

Worcester Sustainable Energy Conference
A Journey from Antarctica to Sustainability at Ashley School and Beyond
Tuesday, 19th October 2010

Antarctica and the Five Point Plan to Sustainable Energy

Sustainability is about understanding the interconnectivity of all life on earth.

1. Create the Energy Team and Rise to the Carbon Challenge

Sustainability is about questioning the status quo and changing what's normal.

2. Decide on your Energy Focus and Make It High Profile

Sustainability challenges every one of us to think and act differently.

3. En-light-en the Practice – From Upgrade to Shutdown

Sustainability is in the minds and imaginations of those who are given the opportunities to explore it.

4. Funding the Renewable Energy Alternatives

Sustainability is about finding beautiful solutions to ugly problems.

5. Reward Success and Refine the Practice further

Sustainability is about shifting the mindset and the culture.

Sharing and Celebrating the Practice with the Wider Community

Sustainability needs vision and commitment to make that vision a reality.

School Community Carbon Challenges leading to the 100 Club

1. Find your electricity meter and start recording weekly
2. Do an audit of what uses energy in your home and how much it uses
3. Keep lights off wherever possible and convert to low energy alternatives
4. Turn off all appliances at the socket when not in use
5. Run dishwashers and washing machines on full loads only

Where schools are successful in embedding sustainability:

- The big picture of sustainability is central to the school
- They have an outward orientation
- There are systemic, connecting approaches
- Learning is for everyone / The culture is democratic, inclusive, participative
- There is a strong role for pupils
- Resilience, persistence, optimism and risk-taking are abundant

Carbon Footprint Per Person Per Day

- 10 kwh/d Appliances and Lighting
- 35 kwh/d Heating and Cooling
- 15 kwh/d Food and Farming
- 40 kwh/d Car Use 30 Miles a Day
- 30 kwh/d One Long Haul Flight
- 60 kwh/d Manufacture and Transport of Stuff

Food, Community and Relationships

How much could your school community grow?

What is the CPD potential for gardening and cookery?

Could children really take a seed from soil to plate?

Where are the opportunities to generate food produce with/for the local community?

Water, Conservation and Balance

How many locally designed water fountains are there in your community?

What designs could our children create to conserve water?

Could you find an alternative to the plastic water bottle in your school?

What would it be like to have our water rationed for a day?

Waste, Connection and Processes

How can we close the loop and feed all our waste into the cycle as nature does?

How can we design beautiful, useful and durable products?

What are the challenges and solutions to becoming plastic bag free or even plastic free?

Do you have any idea where the resources you procure come from?

Biodiversity, Celebration and Experience

How much can local biodiversity be part of learning throughout the primary years?

Where are the local partnerships to promote this?

How much learning, especially in the summer months can be outside? 50%?

Where can we celebrate diversity / biodiversity in school eg School Flower Shows?

Transport, Leadership and Passions

What petrol-free car can our children design that might work?

What is the reality of car free zones and days in your community?

How can we tap into the passions of the skateboard and scooter culture?

Where might your staff's next train journey take you?

www.ashdenawards.org www.ecodriver.co.uk www.ashleyschool.org.uk

The future is not some place we are going to, but one we are creating.

The paths to it are not found, but made.

The making of those pathways changes both the maker and the destination.

Sustainability is the ultimate in joined up thinking.

www.designforchangeuk.org – Empowerment and Ownership in Learning

