

Training Opportunities for Sustainable Schools & Eco Schools

Governor Sustainable Schools Training Pitmaston House (7-9pm) 9th March 2010
An introduction to the DCSF Sustainable Schools Framework and some of the key concepts and ideas behind this, along with an introduction to the key delivery mechanisms available for schools.
To book contact: Isobel McDowell 01299 873974 imcdowell@worcestershire.gov.uk

Safety in School Grounds Bishops Wood Centre 3WH013/01 16th March 2010
By examining safety issues in school grounds participants will see how by appropriate design and construction of features, risks can be managed. We live in a risk averse society but in our school grounds pupils can be enabled to be risk aware, develop and take responsibility for their own safety and that of others. The course will include assessing an outdoor activity and a visit to a nearby school to examine fixed play equipment

Growing Food in Schools Bishops Wood Centre 3TWH002/01 25th March 2010
Participants will learn how to involve pupils in designing and creating a vegetable garden. They will gain practical skills to create raised beds and successfully plant suitable vegetable seeds and plants. They will know what to plant and when in order to fit in with the school terms. Growing food in school links to Healthy Schools, Eco-Schools and the sustainable schools framework by learning outside the classroom.
To book on the two courses above contact the INSET office

Dates for your diary

High School Eco Ambassador Event!
All High School Eco Ambassadors/Action Teams are invited to attend a showcase and sharing event on Tuesday 23rd March at County Hall, Worcester, (4.00pm-6.30pm) as an opportunity to hear from some recent and inspiring projects, share ideas and meet with County Councillors. For more information contact Amy Lunt: 01905 766809

Eco-Schools Conferences!
The annual Worcestershire Eco-Schools Conference will be held at Bishops Wood on 1st July (for High Schools) and the 5th, 6th, 7th July 2010 (for Primary, Middle and First Schools). More details to follow!



Funding & Resources

Low Carbon Buildings Programme- Phase Two

Grants for the installation of microgeneration technologies are available to public sector buildings (including schools) and charitable bodies. LCBP Phase Two has received an additional £39 million of funding. This sees the current programme deadline for grants to be made and installations to be completed extend from 1 July 2009 until **April 2011**.

- The upper limit for heat technologies has been raised to 300kW.
- Organisations may apply for up to 50% of the cost of installing approved technologies up to a maximum of £200,000 (though maximum grant levels may depend on the nature of the organisation).
- Phase 2 has closed to all new applications for grants for *electrical microgeneration* as Wednesday 3rd Feb
- All other technologies will benefit from the remaining £21 million.

If you have an enquiry about the extended Phase 2 of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme, please call 08704 23 23 13 or email info@lcbpphase2.org.uk. www.lowcarbonbuildingsphase2.org.uk

Playground Partnerships still open for registration

To be in for a chance of winning up to £10,000 to redevelop your play area **please register** to participate in the scheme [via www.playgroundpartnerships.org](http://www.playgroundpartnerships.org). Playground Partnerships is a scheme designed to enable primary-aged school children to redesign their play areas. Fitting in with the national curriculum, the scheme helps develop core skills and competencies. The scheme is run as a competition for all primary schools in the United Kingdom and will be open from 8th September 2009 to 19th March 2010.

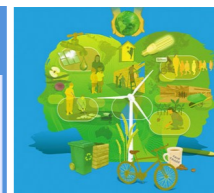
Learning for Sustainability Newsletter (from the LfS Forum)

February 2010

Welcome to the spring edition of the LfS newsletter!

We hope you find the content useful and informative. The next newsletter will come to you in the summer term and in the mean time will we keep you updated with e-updates, either via the e-black bag or by signposting you to our website:

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/learningforsustainability
It would be great to hear from you- any comments, news or feedback! Amy Lunt (Assistant Learning for Sustainability Officer)



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News, Events & Information

Working towards a Greener Future! Going from Silver to Green!

The County Council now has working towards a Greener Future as one of 6 key priorities. Many Worcestershire schools are helping to lead the way on this challenge, not only within their schools, but with the wider community! Worcestershire has relatively more schools with the Eco-Schools Green Flag than any other County in England and many of our schools are poised for taking the next step towards this Award.

We have **73 schools with the Silver Award**, and we want to encourage and support all those schools, and of course the further 67 with Bronze Award, to set their sights on going for the **Green Flag**. So many schools we visit and hear from are doing exciting, forward thinking projects and curriculum linked work etc. With all this work going on, there is a great opportunity to make sure that this contributes towards both becoming a DCSF Sustainable School and towards Green Flag status.

Learning for Sustainability offers us huge opportunities to link to a wide range of school priorities. With this in mind we are planning two big events for Head Teachers / Senior Leadership Teams:

27th May 2010 ~ Sustainable Schools; a golden thread in school planning::
Linking Curriculum Development, Every Child Matters Outcomes and Community Cohesion (speakers / workshop leaders to include David Gardner (QCDA), County Advisers, Head Teachers and more.

19th October 2010 ~ The Carbon Reduction Commitment & Sustainable Schools;
Making the links between school savings and work on campus, curriculum and community. Speakers to include Richard Dunne (Headteacher Ashley CE Primary School, Ashden Award winner for work on Energy), County Officers from across Directorates (Property / Finance / Children's Services) and more.

Further details to follow. Also don't forget our annual **Eco-Schools Conferences**, for Eco-Action Teams and Eco-Schools Coordinators, in July! (see back page for dates)
Rupert Brakspear (Learning for Sustainability Officer)



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Green Flag Success!



Congratulations to the following schools who have recently been awarded a Green Flag.

- Chaddesley Corbett Endowed Primary School
- King Charles 1 Secondary School
- Holyoakes Field First School
- St John's CE Primary
- Lindridge St Lawrence's CE Primary

News, Events & Information...

International Year of Biodiversity

2010 has been declared the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) by the United Nations. Biodiversity is the variety of life on Earth. It is essential for sustaining the natural living systems or ecosystems that provide us with food, fuel, health, wealth, and other vital services. But humans' activities are destroying it at alarming rates!

Visit www.biodiversityislife.net for information about biodiversity, how schools can get involved, resources, ideas for activities and up and coming events!



The Great Plant Hunt!

You too can spring into action this term with your **free primary science resources** from Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. The Great Plant Hunt develops children's understanding of the natural world and is an ideal free resource to help you teach the primary science curriculum.



Everything you need to take part (plus educational films and fun games) is a simple click away at: www.greatplanthunt.org. Activities are tailored to each year group and can be used at any time in the academic year, in the classroom, online and outdoors. Many of the activities will help link your lessons to **International Year of Biodiversity 2010**.

If you are following the **Eco-Schools** programme and concentrating on the biodiversity theme, the Great Plant Hunt could help you to gain awards. Linking Eco-Schools to the curriculum is a requirement of the scheme and you can use the activities to help you do this!

Bee Scene in 2010!

Calling on all primary teachers and environmental education coordinators to join a new survey (April-July) with your school. Take your class out to a local park, field or any other natural space and complete a simple survey. Then head back to the classroom with your young citizen scientists and help plant a virtual meadow online to link your findings with hundreds of others across the country

The survey is supported by an education pack with additional cross curricular activities to support teachers to lead a Bee Scene expedition in their local green space. The survey can be done in an hour or with the education pack form a fieldwork or activity day or basis of a topic for investigation. The survey and activity pack **will be available online from mid March 2010**. Plantlife are giving schools in England the opportunity to **order a printed pack** – of which only a limited number will be available.

For more information contact: 01722 342740 email felicity.harris@plantlife.org.uk or visit www.plantlife.org.uk



PLANTLIFE

Improving Schools Grounds!

A recent National School Grounds survey of 700 schools that had improved their grounds in the past five years found that...65% of schools reported an improved attitude to learning, 52% reported improved academic achievement, 73% said behaviour had improved, 64% reported reduced bullying, 84% reported improved social interaction, 85% said that healthy active play had increased.

For support with developing your school grounds contact Stacy Dooley, School Grounds Coordinator on 01299 250513 (sdooley@worcestershire.gov.uk) to find out how the school grounds team at Bishops Wood can help you.

Haiti Teaching Resources at TIDE

In response to the recent earthquake in Haiti, teachers and organisations have been recommending resources that they have found useful, for talking about this issue with children. Please visit www.tidec.org/Haiti.html



News, Events & Information...

Litter to Glitter Winners!

Creative youngsters from Bromsgrove and Wyre Forest Schools proved they have a tree-mendous flair for recycling, winning District-wide recycling competitions. Schools across the districts were invited to enter the District Councils' **'From Litter to Glitter'** competitions by making Christmas tree decorations out of recycled waste.

Youngsters from Burlish Park Primary School and Tardebigge First School came top of the class for the best dressed tree winning the top prize of £100 and £150 respectively. Charford First School scooped a recycling stationary pack prize for their Christmas Tree entry. Burlish park also won the top £100 prize for another best decorated tree competition, sponsored by Barnett Hill Nursery, Stourbridge. Competition money will be spent on environmental projects in the schools!!



Children from Burlish Park Primary School

Switch it Off Poetry Project!

Congratulations to the following schools who had poems selected to appear in the Switch it Off! Poetry Project Anthology! Abbey Park Middle School, Astley CE Primary School, Burlish Park Primary School, Charford First School, Cranham Primary School, Holy Redeemer RC Primary, Oldbury Park Primary School, Parkside Middle School, Pitmaston Primary School, Powick CE Primary School, St Nicholas CE Middle School, Upton-upon-Severn CE Primary School, Vale of Evesham School. All schools in Worcestershire will be receiving a copy of the book in due course and all selected poems will be able to be viewed online at www.jointhepod.org



University of Worcester is First to Achieve Full Gold EcoCampus!

The University of Worcester has become the first university in England to achieve a Gold EcoCampus Award for the whole organisation. The University has been recognised for its commitment to continually improving its environmental performance through a range of initiatives and in a structured way.

The University has expanded its recycling schemes throughout its campus; improved and increased secure cycle facilities; introduced better energy management, including schemes to introduce motion sensors and low energy lamps and is currently looking at sustainability across the teaching curriculum.

Head of Sustainability and Development at the University, Katy Boom, said: "EcoCampus provides a framework to develop a challenging and coherent strategy in all environmental aspects....We have developed targets in many areas for example energy waste, transport and construction, and have developed action plans for communications, procurement, biodiversity and have a number of behaviour change projects for students and staff. We are now working hard on the final stage, Platinum, which concentrates on continual improvement and review." The University's latest eco success follows on from its Gold Green Apple Award, presented November 2009, which recognised the success of a joint partnership between the University and Worcester City Council to encourage students to recycle more. For further information contact Sally Jones, Press Officer on 01905 857517.



Take part in Green Day 2010!

Green Day is an exciting one-day event for schools about climate change, sustainability and the built environment. It is a fun and flexible way to integrate these themes into lessons and whole-school activities. Your School can hold a Green Day any time between **Friday 4 June and Friday 2 July** (close to World Environment Day).

Register your school to hold a Green Day (www.cabe.org.uk/education/green-day) and you will get free support from CABC* to take the strain out of planning your Green Day event including; a teacher's activity kit with over 100 curriculum linked lesson ideas, half day training workshops at different venues across the country and comprehensive online training information! *CABC is the government's advisor on architecture, urban design and public space.

