

Learning for Sustainability Newsletter *(from the LfS Forum)*

Calling all Secondary Schools: Get YOUR school involved in the Energy Challenge!

Schools have got a crucial role to play in tackling climate change – but as well as the long term importance of taking action, did you know that your school could cut its fuel bills by **20%** by making some **easy changes**?

Every year UK schools are wasting around £20 million and 300,000 tonnes of CO₂ due to poor energy management. A recent report, written for the Energy Efficiency Partnership for Homes, has looked at the barriers to integrating sustainable energy in education, and has guidance on how to overcome these.

A **whole school approach** is identified by the report as critical in embedding sustainable energy into the culture and future of the school – and the Energy Challenge has been launched to help schools get started.

The Challenge comprises of three easy steps:
Step 1: Get the **whole school** involved – from the head teacher and leadership team, to teachers, site staff, governors, parents and students.

Step 2: Carry out an **environmental audit** of your school. It will identify where improvements can be made and will form the basis of a plan of action.

Step 3: Look to incorporating sustainability into your **school policy** or management plan and start installing sustainable energy measures.

The savings your school could make on its energy bill really are substantial. There are also many other benefits to adopting a sustainable approach – from helping to deliver Every Child Matters and meeting Ofsted obligations, to raising your school's profile in the community and educating and inspiring your pupils.

A copy of the report, '**Tackling Climate Change – Guidance for Secondary Schools**', is available for download from <http://tinyurl.com/tacklingclimatechange>.

For further advice or information, schools can contact 08700 622 882 or email energychallenge@se-2.co.uk.

Source: www.se-2.co.uk

A date for your diaries...

Eco Festival days -**Thursday 2nd July**
Friday 3rd July

We will be in touch before too long with further details... *LfS Team*



Friends of the Earth Do you want to help change the world? You, your school and your local community can. Together. **Shout about** is Friends of the Earth's annual **activity project** for 11-13 year olds.

Shout about 2009 is all about **working together to find solutions to climate change** in your local community.

The activity week will run from 2-6 March 2009.

What we provide:

- o Curriculum linked information & activity pack
- o Lots of fantastic lesson ideas
- o New interactive whiteboard resource
- o The opportunity for you to feedback your views on the project.

What you need to do:

- o Sign up now to receive your **free** pack
- o Hold a one off lesson or a whole week of activities - it's up to you!

For further information and to sign up, please visit www.foe.co.uk/learning

Source: Friends of the Earth website

'Change' Sustainability week at Bromsgrove Schools

As a result of an NCSL scheme 'Leading Sustainability In Schools', five Bromsgrove schools have been working together to create a sustainability network. Meadows First, Side-moor First, Dodford First, Parkside Middle and North Bromsgrove High School have been able to work closely together on raising the status of sustainability within each school over the last year, thanks to the NCSL funding. They are currently working on a joint 'Change Week' at the end of the Spring term. Each school will be hosting a range of activities around the theme of 'change', with a collaborative production involving children from four of the schools at the end of the week.

*Amrit Johal, Extended Services Coordinator,
Worcestershire County Council*

GREEN FLAG SUCCESS!

Congratulations to the following school who has recently achieved a Green Flag for their Eco Schools work!

- Nunnery Wood High School (2nd Flag)



February 2009



Please circulate	✓
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Governor	
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Learning for Sustainability Team
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Forthcoming events & training

Dates for your diary...

Starting to improve school grounds

Ref: LT021/02

Tuesday 17th March 2009, 1pm to 4pm (repeat of 21st October 2008 course) Cost £70

To prepare participants to lead their schools through the first stages of developing their grounds including how to get everyone on board, survey all elements of the school site, consult with the whole school community, establish the schools needs and to draw up a vision plan. Participants will also be invited to the county school grounds development group to discuss progress and share ideas. This group will meet termly.

Tutors: John Rhymer and Stacy Dooley. For availability, contact the INSET Office on 01905 740125. To book, please submit INSET1 form to INSET office.

Growing Food in Schools – an introduction

Ref: 2TWH003/01

Tuesday 24th March 2009, 1pm to 4pm

Cost £70

The purpose of this activity is to explore how children can grow their own food as a part of the curriculum or as an extended school activity. Participants will learn how to involve pupils in designing and creating a vegetable garden and how to integrate school composting with the garden activities. There will be practical sessions on creating a raised bed and planting suitable vegetable seeds and plants. Growing food in school is a wonderful and engaging way of raising awareness of the value of fresh healthy food and makes a significant contribution to Healthy Schools, Eco-Schools and the sustainable schools framework

Tutor: John Rhymer & Teresa Cave. For availability, contact the INSET Office on 01905 740125. To book, please submit INSET1 form to INSET office.

Friends of Bishops Wood Programme

Sunday 29th March 2009, 11.00am – 3.00pm ~ Recycling and Composting Open Day

An array of displays, exhibits and hands on activities on the themes of recycling and composting. Meet the experts, become a worm in the giant compost bin and join in the race to recycle.

For further details phone 01299 250513 or visit www.bishopswoodcentre.org.uk

For most events the suggested donation is : £3 per adult and £1 per child. Friends of Bishops Wood and immediate family £2 per adult and children free.

Morrison's Free Let's Grow Event

Wednesday 1st April, 4.30pm - Bishops Wood Centre, Stourport-on-Severn, DY13 9SE

Experts from FACE (Farming and Countryside Education) and teachers taking part in Let's Grow are being brought together to **share tips and advice** on the best way to bring **Let's Grow to life in your classroom**.

Mantle of the Expert – Drama for Learning across the curriculum

9.30 – 16.00, Friday 19th June @ The Abbey Hotel, Malvern

The Mantle of the Expert is a dramatic-inquiry based approach to teaching and learning invented and developed by Professor Dorothy Heathcote at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne in the 1980's. The big idea is that the class do all their curriculum work as if they are an imagined group of experts. They might be scientists in a laboratory or archaeologists excavating a tomb, or a rescue team at the scene of a disaster. They might be running a removal company, or a factory, or a shop, or a space station or a French resistance group.

Because they behave 'as if they are experts', *the children are working from a specific point of view as they explore their learning and this brings special responsibilities, language needs and social behaviours.*

To book a place, please call 01905 640325 or email office@grimleyholt.worcs.sch.uk

Free online multimedia resource from the Ashden Awards

The Ashden Awards for Sustainable Energy reward innovative individuals and organisations using sustainable energy at a local level. Winners range from UK schools which have integrated sustainable energy in their teaching and practice, to schemes providing power, light and clean cooking using renewable energy in remote areas of Africa, Asia and Latin America. Case studies, photographs and five-minute films on the achievements of winners, really bring to life the problems and - crucially - the solutions found. Visit The Ashden Schools Resource and find:

- A range of **curriculum activities** supported by teacher notes, PowerPoint presentations and films. Use them to promote and encourage thinking about sustainable energy areas across the curriculum, whilst dealing with broad issues such as climate change.
- Links to **inspiring five-minute films** outlining the key activities and achievements of Ashden Award winners. Even if you don't use the rest of the resource at least spend five minutes watching one of the films!
- A **school action page** with information for governors and school management teams on how the whole school community can become more sustainable in using energy.

WWF's Earth Hour for Schools

Sign up to WWF's Earth Hour and join schools across the UK showing world leaders that you care about people, wildlife and the planet and want them to take action to tackle climate change.



Schools have an important role to play in championing action on climate change. It's the young people in our schools today who will live through the worst – or best – effects of the action we take now on climate change. And today's students will be tomorrow's citizens and decision-makers: we need to ensure they have the skills and knowledge to make wise choices about the future of our planet.

You can also encourage pupils to **take part at home at 8.30pm on 28 March** by switching off their lights and marking the event in other ways.

Getting involved – free resources from WWF

To help schools to connect with WWF's Earth Hour, we are producing a range of resources, including:

- background information for teachers about climate change
- a film: WWF's Earth Hour 2009 (watch it at the bottom of this page)
- WWF's Earth Hour toolkit for schools, which contains:
 - an assembly outline/introductory activity with accompanying PowerPoint
 - ideas for a 60-minute 'Hour for the Earth' activity
 - other activities, challenges and games

Sign up your school now at www.wwf.org.uk/how_you_can_help/earthhour/schools to receive these resources!

Take part in the Big Tidy Up!

The **Big Tidy Up** aims to get every one out on the streets cleaning up their corner of the community in the country's biggest ever litter pick.

Thousands of schools across the country are already preparing to take part and clean up their patch but we need your school to do their bit and help make this the best tidy up ever!

Litter is a highly visible issue and one that is easily understood by all ages. A litter-free school is very noticeable and can enhance the school's image in the local community.

By taking part in the Big Tidy Up, you will be working towards your Green Flag, in particular the litter theme, whilst also helping to keep your schools grounds clean and tidy.

It couldn't be easier to take part. All you need to do, is log on at www.thebigtidyup.org to register and we'll send you a tidy up kit containing everything you need to spruce up your neighbourhood, including tabard bibs, refuse sacks, a guide, posters to promote your clean up, badges, and stickers.

You'll even receive a certificate after you've completed your event. So register today and let's make England a cleaner, greener place to live!

To find out more about the Big Tidy Up or to register to take part, please visit the website at www.thebigtidyup.org or contact the Marketing team on 01942 612621.

Source: www.ecoschools.org.uk

Spring Term's Do One Thing: Homes for wildlife

The Field Studies Council has been working with the BBC and other partner organisations as part of the BBC Breathing Places campaign to provide help for schools to create space for plants and wildlife in school grounds.

This term's Do One Thing will help some of the wildlife in your school grounds find a place to live. All that you need to get started can be downloaded at www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces/schools/dooneething/spring_09.shtml. The Teacher's Notes will help you to create a Wildlife Wall providing food and lodging for minibeasts and birds. There is a simple design for a bat box that can be added to your wildlife wall and we have included lots of fascinating things to learn about bats. A curriculum guide provides information applicable to all areas of the country.

Your school can register to receive a free Do One Thing pack, which includes materials and guidance. 'Homes for wildlife' is the topic for spring term 2009. Visit www.field-studies-council.org/breathingplaces and www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces/schools/dooneething/ websites to find out more and register your school.

Source: BBC Breathing Places website

schools do one thing



Energy Matters

Many energy myths have persisted over the years so we thought we would try and dispel some of these, shedding some light on best practice within the Classroom:

It is generally a myth that turning equipment off and on causes damage.

It is true that projectors should not be switched off directly at the wall; rather they ought to be powered down using the remote control. This is because the bulb gets extremely hot and powering it down in this way enables the fan to stay on for a few minutes to cool the bulb. Only once this has happened can it be switched off at the wall. Failure to do so could cause bulb damage. This takes a couple of minutes so if it is not going to be in use for longer than 30 minutes it would be practical for it to be turned off.

Projectors are commonly left on as an act of courtesy for the next person using a room, it would be beneficial for staff to check and switch projectors off when not required. There are no issues with turning off laptops powering whiteboards.

A 300watt projector left on for 8hrs a day costs £87.60 per annum and for 24 hours a day £262.80!

Lighting often accounts for half of the energy used within schools. It is a myth that turning lights on and off uses as much energy as it saves. There is a tiny spike when switching lights on and the savings from turning them off far outweighs the negligible increase in power. Turning lights on and off does not shorten the life of the bulb. If you will be out of the room for more than a minute and a half it is beneficial to switch the lights off.

Energy Saving light bulbs can save £7 a year and £60 per bulb during their lifetime and are available for as little as £1 from many retailers. Old style lighting wastes 95% of electricity as heat

Switching computers on and off does not cause damage. Regularly turning a PC off saves energy and extends the machine's life due to a reduction in mechanical wear. Manufacturers recommend machines are turned off when not in use. Switching the monitor off will save at least 70% of the energy costs of your computer so always turn them off when at lunch or when not needed for a particular lesson. Much of the energy is given off as heat, which means more work for air conditioning units. A PC monitor consumes one second's energy worth of running time when being started up or closed down. Screen Savers also DO NOT save energy. A school with 20 PC's could save over £1000 P/A by switching them off out of hours. Activate the energy saving mode on computers.

See "The Bursars guide to energy savings" at [www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools - Support - Core Materials and http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/home/wcc-sustainability-climatechange-sio-it.pdf](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools-Support-CoreMaterialsandhttp://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/home/wcc-sustainability-climatechange-sio-it.pdf)

*Apryl Pheasant, Energy Analyst, Worcestershire County Council
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Worms, glorious worms!

Schools can help in recording the country's population of earthworms. The aim is to find out more about a garden creature that is essential to the health of our soils, yet largely remains a mystery.

The survey is the first of a series of such projects run by Opal, a three-year initiative supported by more than a dozen organisations including the Natural History Museum.

There are 26 species of earthworms in Britain, of which about 15 are common, but virtually nothing is known about where they live and the types of soils they prefer. There has been little research into their habits since Charles Darwin first identified their vital importance to soil function 130 years ago.

Those who take part in the earthworm survey will receive full instructions including a free identification chart and a sachet of mustard – essential equipment for getting worms to come to the surface.

"It brings up worms that are deep burrowers, which you wouldn't see any other way," says Natural History Museum entomologist Steve Brooks. "It does irritate them but it doesn't do them any harm." Other ways to look at earthworms include digging a pit and sifting through the removed soil and also looking in compost heaps, among leaves and under fallen branches. You can enter results straight onto the survey website, where they will be added to an interactive map showing population distributions and soil types. The survey starts in March 2009, but you can register for a survey pack now by visiting the website at www.opalexplornature.org.

