

Spen Valley Sports College – West Yorkshire



Spen Valley Sports College is a high school in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire. The school had been experiencing high energy bills and Kirklees Council's Environment Unit was keen to see these reduced. CREATE offered to work with the School Council to carry out an energy audit of the school to identify heat loss and energy wastage. The students presented their findings to their peers, the Governors and the Senior Management Team, researched a range of energy efficiency

technologies on the internet and successfully applied to Kirklees Council for a £30,000 loan to implement energy efficiency measures in the school.

The students were keen to continue to reduce the schools energy bills and with CREATE's support carried out a feasibility study into the installation of a wind turbine on the site.

Information was sought from Kirklees Council, turbine manufacturers and a high school in North Yorkshire where a wind turbine had been erected. Teacher support was obtained by students showing how the wind turbine could be used in Geography, English, History, Science and Art lessons. The students also conducted community consultation to gain resident support and parental involvement in their renewable energy project.



In partnership with CREATE and Kirklees Council, they prepared an application to Clear Skies for funding which was approved along with £70,000 from the Council's Renewable Energy Fund. Planning permission was obtained in January 2005 and the wind turbine will be installed by the end of March.



This project has benefited the whole school community. It has developed student confidence and skills, demonstrated that energy subjects are cross curricular, raised the schools profile in the region, strengthened links with local residents and established working partnerships with Council officers. Additionally it identified two funding streams with zero cost to the school, improved home/school links and demonstrated real citizenship in action!

CREATE