

EXXONMOBIL LINK SCHOOLS PROGRAMME
SCHOOL ENERGY PROJECT
CASE STUDY

In 2001, ExxonMobil developed a unique partnership with CREATE to offer energy efficiency education, support and advice to its forty seven link schools as part of the company's Link Schools Programme. Since the project started, CREATE has encouraged the development of energy efficiency practices in primary and secondary schools located around ExxonMobil's operations in Leatherhead, Aberdeen, Fife and Fawley. This has involved:

- Schools carrying out energy audits and accessing Government grants to implement energy efficiency measures
- Teachers using specialist materials from the Energy Chest, a collection of scientific equipment provided by ExxonMobil to teach energy topics in the classroom
- Pupils learning about climate change, energy efficiency and renewable energy
- Young people spreading the sustainable energy message to their wider community
- The creation of local partnerships
- Local media publicity for ExxonMobil, the school and CREATE

School Energy Efficiency

Key elements of the project involved CREATE working with pupils and teachers to identify areas of heat loss and energy wastage around the school, develop a school energy policy and recommend cost effective courses of action. These audits were undertaken by school councils, groups of gifted and talented pupils and mainstream classes. Following the audit, pupils initiated their own energy awareness campaign which made the whole school community aware of their work and how they could help the school save energy and money!



Here, the pupil council at Crossgates Primary in Fife have created their own wall frieze in the main entrance hall which reminds everyone to switch lights and computers off.

In some schools, the pupils gave a presentation to the Senior Management Team of their findings and in others they led an assembly on how the school could be more energy efficient.

In Aberdeen and Fife, the information gathered by the pupils from the audits was fed back into the local authority's energy management unit and used to access funding for measures. With CREATE's support, eight Link Schools received rebates totalling £13,829 from the Energy Saving Trust's SchoolEnergy Programme for the implementation of energy efficiency measures.

Energy Education for Teachers

An integral part of the School Energy Project involved educating teachers how energy topics could be effectively delivered in the classroom. CREATE organised twilight workshops for teachers and demonstrated the range of resources available.



Teachers become familiar with ExxonMobil's own internet resource, Energy Chest. This web site developed by CREATE is a treasure chest of activities to help primary and secondary pupils learn about energy sources, energy in buildings, energy and the environment and energy and transport!

To further help teachers educate young people about sustainable energy issues, CREATE developed a tool box of educational resources for each school on ExxonMobil's behalf. Following delivery of these practical Energy Chests, CREATE carried out a series of teacher workshops to demonstrate the most effective way to use the resources.

Here a teacher/head finds time to view the contents of her school's Energy Chest!



Energy Education for Pupils

As young people will be our "adults of tomorrow", a key element of the project involved educating infant, junior and senior pupils about the importance of being energy efficient at home and at school. This involved CREATE working with classes on a wide range of activities including identifying the "energy guzzlers" in the home, designing an energy efficiency newspaper for their peers and calculating the main areas of heat loss in buildings.



Here pupils in Leatherhead begin to learn about energy efficiency by designing their own energy efficient homes!

Ensuring young people understand the reasons why energy efficiency is important is fundamental to every programme CREATE delivers in the classroom. Here students learn about the potential impact of climate change on young people around the world and how by using energy wisely, they can help reduce environmental emissions.



As learning about energy sources forms part of the curriculum for both primary and secondary students, CREATE developed a series of renewable energy sessions in the link schools using the equipment from ExxonMobil's practical Energy Chest. Here students try out one of the Energy Chest's wind testing kits before venturing outdoors!

Energy Education for the Community

Throughout the project, pupils have been encouraged to undertake home energy surveys and spread the energy efficiency message to their wider community. In some schools, pupils, working with CREATE, designed their own energy efficiency adverts and produced a brochure to take home to their parents. In other schools, pupils used data from their home energy surveys to calculate how energy efficient their homes were and produced charts/certificates to show their parents.

In one school in Fife, pupils performed a presentation for their parents about climate change and energy efficiency.



Creating Local Partnerships

Over the past four years, the School Energy Project has encouraged the development of local partnerships within the locations. For example, in Fawley, New Forest District Council and the Southampton Environment Centre have been involved in assisting some of the work through local publicity and the provision of energy efficiency leaflets for parents. Forward Scotland helped promote the energy efficiency work carried out by the School Energy Project at Crossgates Primary during their evaluation of Fife's Energy Efficiency Village concept. In Aberdeen and Fife, the local authority energy managers have been active in helping to secure funding for energy efficiency measures and an environmental centre in Fife enhanced the project's work by developing their own energy education programme for schools using the site as a resource. Through the project CREATE developed good links with Grounds for Learning in Scotland and Learning Through Landscapes in England who are also involved in ExxonMobil's Link Schools Programme.

Promotion and Publicity

Several of the schools obtained local media coverage about the project when CREATE delivered the classroom sessions. CREATE also helped promote the project in Energy Watch, which was circulated to over 3000 readers from its own database and to all schools in England. The project has been featured in an article in CREATE's electronic magazine which was distributed to over 900 contacts and on CREATE's website.