

02 _KEEPING YOU INFORMED OF HOW
_TO PLAY YOUR PART IN MAKING
_A BIG DIFFERENCE
_TO THE PROBLEM
_OF CLIMATE CHANGE



Welcome to the autumn 2005 edition of [e]ENERGYWATCH, the electronic energy journal for schools in the United Kingdom.

Please browse through and enjoy this issue and if you have any opinions, comments or questions we encourage you to email us

energywatch@create.org.uk

HOTSPOT

IMPORTANT ENERGY NEWS IN BITE SIZE CHUNKS

INVITATION TO SCHOOLS

Sciotech Projects, a non-profit energy efficiency and sustainable development organisation, is looking for primary and secondary schools to carry out trials this year on a number of environmental educational modules.

For details email Rayner Mayer, rayner@sciotech.demon.co.uk

THE VERY HUNGRY SCHOOL

WWF has launched an online literacy and numeracy resource package based on The very hungry caterpillar story. It offers pupils the chance to explore issues on water, energy, food, transport, and waste and materials.

www.wwflearning.co.uk

EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

A three-day course for educators who currently deliver environmental education and wish to advance their skills.

December 5-7 in Castleton, Peak District,

www.losehill-training.org.uk

FUTURE FORESTS IS NOW KNOWN AS THE CARBONNEUTRAL COMPANY

The new name is simply a better way of reflecting the wider range of ways the company helps business, government and individuals to tackle their contribution to climate change.

In addition to forestry projects, work includes carbon emissions reduction, renewable energy and biomass schemes, as well as carbon management and risk consulting.

Find out more on the new website:

www.carbonneutral.com

THINK ENERGY

www.think-energy.com

This energy website has been relaunched and includes interactive material, downloads and a teacher section containing information on how the resources support the national curriculum

SHOUT ABOUT CLIMATE

This Key Stage 3 cross-curricular pack covers four topics that can be studied as a series of lessons or as part of an organised themed day or week on climate change. They are:

- What is climate change
- Effects of climate change
- Solutions to climate change and;
- What can we do?

They can be obtained free of charge from:

Friends of the Earth,
26-28 Underwood Street,
London N1 7JQ

Tel: 020 7490 1555
Email: info@foe.co.uk

www.foe.co.uk

GO MICRO!

The first ever research into the effect of microgeneration on attitudes and behaviours in homes and schools, reveals the remarkable impact of on-site generation on our everyday energy use, and calls for decisive government action. Details of the research can be found at

www.sd-commission.org.uk

ENERGY CERTIFICATION FOR SCHOOLS

400 SCHOOLS ON TARGET FOR ENERGY AWARD

St Albans Girls School in Hertfordshire is the latest school to embrace energy efficiency in the classroom as part of the Energy Saving Trust's Energy Certification for Schools programme.

Paul Lerwill, Support Services Manager of St Albans Girls' School said:

“Getting involved has been easy. Participation will not only be educational for the pupils and beneficial to the environment, but great fun too! We are expecting to raise awareness of savings we can make and introduce the whole school community to our new programme.”

Matt Percy, Energy Certification for Schools programme manager at the Energy Saving Trust said:

“The programme is a great way for the whole community to get involved in saving energy. Students, teachers and governors can all contribute to saving money on energy bills and reducing carbon dioxide emissions. This year we've also teamed up with National Grid to help aspiring engineering schools achieve their specialist schools status - the Energy Certification for Schools programme is an integral part of achieving this.”

The programme provides expert assistance from the Energy Saving Trust, with participating schools forming Energy Teams who carry out school energy checks and monitor energy use. The Teams are also bringing energy and the environment into the curriculum - all of the schools taking part will learn how saving energy helps save money and the environment by reducing carbon dioxide emissions. Schools across England who sign up to the scheme will receive a welcome pack full of all the information they need to participate and successfully achieve the two levels of certification.

The scheme is being managed for the Energy Saving Trust by the Building Research Establishment in partnership with CREATE.

To register with the programme visit www.est.org.uk/schools or telephone 0870 128 28 20

ENERGY CERTIFICATION FOR SCHOOLS

PARK JUNIOR SCHOOL
IS THE FIRST TO SUCCEED!**Congratulations to the first school
to achieve Level 1 certification
of the Energy Saving Trust's
Energy Certification for Schools**

Here's how they did it!

Park Junior School in Kettering has had an energy policy in place since 2002 and with the help of an established team of senior managers and maintenance staff they have been measuring and reporting energy use for a number of years.

In the autumn of 2003 they compared their energy and water use with the rest of the county and found, to their surprise, that although they were managing their water and gas well their use of electricity was much higher than it should have been. This provided a starting point, a focus for their activities, but they needed to find out why their electricity use was so high.

“By using more electricity we were responsible for more carbon dioxide emissions (which affect our global climate). It turns out that electricity, far from being the clean energy source everyone thinks it is; produces at least twice as much carbon dioxide as burning gas for each kWh we buy” - said Mrs Julie Lee, the school Bursar.

Mrs Lee carried out a survey of energy awareness amongst staff and pupils and completed an initial energy check by looking round the school at what electrical equipment they had. She set up an E-team including teachers, support staff, site staff and pupils and later a member of the board of governors also joined the group. The diversity of the group reflected that everyone in school is an energy user and has a valuable contribution to make to the conservation effort. The first meeting established their ongoing roles and responsibilities.

By early 2004 a revised energy policy was in place which clearly set out energy reduction targets of 10% in electricity use and 5% in gas use to be reached by January 2006. Their first action was to raise awareness and start a switch off campaign for the computers, lights and office equipment in the school. The E-team decided to adopt a drip-feed strategy and as a result, new housekeeping rules were quickly established. 7 day timers were installed to the water cooler and all hot water heaters.

“Simply by educating everyone to switch off computer screens and lights unless they were actually being used, we made impressive savings from the word go,” said Mrs Carol Herbert, Learning Support Assistant.

Year 6 pupils were sent on a mission to find out what was happening in the school. They reported back that some rooms were too hot, heaters were obstructed, lights were left on, hot water in some areas was too hot and in some classrooms there was no hot water at all.

The school's E-Team launched its awareness campaign in 2004 and regularly kept the whole school community involved and informed through display boards, assemblies and bulletins.

“It was a logical step to register for the Energy Certification Scheme and get credit for all our activities,” said Mrs Linda Robinson, Science teacher.

OTHER AWARDS AND COMPETITIONS

THE SHELL ECO-MARATHON UK INITIATIVE 2006 GETS UNDERWAY



The Shell Eco-Marathon UK Schools Initiative has now passed the half way point in its selection process, with 18 schools selected to take part in the programme. It was originally planned that 20 winning schools would be invited to take part, however due to exceptional levels of interest; the programme has been extended to 30 schools.

A total of 3,400 schools from across Britain were invited to enter the initiative which was launched at Rockingham Motor Racing Circuit in July. The programme, which is supported by the Learning Grid, The Royal Academy of Engineering and Honda (UK), has been developed to encourage secondary schools throughout the UK to include engineering on the curriculum. Participating schools will each be supported by a local engineering company.

Professor Matthew Harrison, Director of The Royal Academy of Engineering Best Programme explained:

“These schools are a priority for The Royal Academy of Engineering. By supporting them with an entry in the Shell Eco-Marathon UK, we are exercising our strategic objective to encourage a more diverse set of young people into engineering.”

Bob Gilbert, Chairman of Motorsport Development UK said:

“The level of demand from schools just goes to show how keen teachers and their students are to get involved. This initiative, with its focus on energy efficiency, is highly relevant to the challenges that will face these young people in their careers. I am particularly pleased that the programme has attracted so many entries from schools who would not traditionally have taken part in this type of activity.”

Each school will benefit from a free Shell Eco-Marathon UK starter pack to assist them with the project. The pack includes a 4-stroke GX31 engine supplied by Honda (UK), a design and build manual and an introduction to a locally based engineering company who will assist and mentor the project.

Natalie Griffiths, Head of Technology at Cottingham High School, East Yorkshire expressed her school's enthusiasm for the initiative:

“Our participation in a high profile and highly rewarding initiative such as this will encourage both students and staff. I have taught many girls whose design and development skills would make them fantastic engineers, but will not consider engineering because of society's perceptions of the faculty. It would be great to use this opportunity to help overcome the gender stereotype surrounding engineering.”

The challenge for schools will be to design, build and compete with their own car in the Shell Eco-Marathon UK scheduled for 12th & 13th July 2006. The focus of the competition is improved energy efficiency, which is an investment focused firmly on the future and on sustainable energy resources. These students will be building the cars of the future.

The final list of schools will be announced over the coming weeks.

For the latest details see www.shell.com

OTHER AWARDS AND COMPETITIONS

EXXONMOBIL LINK SCHOOLS
PROGRAMME SHORT-LISTED
FOR EI AWARD

For a number of years ExxonMobil has provided education and financial support for schools linked to its operations in Aberdeen, Fife, Fawley and Leatherhead. CREATE has been part of this support, providing advice on energy efficiency in the schools and assisting the development of energy activities across the curriculum. This has included the development of the Energy Chest website (www.energychest.net) and facilitation of educational equipment for the teaching and learning of science and technology.

In recognition of its community education work, the ExxonMobil's Link Schools programme has been short-listed for the 2005 Energy Institute (EI) Community Initiative Award.

Each year the EI Awards celebrate innovation and the achievement of excellence that is demonstrated on a daily basis by people working in the energy industry. As the professional body for the industry, publishing industry codes and guidance and accrediting best practice, it is fitting that one of the Energy Institute's key annual events recognises the achievements of organizations and individuals that stretch the boundaries of best practice through innovation, community engagement and a passionate commitment to their work.

The EI Awards ceremony takes place on 25 November at the Savoy Hotel, London. Guest speaker is Sir Ranulph Fiennes, often described as the 'world's greatest living explorer'.

For details visit www.energyinst.org.uk/eiawards

NEW SUSTAINABLE
ENERGY AWARD
FOR SCHOOLS

The aim of the Ashden Awards for Sustainable Energy is to promote the widespread use of local, sustainable energy, because of the social and environmental benefits which it can provide. The Awards are for existing activities which already show sustainable energy in action and which have the potential to expand and be replicated elsewhere by others. The Awards are presented at a ceremony in London, which both celebrates the achievements of the winners and highlights the wider potential for local, sustainable energy.

In 2006 there is a new Award for sustainable energy in UK schools, with a first prize of £15,000 and a second prize of £5,000. The Award is being offered because of the crucial role of schools in highlighting the need for sustainable energy. The Award is for schools which have made sustainable energy a key, ongoing part of their practice and culture. This includes improving energy efficiency and using renewable energy within the school premises; integrating sustainable energy throughout the curriculum; and creating an ethos in which sustainable energy is a key aspect. The winning schools will have demonstrated successful practices which can be replicated elsewhere and the Ashden Awards team will work actively to promote these practices. Applicants must have clear plans for how to use the prize money to take further their own work on sustainable energy.

For details of the Ashden Awards visit

www.ashdenawards.org



NEWSROUNDUP

100 BRIGHT YOUNG THINGS

“The world needs sustainability literate leaders, people who understand the need for change to a more sustainable society and know what it takes to get there”

That, in the words of Forum for the Future’s Sara Parkin, is the thinking behind its Leadership for Sustainable Development Masters Programme, which has just celebrated its 100th graduate. The idea is that bright young things, recruited for their passion and leadership potential, can then plant the seed of sustainable thinking out in the wider world.

This year’s batch, fresh from a graduation ceremony involving a lively question and answer session with BP’s chief executive, Lord Browne, is set to take up places within central and local government, industry and NGOs. Erica Jobson, the 100th scholar of the programme, will be working as a consultant with communications agency Futerra to help civil service employees integrate sustainable development into their policy-making. Other graduates’ destinations include Defra’s Rural Development Service and carpet manufacturer Interface’s re-use and recycling programme.

Sam Clements is taking a different tack. After meeting a nun whose passionate campaigning for Brazil’s rainforests came to an end at the hands of paid gunmen, Clements has been inspired to do his bit to protect this natural wonder. He’s currently working with educational charity Learning through Landscapes, and is collaborating with teachers to create school resource packs based on her story (www.studentnunamazon.com), that could be used to teach issues from faith through to climate change.

Details of the Leadership for Sustainable Development Masters Programme can be found at:

www.forumforthefuture.org.uk/aboutus/leadsustmasters_page891.aspx

ZeroCarbonCity

ZeroCarbonCity is the British Council’s global campaign to raise awareness about climate change and the energy challenges facing the world’s cities.

Why ZeroCarbonCity?

An increasing majority of the world’s Population are living in cities. A significant part of climate change is affected by the actions of people in these cities. As major consumers of energy, cities occupy an important position in the climate change debate. They are centres of innovation, where action is most likely to happen. Cities have great potential to make a difference; change in cities can have a significant effect on the global situation.

How can you get involved?

ZeroCarbonCity will visit over 60 countries around the world with a wide variety of interactive events, including city debates, a touring photography exhibition, workshops, school projects, and experiments.

To support the campaign Sandy Carter and Mike Wolfe of CREATE recently visited Slovakia to prepare and assist local teachers in running activities for pupils visiting the exhibitions in Bratislava, Banska Bystrica and Kosice.



Participants in the training workshop in Bratislava gather to assess their environmental footprint.

For more details of the campaign visit www.britishcouncil.org/zerocarboncity

FREE SEMINARS: ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN EDUCATION

The Education and Community Group of the Energy Efficiency Partnership for Homes is holding a series of 6 workshops across the UK to disseminate the findings of recent research into the home energy efficiency education within the formal and informal education sectors.

The research was carried out by CREATE and explored the role of energy efficiency education in delivering the Government's Energy White Paper targets.

The full research report can be found at www.est.org.uk

Six seminars are taking place across the UK

Exeter	Tuesday 22 November 2005	2pm-4.30pm
Cardiff	Wednesday 23 November 2005	10am-12.30pm
Leeds	Tuesday 6 December 2005	2pm-4.30pm
Birmingham	Thursday 12 January 2006	2pm-4.30pm
London	Wednesday 18 January 2006	2pm-4.30pm
Glasgow	Tuesday 31 January 2006	2pm-4.30pm

The seminars will:

- Give an overview of why the research was undertaken, its aims, etc.
- Explain the methodology used: desk top research, telephone surveys, in-depth interviews, focus groups, analysis of Government opinion
- Give details of key findings and recommendations
- Explore with delegates how local strategies for delivery of home energy efficiency education can be developed

Each seminar will consist of formal presentations and small group work. One of the key outcomes of the seminar event will be for delegates to plan with others how they can best take forward the findings from the research and incorporate them into their own work programme to improve the delivery of home energy efficiency education in the formal and informal learning sectors.

If you would like to attend any of these sessions, please respond to:

Mary Wise - mary.wise@est.org.uk

SCIENCE MUSEUM POWERS BACK

The London Science Museum's Energy Hall has reopened after a six-month revamp. The £100,000 project means that the Energy Hall now conveys both the history and the future of energy generation, which is explored in the Museum's gallery Energy - Fuelling the Future.

Energy is an interactive gallery where children age 7-14, their teachers and families, can explore how energy powers every aspect of their lives. The gallery is packed with computer-based exhibits and feels like an energy playground. Visitors can play with novel interfaces from spinning drums and touch screens to dance-floor footpads.

You don't have to travel to London to experience the Energy gallery as it can be explored online at:

www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/exhibitions/energy

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