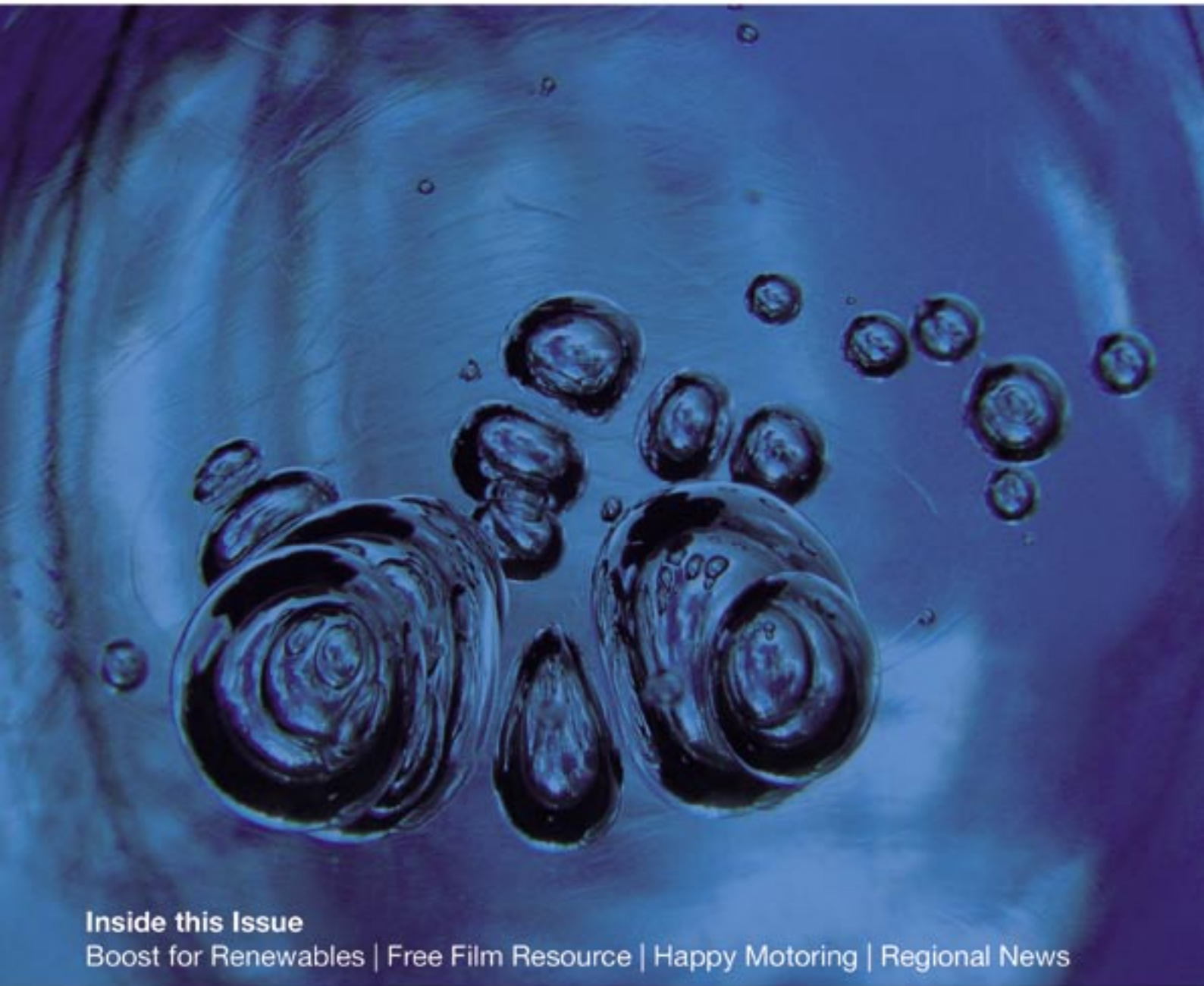


# energy watch



## Inside this Issue

Boost for Renewables | Free Film Resource | Happy Motoring | Regional News

# HOT SPOT LATEST NEWS

## The Queen is concerned

Her Majesty the Queen has expressed her personal concern, about the threat that climate change poses to the world. During her state visit to Germany, for the opening of the climate change conference there in October, she praised young British and German students for their presentation to her. She said this underscored how important the issue is to the next generation.

The Royal Household is also taking practical measures towards reducing carbon emissions. Earlier this year Windsor Castle received planning permission to install a 200kW hydro-electric scheme at Romney Weir in Windsor. The project is the first of its kind in the south of England and will generate environmentally friendly energy from the flow of water over an existing Thames weir. The electricity generated will be exported to Windsor Castle and should provide enough clean energy to meet around a third of the electricity needs. It should also offset approximately 600 tonnes of carbon dioxide every year, which would otherwise have been released in to the atmosphere from the burning of conventional fossil fuels.

For further information please telephone 01492 660811

## Clean, green and no extra cost

Electricity generated from 100% renewable resources will soon be available to schools and councils, and all other similar-sized public sector bodies, at the same price as electricity generated from conventional fossil fuels such as coal. A deal signed between OGCBuying.solutions, an Executive Agency of the Office of Government Commerce in the Treasury, and British Gas means that electricity from renewable energy sources, will be made available to all public sector bodies up to a certain size. Previously those seeking to buy 'renewable' electricity were only able to buy it if it was available at the time and, a premium was added to the price.

For the latest advice and information visit the new energy pages on the website: [www.ogcbuyingsolutions.gov.uk](http://www.ogcbuyingsolutions.gov.uk)

## SD Framework for Schools

CREATE recently attended a meeting at the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) to hear about the Sustainable Development Framework for Schools and associated website. Secretary of State, Charles Clarke has asked the department to develop a framework to help schools find their way around sustainable development (SD). The website will provide a 'one stop shop' for SD, by bringing resources and support programmes together in an understandable and useful format.

Keep yourself updated on the latest news on this tool by visiting our website regularly [www.create.org.uk](http://www.create.org.uk)

## Making the Modern World

A groundbreaking initiative in web learning, based on the Science Museum's landmark gallery 'Making the Modern World', has been launched, following an unprecedented collaboration between the museum, an education digital publisher and a sixth-form college.

Learning modules complement A Level subjects - particularly general studies - and looks at the birth of environmentalism and the rise of the consumer age.

Sixth form teachers and students from Peter Symonds College, Winchester played a crucial part in the development of the online publication and helped to ensure its place as an invaluable educational resource.

Visit the website at: [www.makingthemodernworld.org.uk](http://www.makingthemodernworld.org.uk)

# [ CREATE news ]

# CREATE



## CREATE AND UNITED UTILITIES ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT AND RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES.

### SANDY'S PROJECT



Sandy Carter, CREATE's Project Co-ordinator, is developing and managing a pilot education programme at United Utilities Leigh Environment Centre in Lancashire. The first teachers' workshop attracted positive feedback, one participant stated that:

**"The workshop has given me the motivation to present energy in a creative and enthusiastic way".**

Pupils from local primary schools are being invited to the centre to learn about climate change and sustainable energy in fun and exciting ways.

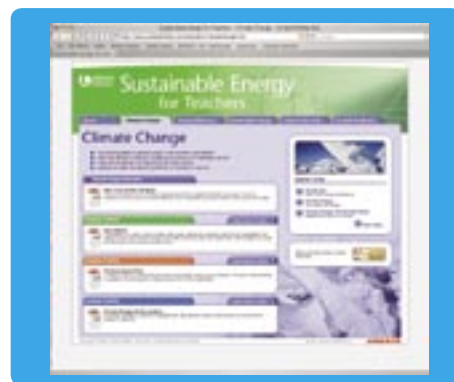
#### Activities on offer will include:

- Making a story book
- Preparing news reports
- Experimenting with the power of wind
- Investigating Solar Power
- Energy Efficiency Challenge
- Debating

This innovative programme has the potential to be rolled out to three other United Utilities environmental centres in the North West Region.

For more information about the teachers' workshops and activities for students email [sandy@create.org.uk](mailto:sandy@create.org.uk)

### JOHN'S PROJECT



CREATE's Education Officer, John Rodway, has worked tirelessly to produce an excellent range of curriculum materials that are now live on the United Utilities website

[www.unitedutilities.co.uk/teachers](http://www.unitedutilities.co.uk/teachers)

United Utilities Sustainable Energy for Teachers website provides background information and pupil activities, together with curriculum and descriptive web links, covering:

- Climate Change
- Energy Efficiency
- Renewable Energy

It states that:

**"Climate change has important implications for the health and welfare of future generations. This should be reflected in the education that young people receive through the curricula".**

John's aim has been to make the website helpful to educators of 7-14 year olds, for cross curricular work and especially to support energy topics in Science and Geography. Through this website, and in all of his work, John encourages teachers to use energy topics as a context for work in Literacy, Numeracy, Citizenship and Sustainable Development.

Use this excellent new resource to motivate your pupils to consider ways of reducing the effects of climate change and to build a sustainable future.

Visit the website [www.unitedutilities.com/teachers](http://www.unitedutilities.com/teachers)

# [ CREATE events ]

## Being Energy Smart York

**From Inspiration to Installation**  
Practical support for schools and communities  
interested in developing a renewable energy project.



**CREATE**



“Delegates at the conference were drawn from schools, community groups, local authorities and commercial organisations across Yorkshire and the North East, all demonstrating a keen interest in developing renewable energy projects.”

The latest CREATE conference was held at the National Railway Museum in York. Once again the atmosphere was as lively and inspirational. The Government Office for Yorkshire and Humberside and YREN (Yorkshire Renewable Energy Network) assisted with the organisation and promotion of the event. Delegates were drawn from schools, community groups, local authorities and commercial organisations across the region, all demonstrating a keen interest in developing renewable energy projects.

Gideon Richards, a Trustee to CREATE, chaired the proceedings and encouraged participants to take an opportunity to look around the impressive venue during the lunch break. The keynote address was given by Mike Smith, Head of Sustainable Development for Yorkshire Forward.

**Mike started by asking the question:** What kind of lifestyle do people want, materialistic, standard or simplistic?

He went on to ask how many power plants would be required to keep up a standard lifestyle in India, the answer he gave was just 3! Mike's point was to highlight the need to downsize our requirement in the developed world. He emphasised that what people decide to do will form the strategy for the way forward, not the policy documents from his organisation, government or anyone else!

In conclusion, Mike said that people need tangible incentives and rewards to encourage them to live more sustainable lifestyles and expressed his frustration at the difficulty of selling energy efficiency. He emphasised the urgent need to move from a fossil fuel economy to a low carbon economy and said he is relieved to see that the people who understand about sustainable development are making significant strides in the right direction. It is important, he stressed, that they take others along with them.



Delegates and speakers by one of the Museum's impressive exhibits.

Other speakers in the morning included Barnaby Fryer from YREN and Anthony Heywood, a Building Research Establishment Associate and member of the Clear Skies team. Barnaby highlighted the support available for developing community renewables projects in the region and Anthony provided the latest information on funding.

The afternoon provided a platform for case studies, from Calder High School, near Halifax, The City School, Sheffield, 3 Streams Hydro, a community organisation that has secured Clear Skies funding for a hydro electricity scheme in the Calder Valley, West Yorkshire and Old Moor Wetlands Centre, where a biofuel boiler has been installed. After a lively question and answer session, CREATE's Sandy Carter got delegates talking to each other and sharing the actions they intend to take as a result of attending the conference. Participants were then invited to 'go public' with their thoughts, action plans and visions for their own organisations. The conference closed and people went away fired with enthusiasm, clutching information that will help them on the road to 'Being Energy Smart'.



# [ The day after tomorrow ]

## KIDS QUIZ KING

**Sir David King, the Government's Chief Scientific Advisor, launched a nationwide debate on global warming with the UK's school children on 14th October 2004.**

The DTI science expert answered questions on the challenges posed by climate change from more than 300 children at a special screening of the movie, *The Day After Tomorrow*, at a top cinema in London's West End last month. The children attended from every corner of the Capital and beyond, quizzing Sir David over the film's realism; the implications of climate change; our responsibility to the planet; and the life of a scientist.

The global warming blockbuster was being screened to 12-16-year-olds in 14 cities across the UK as part of National Schools Film Week to raise understanding of the issue. Climate change experts also attended all showings answering questions from young people.

Launching the initiative, Sir David said: "We cannot afford to lose sight of the impact climate change will have. And the best way to prepare ourselves is to ensure that future generations are at the front of the debate."

**"Using an engaging medium like film is an excellent way to generate interest and discussion of these key issues."**

The screenings were one part of a joint initiative for Young People on Climate Change, a partnership between government departments, including the DTI, Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and Department for Education and Skills (DfES), 20th Century Fox and Film Education.

A 'National Kids for Tomorrow' competition was also launched during these events. The aim is to encourage secondary schools to become more environmentally friendly, with two schools due to scoop £3,000 each for the best projects.

CREATE will keep a watching brief on the progress of this joint government initiative and will report on the outcome of the competition.

To find out more about what Defra is doing to involve children and young people in their work and for links to other government sites for children, young people and teachers, go to the website [www.defra.gov.uk/schools](http://www.defra.gov.uk/schools)

## WE LOVE WIND

**To harness the energy of the wind has become part of the tradition and culture of the village of Brill in Buckinghamshire.**



In the past the village had a windmill and now the local primary school is generating its own electricity from the wind. With help from Thames Valley Energy, the school successfully applied for a Clear Skies grant and installed a WT6000 wind turbine, with a 9 metre mast from Proven Engineering. The turbine has very low noise and will provide a reasonable output of electricity at low wind speed, whilst being able to cope with high wind speeds and gusts.

Head teacher, Chris Hirst, told EnergyWatch that the residents of Brill, the Parish Council and Aylesbury Vale District Council have shown interested and provided encouragement in the project, which has taken nearly two and a half years to come to fruition. He explained that the journey has been by no means easy, but he is now proud that wind power has been returned to the village.

## Boost for Renewables

Energy Minister, Mike O'Brien has announced that schools, houses and commercial buildings will benefit from £8.5million extra new funding, to encourage more energy production from solar panels and small-scale renewables.

The new funding will be made available through an additional three funding rounds of the Major Photovoltaics Programme, to take place in 2005/06 and an extension to the Clear Skies initiative.

In making the announcement, the Minister said: "In future, energy generation will often be small-scale and local. We need to change the way we think about energy. That starts at grass roots level - in our homes and communities - which is why I am delighted to announce extra funding for renewables".

For information please visit these websites:  
[www.est.co.uk/solar](http://www.est.co.uk/solar)  
[www.clear-skies.org](http://www.clear-skies.org)

## Free Film Resource

Film Education, a registered charity funded by the film industry in the UK, offers a range of free interactive resources to use with pupils. Of particular interest to teachers covering sustainability issues will be the resource based on the film 'The Day After Tomorrow'

**This digital resource comprises:**

Study guide which looks at three key study areas:

- The causes of global warming
- The effects of global warming
- The ways in which global warming can be prevented.

Study clips from the film with accompanying questions.



Order online at  
[www.filmeducation.org/cdroms.html](http://www.filmeducation.org/cdroms.html)

# [ regional round-up ]



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**CREATE**

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## WHEN IT'S FINE, USE A WASHING LINE!

CREATE is working with a group of local authorities in Northamptonshire to help promote energy efficiency and other important issues to householders.

Most recently, student members of the school council at Greens Norton Primary School in South Northants, worked as a group to develop ideas for saving energy, staying safe and making homes secure. After a workshop, run by CREATE the children presented their messages as short TV adverts to the whole school and then to invited guests, including villagers and local councillors.



Adam Friers, from South Northants Council, co-ordinated the event and displays were set up in the school hall by the local fire service, Neighbourhood Watch and the village volunteers.

The children's messages were put across very clearly with slogans such as:

"When the weather's fine, use a washing line"

"Save energy, stay safe and make sure you're secure"

As a parting shot, the children chanted: "It's important, says Greens Norton!"

## DRIVEN by Chip Fat

Another innovative transport idea is being trialled by Energy Solutions, a North West London based energy advisory service.



Roger Kelly, Chief Executive, told EnergyWatch that Energy Solutions is producing biodiesel on a small scale, from locally sourced waste cooking oils and running a Renault Extra van on 100% biodiesel, to test performance, fuel consumption and emissions.

"We will soon be supplying Brent Community Transport with fuel for some of their minibuses, probably a blend, using up to 30% recycled biodiesel and normal ultra low sulphur diesel" he said. "We are very excited about the prospect of recycling London's used cooking oil and proud to be demonstrating the use of biodiesel".

Biodiesel offers a range of environmental benefits, it is sustainable and renewable, safely biodegradable and lower on greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants than fossil fuels.

There appears to be only one problem with the chip fat driven van, says Roger; "The smell it emits is quite potent and can whet your appetite for a fry up!"



CREATE would be interested to hear from other organisations, individuals or schools that are using biodiesel for transport. Please send your stories and pictures to ann@create.org.uk

## Site Manager Commended



Sue Davies, Site Manager at Astley Cooper School in Hertfordshire, was awarded a Special Commendation by Energy in Buildings & Industry. This is the first time that such an award has been given as part of the Energy Manager of the Year Awards. It recognised that energy management has just as much to do with attitude as technical knowledge.

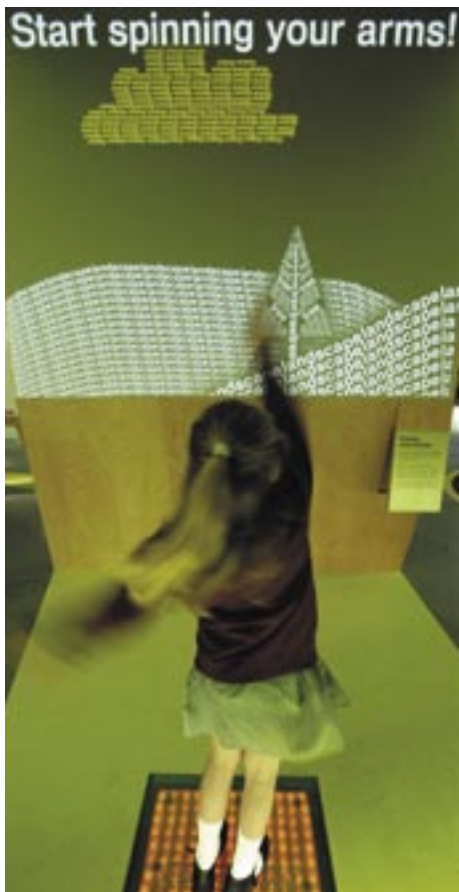
Sue has a background in cancer research, she moved into science teaching at Astley Cooper School and today she is their premises manager. Although not planned, the move to premises manager is a logical one as Sue explains: "Managing school premises requires a flair for problem solving, supported by lateral thinking and the tenacity to succeed, just the skills required in science".

Once appointed, Sue set about networking with the right people within the public and private sectors. She found that general energy management advice was freely available from the County Council and Sue says their experts were helpful, but seeking specific solutions meant talking with private industry specialists as well.

Eventually Sue identified all the necessary products and services to resolve the school's energy wasteful practices and tapped in to a variety of funding pots for special lighting controls and other energy efficiency measures.

Sue is modest about her achievements in energy saving and states that much of her work comes down to good housekeeping, her advice to others in her position is: "Don't accept the status quo, by taking no for an answer, I am saving money, people are happier and the school budget is being better spent improving teaching facilities".

# [ news & resources ]



## INTERACTIVE Energy Gallery

A new energy gallery was opened at the Science Museum in London in July. The interactive exhibits immediately proved popular with adults and children alike and the museum has seen a steady flow of visitors through the gallery since it was launched.

Schools were invited to special energy events at the museum during the autumn term, which included a viewing of the 3D IMAX film SOS Planet, followed by an interactive activity session presented by CREATE. After watching the film and exploring how their own behaviour impacts on the world, students could either visit the energy gallery or travel back in time to meet Michael Faraday, the father of electricity, who talked about how his discoveries have changed our lives.

The energy gallery is supported by a website and teachers' resource which has been developed with the involvement of teachers and students.



For the latest information about educational events, visits and resources please call 0207 942 4777

[www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/exhibitions/energy](http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/exhibitions/energy)

## DOING MY BIT



As you would expect, CREATE has a policy to keep carbon emissions to a minimum and our staff use public transport wherever possible and practical. You will be pleased to read that as EnergyWatch Editor, this policy was firmly kept in mind when I was deciding on a new car. I opted for Honda Civic IMA (Intergrated Motor Assist), Executive, and have to say I am delighted with my choice.

It has an electric motor that engages as you accelerate or go uphill, boosting engine power (recharging when you brake). The award winning engine returns an average 57.7 mpg and benefits low carbon emissions, low road tax and it is exempt from London's congestion charge! So what I've given up in power I've certainly gained in 'brownie', or should that be 'greenie' points? For a few extra points my 13 year old, 2 litre Citroen Volcane has been donated to the Hertfordshire Motor Project, a scheme that provides accredited training courses and evening clubs for young people. Youths between the ages of 14 - 18 are referred to the programme by various agencies and youth services.

CREATE has discovered an exciting new, compact science set that demonstrates how electricity can be generated from the sun and the wind.

Constructed in clear plastic, it allows the enquiring mind to see what is happening within. The S CUBE is a complete learning package, including a CD Rom providing background information and downloadable worksheets. It is designed to stimulate enquiry and increase awareness of the potential power sources for the 21st century, for both primary and secondary students.

We are currently seeking to increase the range of quality products and services that will support teaching and the delivery of education for sustainable development. Visit our website regularly to view the latest additions to our product list.

### The Solar Science Set - S Cube comprises:

- Solar Panel
- Wind Turbine
- Battery Charger
- Fast Change Storage
- Sound Effects Module
- Digital Thermometer
- Metal Detector
- Sound Recorder
- White LED Torch



CREATE is pleased to be able to offer the innovative S Cube learning tool for sale through the products pages on the CREATE website [www.create.org.uk/products](http://www.create.org.uk/products)

## Introducing the S Cube



## New NEF Kits

The National Energy Foundation (NEF) is offering new Renewable Energy Education Kits, for sale. There are three different kits: a wind turbine, a PV (solar electric) device and a model solar water heating unit.

These 'hands on' resources were designed for investigative work, as part of ACT!, a renewable energy education programme, managed in the UK by NEF, with funding through the European Altener project - 'Grasping of Climate'.

The equipment was well received by primary and secondary teachers, across the East of England, when they were invited to special seminars run by NEF and supported by local education authorities. Participants had a chance to 'play' and try out some of the suggested experiments and activities that come with the kits.

The renewable energy kits have been built for NEF by EcoStyle, a company with a core ethos of sustainability, from design to manufacture.



Teachers using wind kit at a workshop in Norfolk



For further details and to order kits contact Felicity Beaton at NEF on tel: 01908 665555, email: [felicity@greenenergy.org.uk](mailto:felicity@greenenergy.org.uk)