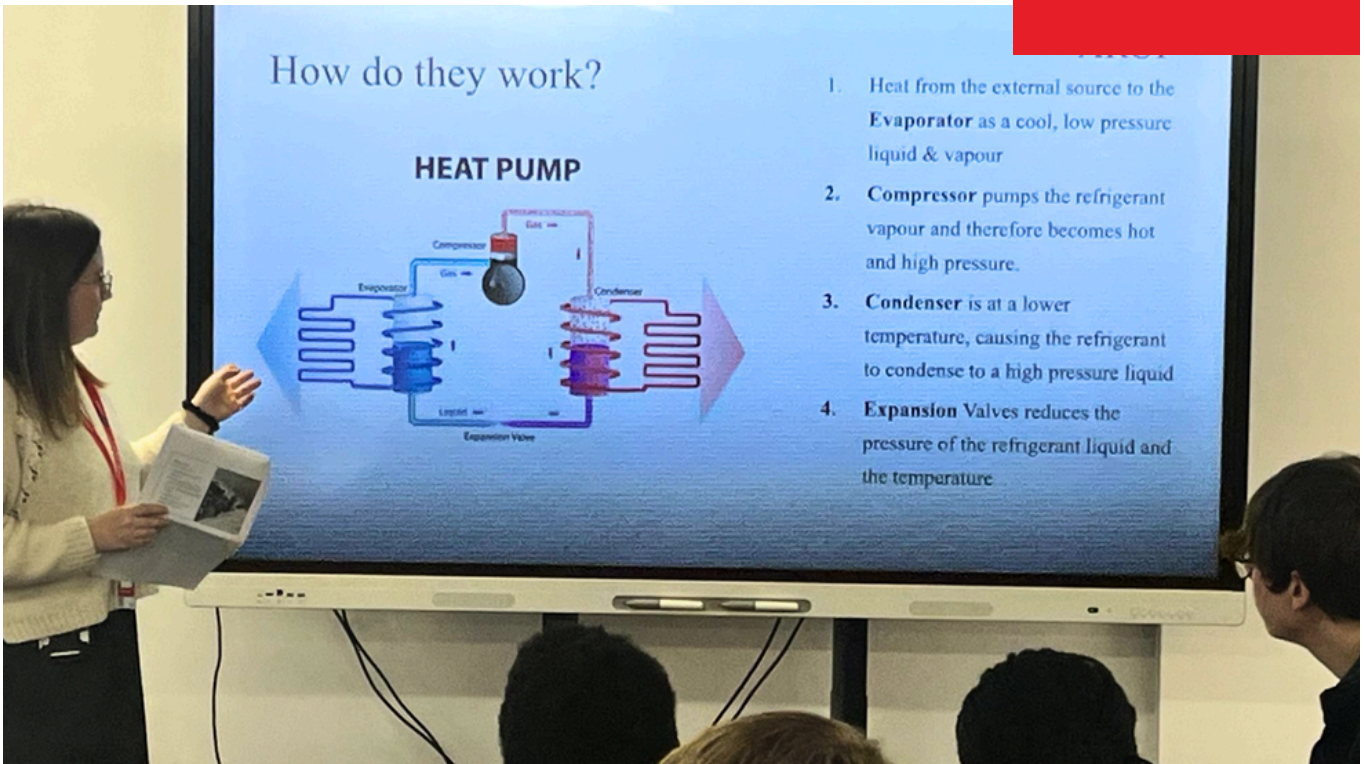
Lee believes in the importance of placing the Climate Challenge within the immediate context of the students. His expert presentations have inspired and provoked powerful solutions from the students.



Local flooding in Sheffield

ACL DELIVERY AT THE SHEFFIELD COLLEGE

ARUP



- * Ideas included advocating for electric cars for learner drivers; hydrogen vehicles; a “Bottle It” campaign to reduce single use plastics; a social media campaign to inform about climate change; indoor green spaces around campus; and a “Less time wasted” campaign to reduce travel time to and from college through condensed in-person learning.

**ELECTRICAL,
PLUMBING &
ENGINEERING**

Learners:

29

Mar-May 2024

Connections with experts at ARUP were especially significant for students who will be trained to install heat pumps in the future.

ACL DELIVERY AT THE SHEFFIELD COLLEGE



- * Level 2 Early Years students completed some of their ACL workshops in the Forest School, which is an area where early years children will be able to enjoy and learn about nature and the environment.
- * Ideas included 'The Power of Baby Clothes' - how to reuse baby clothes and make them last longer, supporting children and families to grow food in recycled pots and creating a fashion show of upcycled clothes.

EARLY YEARS

Learners:

Most popular Build skill:

Most popular Challenge skill:

Sept-Dec 2024

15



- * Ideas included a "Say no to Palm Oil" campaign, awareness of Fast Fashion, encouragement of public transport with "It's better on the bus", discussions with the College Canteen to reduce food miles and the winning group who created a unique campaign called "The Ugly Truth" protecting ALL animals from extinction ... not just the cute ones!

SIXTH FORM

Learners:

Most popular Build skill:

Most popular Challenge skill:

Dec 2024
3 days intensive

31



ACL IMPACT



87 students

took part in ACLs between 2023-2024. They were from

6 subjects

- Geography
- Biology
- Electrical
- Plumbing
- Engineering
- Early Years

The Early Years students most enjoyed:

lot of things
new skills
Forest School
teamwork
skills
environment
different people
communication skills
going outside



Sophie Hunter (IVE Associate), Lee Jowett (Sheffield Hallam), Laura Ellendale (Sheffield City Council), Kate Vines (Education and Early Years at The Sheffield College), Level 2 Early Years Student, Jess Rick (Environmental Sustainability Manager at The Sheffield College), Kat Fletcher (IVE Associate)

ACL IMPACT



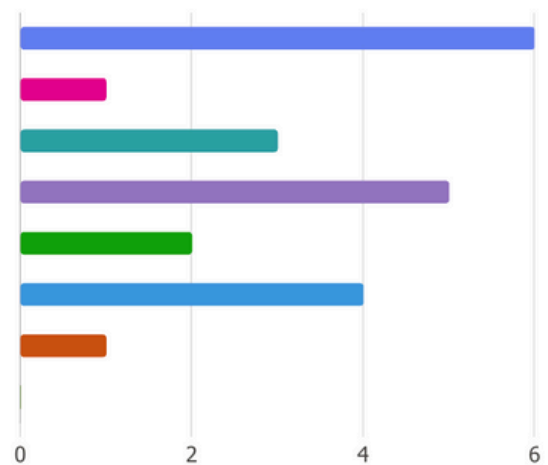
The presentations were of a really high standard and the students came up with some really innovative and creative solutions. I was really impressed with them. The feedback from the students was really positive and they said it was unusual for them to work in this way. The creative elements were very well received

- IVE Associate reflecting on the Sixth Form ACL, Dec 2024



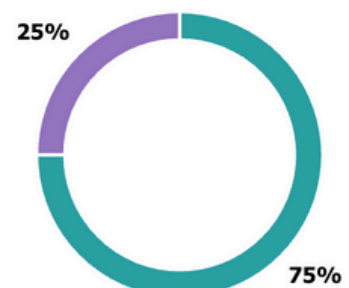
3. My Build skill was:

Listening	6
Speaking	1
Problem Solving	3
Creativity	5
Staying Positive	2
Aiming High	4
Leadership	1
Teamwork	0



4. To what extent do you agree with the statement: "The ACL helped me develop my chosen BUILD skill"

Strongly Disagree	0
Disagree	0
Agree	15
Strongly agree	5



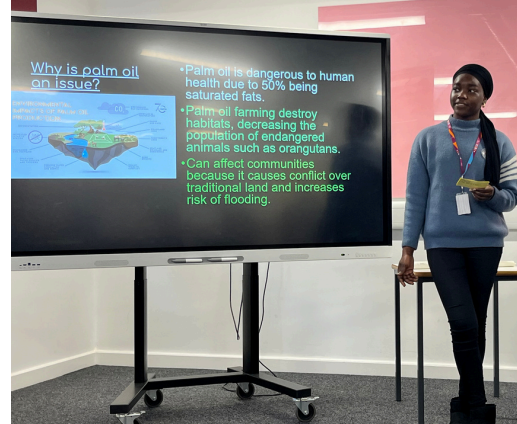
ACL IMPACT



“

I overcame Social Anxiety to stand up in front of others and present my ideas.

- Sixth Form students.



“

I most enjoyed building communication skills when going outside to the Forest School.

- Level 2 Early Years students.



“

I'm pleased to say that they have smashed it!

Week 9 - Four groups, four sustainability pitches and four success stories.

Many barriers overcome with the support of IVE Associates Sophie Hunter and Kat Fletcher pushing these learners out of their comfort zones.

- Kate Vines, Curriculum Manager, Education and Early Years at The Sheffield College



20th Anniversary



Green Gown Awards 2024

in association with



UK Research and Innovation

Highly Commended
Tomorrow's Employees

The Sheffield College



[Award page](#)

RECOGNITION

THE GREEN GOWN AWARDS

Project: GreenGen: Sparking Sustainability with IVE. There were 133 initiatives shortlisted from 84 further and higher education institutions with the college competing in the Tomorrow's Employees category. Gaining a 'highly commended' award, recognised the vision of the work being delivered in the Applied Creativity Labs.



This initiative helps students develop their creative thinking, advocacy and employability skills, as they grapple with potential renewable energy solutions for the transport and construction sectors. Highly commendable, excellent engagement with employers and a project that could be readily replicated by other departments and organisations - Judging panel.



Green Gown Awards



Jo Lee (IVE), Michael Anderson (Algonquin College), Jess Rick (Sheffield College), Judi Varga-Toth (Colleges and Institutes Canada), Natalie Dodds (Building Technologies at The Sheffield College) & Kate Vines (Education and Early Years at The Sheffield College)

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

The Sheffield College hosted Judi Varga-Toth, who runs Colleges and Institutes Canada's sustainability program 'ImpACT' and Michael Anderson, Professor in the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) dept at Algonquin College in Ottawa, on their study tour of European post-16 education institutions.

It was amazing to be able to share some of the great work colleagues at The Sheffield College have been doing around green skills for construction, and to celebrate the Applied Creativity Lab programme. It was encouraging to hear about our shared challenges and the potential to continue to share our sustainability journeys and make new connections in other parts of the world.



Michael & Judi visiting the Forest School, September 2024

FUTURE WORK

When NCS funding came to an end, IVE launched a Crowdfunder to run more Applied Creativity Labs. Plans are already in place to run an ACL for Art & Design students at The Sheffield College in March 2025 as part of the Big Green Week. This is match funded between the two organisations.



Creative Kids Tackle the Climate Crisis



www.weareive.org

CONTACT US

Email/

Jessica.Rick@sheffcol.ac.uk

Website/

www.sheffcol.ac.uk

**The
Sheffield
College**

CONTACT US

Email/

hello@weareive.org

Website/

www.weareive.org

