

# Generation Science 2025

For twelve weeks across February to June this year, our five teams of trained Science Communicators travelled across the country, delivering hands-on STEM shows and workshops in primary schools in 28 Local Authority areas.

With each activity linking directly to topics from the Curriculum for Excellence, children had the chance to get hands-on with chemical reactions, explore Planet Earth's changing climates, and construct their own hydro-powered *Green Machine*.

*"They all absolutely loved it. It's the highlight of the year."*

**Primary school teacher**

## Generation Science in numbers

**18,288**  
PUPILS

**270**  
SCHOOLS

**587**  
WORKSHOPS

**13**  
SCIENCE  
COMMUNICATORS

**13%**  
OF ALL SCOTTISH  
PRIMARY SCHOOLS

**22,947**  
MILES TRAVELLED

**683**  
HOURS OF  
SCIENCE



# STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1

To increase science capital among our audiences.

*Generation Science* exists to raise interest, engagement and attainment in STEM topics by delivering exceptional, hands-on learning experiences in primary schools across Scotland. The project aims to close the skills gap that exists for roles in STEM industries by creating a life-long interest in STEM topics.

Research shows that the greater a young person's science capital – the sum of all their science-related knowledge, attitudes and experiences a person builds throughout their lives – the more likely they are to continue with post-16 studies in STEM. We design and measure our *Generation Science* experiences to ensure they add to the science capital of both pupils and teachers, with a focus on maximising impact.

Our feedback indicates that *Generation Science* is creating engaging, positive experiences of STEM, building children's science capital.

99% of teachers surveyed would recommend it to another teacher or school, and 95% would book again if funding permitted.



## Key metrics

**100%**  
AGREED THE  
ACTIVITY  
BROUGHT STEM  
ALIVE FOR PUPILS

**99%**  
AGREED THAT  
PUPILS WERE  
ENGAGED WITH  
THE ACTIVITY

**100%**  
AGREED THAT PUPILS ENJOYED THE  
ACTIVITY

*"Most children said they would like to do more science in the future and would like to learn about jobs in STEM."*

**Primary school teacher**

*"Teachers appreciate that *Generation Science* workshops bring resources to their school that would not otherwise be available to their pupils, and that the workshops get their pupils excited about science, interested in further exploring the concepts, and thinking about pursuing future careers in STEM."*

**External evaluator**

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

To champion accessible and equitable participation in science, particularly with underserved audiences.

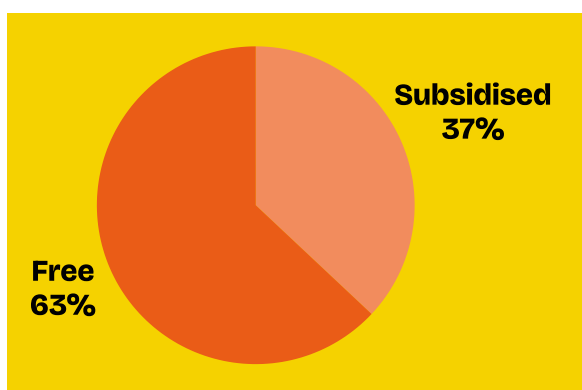
We know that Scotland’s geography presents unique challenges for remote and rural communities, who often face barriers to accessing educational resources such as science centres or recruiting experienced science teachers. We commit to delivering to schools irrespective of their location or size, ensuring that every school receives the same great *Generation Science* experience. 33% of this year’s tour was delivered in remote and rural primary schools, including two full weeks in the Western Isles and two weeks in Shetland.

Finances remain a significant barrier to accessing STEM education, so with the support of our funders we were able to deliver 371 experiences entirely free of charge, with the remainder of the tour provided to schools at a heavily subsidised rate.

A third of our visits took in the 40% most deprived areas on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD), where schools are in the most need of support.



### Key metrics



*“Generation Science was an annual event in previous years at our school but sadly we are all feeling the pinch. Because the session was offered to us free we jumped at the chance to have them visit.”*

**Primary school teacher**

**34%**  
SIMD  
QUINTILE 1&2

**28**  
SCOTTISH LOCAL  
AUTHORITIES

**33%**  
REMOTE AND RURAL  
AREAS

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3

To support delivery of science topics in the Curriculum for Excellence

Many primary school teachers lack confidence in teaching STEM topics due to limited training or knowledge – only 30% of teachers whose classes we visited have a high level of science capital. To help fill this knowledge gap, each *Generation Science* experience has been created to deliver learning outcomes from the [Curriculum for Excellence](#) science framework.

Activity	Curriculum for Excellence Links
Day or Night?	Planet Earth
Electric Explorers	Forces, Electricity & Waves
Fizz, Boom, Bang	Materials
The Green Machine	Planet Earth
Our Changing Climate	Topical Science People, Place and Environment

We send teachers notes with every *Generation Science* booking, which provides the teachers with easy to digest information on the science covered within the activity so they can confidently talk to their classes about what they learned.

We also provide a number of follow-on experiments and activities that can be done back in the classroom tied to the learning outcomes of the topic, to ensure teachers are empowered to continue teaching the subject after our science communicators have left the school.

### Key metrics

*“[The best part is] seeing the children enthusiastic and enjoying science. Takes the pressure off me, teaching these things with limited resources is difficult.”*

**Primary school teacher**

**70%**

**TEACHERS VISITED HAD LOW OR MEDIUM SCIENCE CAPITAL**

**94%**

**AGREED THE ACTIVITY SUPPORTED THEIR TEACHING**

*“Not only does *Generation Science* present scientific concepts at a well-crafted, pedagogical gold standard, but the instruction is done in a fun way at every age level.”*

**External evaluator**