

Wilson's School

# ENVIRONMENT



Issue #03 - Feb. 2026

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Welcome to the third issue of the Environment newsletter, put together by the Eco-Committee. As Winter recedes, we reflect on a year's progress, and look forward to what is to come. We've been busy again this term, organising everything from Earth Day to Gardening club. Please read on to find out more, and we hope you enjoy the issue!



IMAGE CREDITS: Unsplash.com

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# INTRODUCTION

## About the Eco-Committee

Oscar [Y13]

The Eco-Committee is a group of teachers and students who meet regularly to try and improve the school's actions to support the environment. The students on the Eco-Committee are dedicated and passionate, ready not only to strive for environmental change themselves, but also encourage the rest of the school to get involved as well.

Together we carried out an Environmental Review. This provided a baseline against which to measure our actions and helped to identify areas for improvement.

After reflecting on the outcomes of the review, we completed the environmental assessment together. Our findings included:

- The school already has a strong emphasis on global citizenship.
- Transport was the highest-ranked category!
- The areas for development were: biodiversity, healthy living, litter, and marine.

In response to the review, we created an Action Plan. Some ideas included: forming a gardening club to create a space to grow vegetables on site and making posters to hang around the school, encouraging environmentally friendly behaviour. Thanks to the hard work of the Committee, the posters have been put up and bird feeders have been refilled! There will be more events and actions coming soon, which we hope you will get involved with.



# What We Have Done in the Spring Term

In the first half of the Spring term, we have been continuing with many aspects of our action plan. Firstly, we were able to fill up all three of the bird feeders on the school grounds! As the term has progressed, we have regularly refilled the bird feeders, which have been met with high demand!

Gardening club has progressed, and it has a promising location by the Science department. In the first session, we planted seeds ready for later this year.

Lastly, we are busy planning and preparing school-wide events for Earth Day, when the focus will be put on the environment and money will be raised for an environmental charity, Giving Green, alongside this year's chosen charity, Newlife.

Please look forward to more work from the Eco-Committee!



# 2025 – Environmental Review

*Harjit [Y8]*

## *From Wilson's and the World!*

2025 has been a significant year in geopolitics and technological advancements, but also notably for awareness of the environment. Research has been undertaken to assess the threats which animals face, and many initiatives have been taken to improve cleanliness and sustainability in the UK and the rest of the world. In this newsletter, you can find all the key information about the environment - including new ideas and plans from the Wilson's School Eco-Committee!



IMAGE CREDITS: [www.afab.org](http://www.afab.org)

## *COP30: What's Been Agreed for Our World?*

The COP30 conference was a deeply divisive discussion between many world leaders, with different countries outlining their own views about the world's climate crisis. The deal was fragile, and emerged in a bitter atmosphere. For example, many countries opposed the idea of ending fossil fuel extraction by nations such as Saudi Arabia (classified as an oil-exporting state according to the widely-taught fivefold economic division system).

Fossil fuels were also the subject of disagreement between COP President André Corrêa do Lago and Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, an argument which reflected the views held by many other nations. Whilst do Lago believed in reducing fossil fuel use, da Silva was opposed to forcing nations to switch to sustainable energy sources. This created a debate between leaders in the UK and the EU.

In the end, a key outcome was settled by the conference: the Mutirão Decision. This consists of several actions to follow plans to combat climate change, aligning with the aims and objectives of climate finance in the 2015 Paris Agreement. There was also an agreement to transition to trade abiding to climate-friendly initiatives. This plan demonstrates one of the true goals of COP30: turning pledges into actions.

### ***The Renewables - Is Sustainable Energy Being Used?***

Recently, renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power have overtaken coal as the world's leading method of electricity generation. China is the main source of this global advancement, increasing its eco-friendly power output and being the centre of many clean-energy technology exports.

But China's sustainable surge doesn't end there, as the newly-emerging economy (NEE) is engineering new technology to harness the energy of major storms using typhoon-resistant wind farms. The renewable energy industry is not only flourishing, but actively being revolutionised - paving the way for a fully synergised future that unites humanity and the natural world.

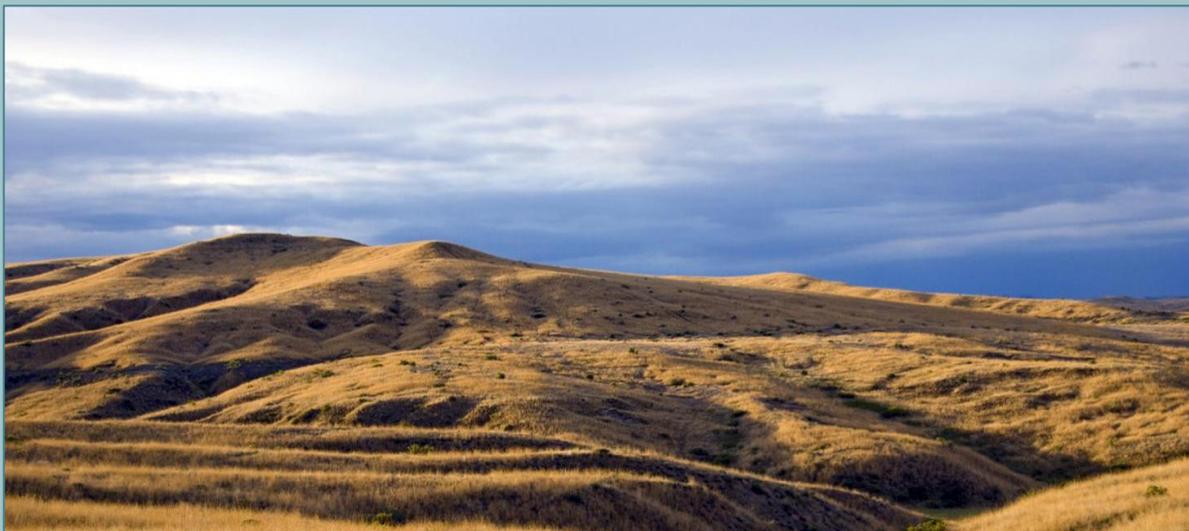
In the UK, wind was the most-used energy resource in 2024, covering one third of total demand. Coal has almost become obsolete, providing yet more evidence of progression towards a cleaner-energy future.



Furthermore, near the village of Carrington in the North-West of England, preparations are being made to build the largest liquid air energy storage facility in the world, to provide a source of power for when it cannot be obtained from wind or sunlight. Technological and infrastructural innovations are laying the foundations for a brighter environmental future.

This is particularly noticeable as, globally, the power output of renewable resources is increasing, and even expected to double between 2025 and 2030, an increase of around 4,600 GW (International Energy Agency, 2025).

If these trends continue, we may see a full conversion to renewables in the future. This would have a profound impact on the rate of climate change and pollution of the planet. Additionally, carbon-negative initiatives by many companies and organisations, if they become widespread, may halt and even reverse the negative effects of emissions.



Credit: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

## ***The World's Biodiversity: Species of the Earth - Are We Working to Protect and Preserve Them?***

There are many conservation projects that are helping species to thrive. For instance, the World Wildlife Fund's Sustainable Ranching Initiative, which is working in partnership with ranch owners in the Northern Great Plains to protect the grassland biome, has officially undertaken conservation work on 1.3 million acres of land. This milestone is particularly significant, as the Northern Great Plains are one of the world's last remaining temperate grassland habitats (World Wildlife Fund for Nature, 2025).

“The achievement stemmed from the Ranch Systems and Viability Planning network, a program encompassing 121 private ranches that provides training and support for ranchers to improve sustainable management of their ranches.”

WWF, Conservation highlights of 2025,  
<https://www.worldwildlife.org/news/stories/conservation-highlights-of-2025/> written by Daniel Vernick.

Last summer, in Bhutan, the first environmental DNA (eDNA) laboratory was established, which meant that DNA could be analysed there without having to be transported to another country. eDNA is genetic material obtained from what organisms shed or excrete (such as hair, skin or faeces). This is compiled into data to monitor and assess biodiversity nationwide, and to see if populations are thriving.

Bhutan, a country in South Asia, has an outstanding range of biodiversity. It is the habitat of Snow Leopards, Asian elephants and exceptionally rare plant species. Therefore, it is important to ensure that every part of the ecosystem is thriving and supporting the rest, so that its unique environment can be preserved. Bhutan is one of the first countries to implement this, with many more set to come.

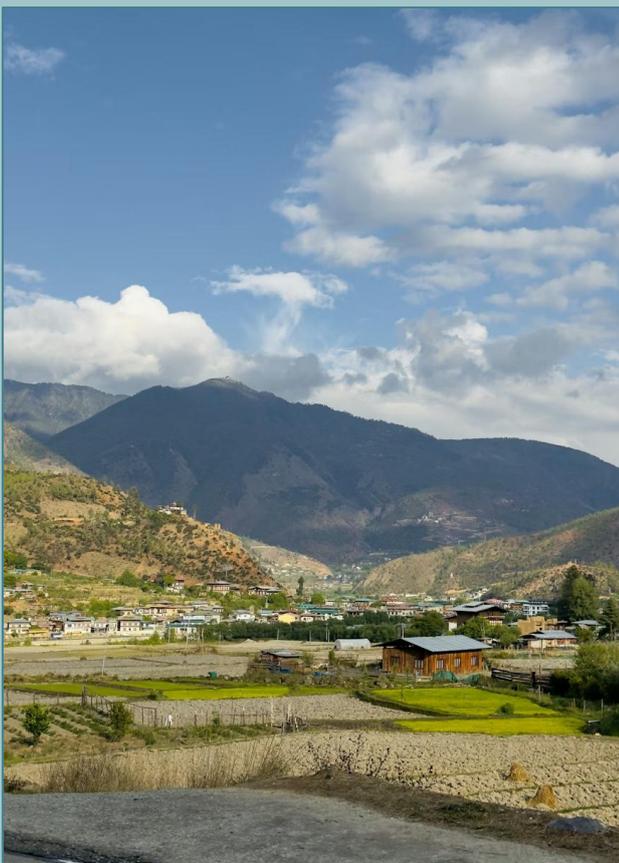


IMAGE CREDITS: Unsplash.com

### ***Is Wilson's Undergoing an Environmental Revolution Too?***

Wilson's School is working towards being an ever more eco-friendly institution. With the establishment of the Eco-Committee, awareness is being raised, initiatives are being launched to promote a clean and green school, and activities are being organised to build connections between students and the environment. These actions will ensure that students gain the knowledge and skills that will help the school and their planet.



# App Review: Pl@ntNet

*Kaan [Y10]*

How often do you spend time in nature with the sole purpose of enjoying its beauty? It would come as no surprise to me if your answer to this question was towards the end of the spectrum of “rarely” or perhaps even “never”. And, yes, it is true that, as students, we often find ourselves spending a lot of our time studying and having less time left to do other things, like taking a walk in nature. However, relaxing is crucial for our wellbeing as it can significantly reduce everyday stress.

## ***Why should you use this app?***

Do you love plants? Do you like hiking? Would you say you are keen to learn new things? If your answer to these questions is “yes”, then you are in luck! For me, taking a walk in the forest or a local park is one of the most relaxing things to do, and a great way to rest my mind - and I am sure that, if you give it a try, it will be for you too.



IMAGE CREDITS: Alexander Rasheed [Y12]

This is where Pl@ntNet, a free app that helps you identify plants you see during your walk, comes in. It is very easy to use, since all you have to do is take a photo of the plant and upload it to the app, and you are immediately shown all sorts of information: the name of the plant, where it is found, the rarity - the list goes on.

What's more, you can save the different plants you find and make a list of them during your walk. Maybe you will encounter a familiar-looking plant you recently studied in biology. Maybe you will want to have a look at all these photos in ten years' time. All of this is made possible by Pl@ntNet.

So I ask you, why not try this out the next time you feel like going outdoors and taking a walk? You never know what awaits you in nature; you might even be lucky enough to find a Ghost Orchid or a Spreading Bellflower!

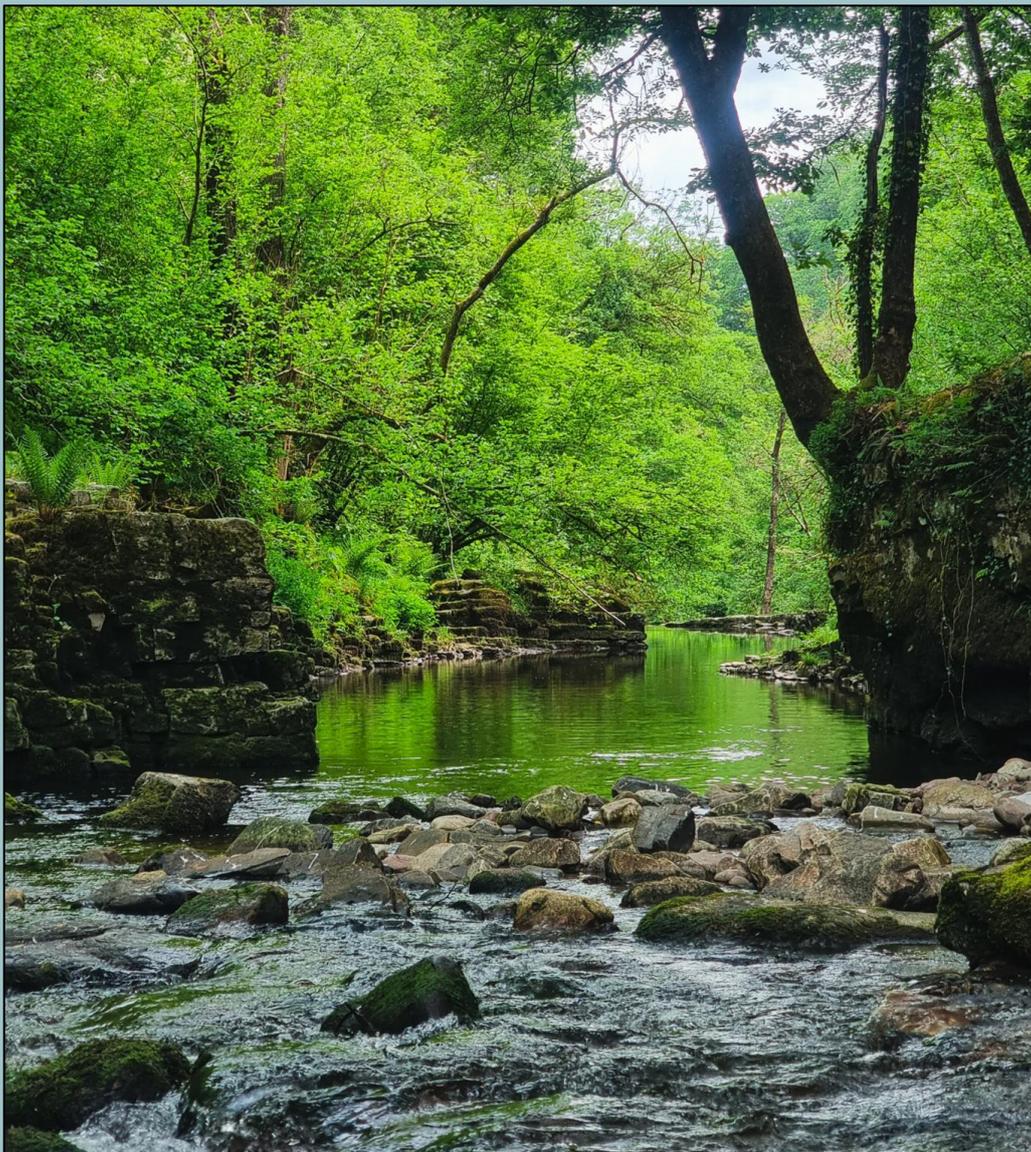


IMAGE CREDITS: Alexander Rasheed [Y12]

# Success for the Climate and the Environment in 2025

A Turning Point in Global Action

*Arya [Y8]*

## ***Success for the Climate and the Environment in 2025: A Turning Point for Global Action***

The year 2025 is increasingly being seen as a moment of cautious optimism for the climate and the environment. While global challenges such as rising temperatures, biodiversity loss, and pollution remain urgent, several landmark achievements show that coordinated international action can deliver real progress. Among these successes, the implementation momentum of the High Seas Treaty stands out as a powerful symbol of a changing relationship between humanity and the planet.

### ***The High Seas Treaty: Protecting the Global Commons***

One of the most significant environmental breakthroughs of recent years is the High Seas Treaty, formally known as the Agreement on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ). Although it was adopted by the United Nations in 2023, 2025 marked a decisive stage in its journey, as more countries ratified the treaty and began to prepare for its implementation.



IMAGE CREDITS: <https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/>



IMAGE CREDITS: Alexander Rasheed [Y12]

## ***A Success Built on Cooperation***

What made the environmental progress of 2025 particularly meaningful was the role of multinational cooperation. The High Seas Treaty exemplifies how nations with diverse interests can come together to manage shared resources responsibly. It reflects a growing understanding that global problems require global solutions—and that delay comes at a far greater cost than action.

While 2025 was not the end of the climate and environmental crisis, it represented a turning point. Successes like the High Seas Treaty show that progress is possible when ambition is matched with cooperation and accountability. The challenge now is to build on these achievements, ensuring environmental protection goes hand in hand with sustainable development.

# The Environmental Improvement Plan

*Nikhil [Y8]*

The Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) 2025 was published in December 2025 by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) as an updated version of the Environment Act 2021. Its aims are to restore nature, improve environmental quality, and address how long-term environmental targets will be met.

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## ***Landscape Recovery Projects***

Working with farmers, conservation groups and local communities, Landscape Recovery projects aim to restore rivers and wetlands by rewetting and repairing peatlands and expanding woodlands.

These projects have many environmental benefits: mitigating climate change (as peatland and woodland store carbon dioxide), allowing fauna and flora to thrive, and maintaining a clean and sufficient water supply.



## ***Forestry Expansion***

Forestry expansion aims to increase woodland creation in order to meet targets set by the Environment Act 2021. It also incentivises farmers to integrate trees into farmland, known as agroforestry.



IMAGE CREDITS: Alexander Rasheed [Y12]

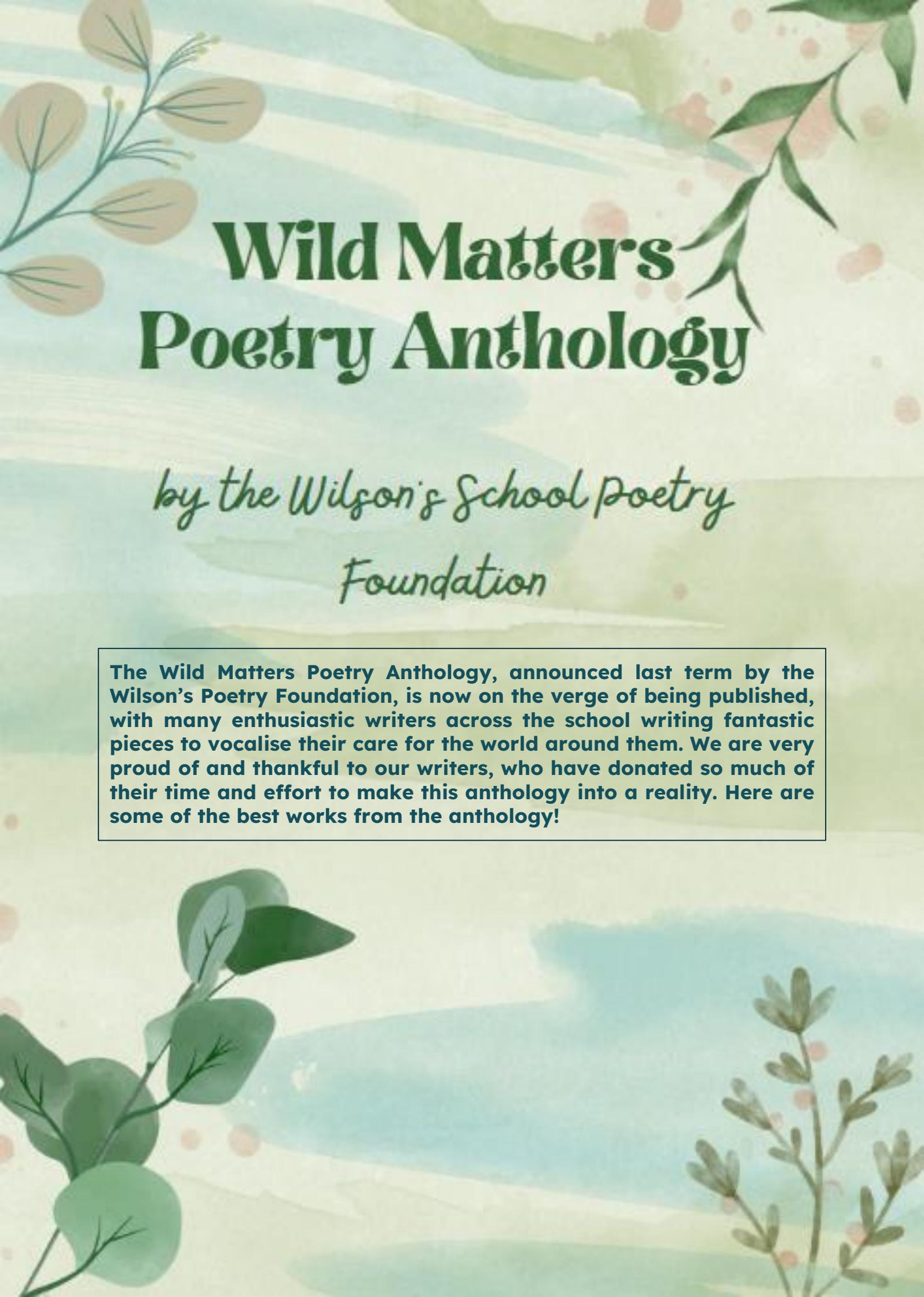
This has advantages for birds, insects, and mammals as they are provided with new habitats, meaning that biodiversity can increase. An increased number of trees can mitigate climate change, as trees store carbon dioxide, and livestock on farms benefit from shelter and shade as well as fruits and nuts.

## ***Water Quality and Pollution Reduction***

To improve water quality and reduce pollution, there will be stronger regulations on sewage discharge, industrial pollution, and agricultural runoff. Agricultural runoff is when rainwater washes chemicals or waste off of farmland into rivers, lakes, and coastal waters. This can cause contamination of drinking water, loss of biodiversity, and soil degradation.



To mitigate this, farmers use better storage for manure, buffer strips and riparian tree planting. Buffer strips are areas of vegetation that slow down surface runoff, trapping soil, manure and pesticides before they reach the water. Riparian tree planting involves placing trees on strips of land along rivers to stabilise the riverbanks and reduce erosion.



# Wild Matters Poetry Anthology

*by the Wilson's School Poetry  
Foundation*

**The Wild Matters Poetry Anthology, announced last term by the Wilson's Poetry Foundation, is now on the verge of being published, with many enthusiastic writers across the school writing fantastic pieces to vocalise their care for the world around them. We are very proud of and thankful to our writers, who have donated so much of their time and effort to make this anthology into a reality. Here are some of the best works from the anthology!**

## Scene from the Globe Hospital, Brazil: 10.11.25 by Arjun [Y9]

*Enter UNNAMED NURSE, whistle bouncing around her neck.*

NURSE: Sir, I think you need to see this.

*DOCTOR turns slowly around. He wears an indifferent smile.*

DOCTOR: What's the matter?

NURSE: We have a new patient, Sir... urgent care.

*Enter UNNAMED PATIENT, wheeled in on a trolley.*

*Her face is contorted in a silent agony*

*Her thinning tresses lie*

*damp across her ice-pale forehead*

*Swirling bruises rage*

*like hurricanes across her body*

*A sheen of burning sweat*

*envelopes her figure*

*Her smoke-coloured shirt is suffocating her*

*DOCTOR glances at his monitor.*

DOCTOR: Take her away. No-one wants to see that.

NURSE: But Sir, she's burning up! We must do something!

*PATIENT opens her mouth weakly. No sound emerges.*

*(The shortest of pauses.)*

*DOCTOR sighs and turns delicately to the nurse.*

DOCTOR: Would you like a cup of tea?

## **I Was There by Chris [Y10]**

I was there when the stars were brightest,  
When the great Ravines were mere etches  
In the mud from which God gave life to  
The most insatiable of beasts.

I was there when Man was let free from  
The confines of Eden- allowed to  
Taint the world with endless ambition.  
Their race, granted the Promethean  
Gift of flame, set their ploughs into the  
virgin soil from which they were made.

I was there when the forest cried, sobbed  
for mercy as fields were razed to ash,  
When the sparks of fabled union  
Stoked the flames of civilisation,

Now, perched on top the highest of peaks,  
I count the sins of Man, and the days  
Until the heavens proclaim Judgement  
On these wretched fools and their Caesars.

For I am an aged Father of Time,  
Gaze upon my Trunk, buckled by the  
Decades, gnarled by the millennia.  
Roots petrified like Medusa's snakes,  
And leaves falling like the morning star.  
I'm fading, and yet you gawk at my  
prehistoric creases, knowing that

I am METHUSELAH, and I was there.

# The Environment

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