

# Training Opportunities for Sustainable Schools & Eco-Schools

## Starting and Continuing Eco-Schools

7<sup>th</sup> October 2010

Develops understanding of the Eco-Schools Award Scheme's key structures & processes. Focuses on empowerment of learners in taking key roles in reviewing, planning, taking action etc. as the school embeds learning for sustainability and links to the global dimension across campus, curriculum and community.  
Tutor: Rupert Brakspear To book see INSET book or contact Rupert or Amy (details on front page)

## Sustainable Schools: Going for Green!

### Working towards the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award

8<sup>th</sup> February 2011

For Eco-School co-ordinators/ leadership team. A great opportunity to prioritise actions and explore the steps necessary to achieve Green Flag status. Time will also be given to linking work across curriculum and campus and boosting the schools work around learners' voice and community cohesion.  
Tutor: Rupert Brakspear To book see INSET book or contact Rupert or Amy (details on front page)

## Eco-Committee Action Team Training

3<sup>rd</sup> November 2010

Helps Eco-Action Teams get to grips and get going with Eco-Schools! (contact Rupert or Amy)

# Dates for your diary

## District Eco-Schools 'Champions' meetings

Eco-Schools Coordinators and Sustainable Schools Champions are invited to attend one of **two** network meetings. This is an important opportunity to input into our strategy, help prioritise areas of support and discuss latest developments in Sustainable Schools and Eco-Schools. To book a place contact Amy Lunt 01905 766809. Refreshments from 4.00pm!

1. Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June at Smite Farm 2. Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June at Bishops Wood Centre (both 4.00-5.30pm)



## Eco-Schools Conferences!

For Eco-Committees and Eco-Coordination! Held at Bishops Wood (10.00-2.30pm) July 1<sup>st</sup> (High Schools), 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> July (First, Primary and Middle Schools). Three workshops for everyone; Sharing all your great work, Walking the Talk, Artists and Scientists! **Book by 28<sup>th</sup> May 2010.**  
Contact: [rbrakspear@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:rbrakspear@worcestershire.gov.uk) Tel: 01905 766378



## Learning Outside the Classroom Conference 9<sup>th</sup> July 2010 at Bishops Wood Centre

For Headteachers, Senior Leadership Teams and Curriculum Coordinators (contact Bishops Wood 01299 250513)

## Carbon Reduction Commitment Conference 19<sup>th</sup> October 2010 (see page 2 for details)

# Funding

## Local Charity; Grants for small projects!

Grants are available for small projects, from the **Mary Jane Fund**, that *enhance the self-esteem of young people and encourage and educate them in caring for the environment*. A large array of organisations and projects have been supported over the years; schools, environmental workers, environmental organisations, environmental education centres, research projects as well as overseas schools. To receive funding, organisations or individuals are asked to complete an application form which is then reviewed by the trustees for funding approval. Where applicable young people should be encouraged in planning the project and making the application.

For further information go to [www.themaryjanefund.org.uk](http://www.themaryjanefund.org.uk)  
Call Peter and Jane Bugg: 01386 860531 email: [pjbugg@btinternet.com](mailto:pjbugg@btinternet.com)

## Duckworth Trust Schools' Environment Fund

Next funding round July 2010. [www.dwt.org.uk/resources/education/the-schools-environment-fund](http://www.dwt.org.uk/resources/education/the-schools-environment-fund)

# Learning for Sustainability Newsletter (from the LfS Forum)

## May 2010

Welcome to the summer edition of the LfS newsletter!

We hope you find the content useful and informative. The next newsletter will come to you in the autumn 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](http://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

## Eco-Ambassadors Showcase event!

On 23<sup>rd</sup> March Eco-Ambassadors from six Worcestershire high schools, environmental youth groups and County Councillors gathered in the Council Chamber for an exciting evening of thought provoking talks, networking and fun activities!



Eco-Ambassadors from youth projects SEED and Hive and Councillor Cairns sharing ideas at the event.

The 50 participants enjoyed some inspiring presentations from the Eco-Ambassadors; firstly, Katie Haywood—from Royal Grammar School, spoke about her experiences at the 2009 Youth Climate Summit in Copenhagen. Hagley Catholic High School Eco-Ambassadors outlined many exciting projects they have established from pond building, Fairtrade promotion, Ambassador work with Primary Schools to energy reduction activities and more- a real inspiration to all!

Young people from SEED (a local youth group promoting sustainability issues) showed a film they had made and spoke about their recent experiences of voluntary work and research in India. The Hive (youth led environmental projects) ran an interactive quiz and outlined plans to build an 'Earthship' in Worcester!

All Eco-Ambassadors took part in a hands-on activity to share recent projects, actions and ideas with each other. A 'Rising Tide' activity proved to be a fun way of highlighting Climate Change issues, whilst helping everyone to work as a team!

The event was a great success!...*this evening has been great because- there have been lots of new ideas, it's been good meeting people and doing activities!* With this in mind the Learning for Sustainability Team are planning on organising further High School Eco-Ambassador events...so watch this space for details!

Amy Lunt (Asst. Learning for Sustainability Officer)

| Please circulate        | ✓ |
|-------------------------|---|
| Head teacher            |   |
| Eco Schools Coordinator |   |
| ESD Coordinator         |   |
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## Green Flag Success!



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

- Grimley & Holt CE Primary
- Lickey Hills Primary
- St. Barnabas CE Primary
- Walkwood CE Middle
- St. Joseph's RC Primary

## News, Events & Information...

### Calling Young Researchers and Eco-Ambassadors!

Have you ever wanted to work with a group of like-minded international young people to put forward answers to some of the most pressing problems facing the world today? International Gateway for Gifted Youth is searching for 10 Junior Commissioners (11-18 yrs) from different parts of the world to undertake a year-long research project based around the following theme: **"Saving the Future: Sustainability and the Environment"**. A fantastic opportunity for Worcestershire Eco-Ambassadors! Interested young people will need to take part in an online competition and submit a 4 page max entry on a Climate Change question. The closing date for entries is **30 June 2010**. For further information: [www2.warwick.ac.uk/study/iggy/events/juniorcommission](http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/study/iggy/events/juniorcommission)



### Growing Trees Growing Minds! And Schools on the Wildside!

Tree Appeal want to encourage schools to make the most of their grounds by planting trees. This helps create woodland habitat, increases biodiversity and, most importantly, provides an excellent learning resource. Does your school qualify for free Tree Appeal trees? For further information: [www.treeappeal.com/Schools.html](http://www.treeappeal.com/Schools.html)



Schools on the Wildside is an extensive educational online community, connecting schools and allowing them to share their environmental activities. Every School on the Wildside will have its own pages on the Tree Appeal web site and will have access to unique downloadable materials and resources, all completely free of charge! To register go to: [www.treeappeal.com/Schools.html](http://www.treeappeal.com/Schools.html)

### Get Ready for Great Plant Hunt Week 17-22<sup>nd</sup> May

To coincide with International Biodiversity Day (22 May), Great Plant Hunt Week is a mass observation study undertaken by primary school children across the UK. From daisies to dandelions, children record data on ten common plants and send their best photo of the ones they find in flower. The data and pictures your school collects will contribute to Kew's phenology research which began back in the 1950s! For further information: [www.greatplanthunt.org/news](http://www.greatplanthunt.org/news)

### Up and coming campaigns, activity days!

Log onto the websites below to find out more- challenges, free resources, competitions etc!

|                              |   |  |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>World Environment Day</b> | <b>5<sup>th</sup> June</b>                  | <a href="http://www.unep.org/wed/2010/english">www.unep.org/wed/2010/english</a>                 |
| <b>Water Saving Week</b>     | <b>12<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> June</b> | <a href="http://www.watersavingweek.org.uk/index.html">www.watersavingweek.org.uk/index.html</a> |
| <b>Green Britain Day</b>     | <b>17<sup>th</sup> June</b>                 | <a href="http://www.jointhepod.org">www.jointhepod.org</a>                                       |
| <b>National Bike Week</b>    | <b>19<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> June</b> | <a href="http://www.bikeweek.org.uk/">www.bikeweek.org.uk/</a>                                   |
| <b>UK Recycle Now Week</b>   | <b>21<sup>st</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> June</b> | <a href="http://www.recyclenow.com/">www.recyclenow.com/</a>                                     |



### Community Discovery Centre at Wyre Forest nears completion

The new education building in the Wyre Forest will be open for booked groups from the summer term. As well as welcoming booked groups, the centre acts as the hub for the Grow With Wyre landscape partnership scheme, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The building demonstrates a range of green technologies. Sustainably managed wood from the forest itself will supply a woodchip boiler which will heat the water circulating around the building through underfloor pipes. Water harvested from the sedum roof will flush the toilets, then be treated before being filtered through reedbeds. Over time the landscaped area immediately surrounding the building will incorporate wildlife friendly features including ponds, a meadow and an orchard as well as a sensory garden. The Discovery Centre team will continue to offer educational programmes for all ages and abilities, using the forest as the natural resource, but with the improved facilities that this building will provide.

For further information please call 01299 266929 or email [liz.bunney@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:liz.bunney@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

## News- focus on energy

### New! The Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Energy Efficiency Scheme

An innovative new scheme has been introduced as part of the UK's strategy for controlling and reducing carbon emissions. The Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Energy Efficiency Scheme commenced on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 and acts as an emissions trading scheme, providing a financial incentive to reduce emissions by placing a price on carbon. It has been designed to raise awareness and encourage changes in behaviour and infrastructure.



Estimated to cover around 20,000 public and private sector organisations, Worcestershire County Council will be required to comply with CRC, reporting on and accountable for carbon emissions, **including those of schools**.

Schools that do not procure their energy through WMS will be required to report their energy data to the Local Authority. The local authority will buy allowances to cover the emissions from schools. The Councils overall performance will be ranked in a league table and depending on performance will be reimbursed with a financial bonus or penalty. Since energy consumption and related carbon emissions from schools forms a large proportion of the Council's total emissions, the outcome may have an impact on schools' budgets.

Schools are advised to read their meters monthly. However, WCC is proposing to upgrade all metering within the County's schools and buildings from manual to half-hourly Automated Meter Reading (AMR) by March 2011.

### Automated Meter Reading

AMR uses electronic 'smart metering' which effectively reads itself every half hour and communicates data to the energy supplier. AMR will reduce the risk of financial penalties being applied to the Council and schools because of inaccurate data. AMR has many other benefits – it can be used as an effective educational tool, will raise awareness of energy consumption, assist energy savings and potential cost savings, reduces administration and supports schools work on Eco-Schools and Sustainable Schools!

Schools are being written to about both the CRC and AMR schemes. For further information please contact Apryl Pheasant (Energy Analyst) on 01905 822878.

### CRC Conference 19th October 2010!

To assist schools with understanding the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme and making the most of potential energy saving activity a conference is being organised by the LfS Team at Bishops Wood Centre, 9.00-3.00pm. **Carbon Reduction Commitment and 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!

To book contact *Rupert Brakspear* or *Amy Lunt* (details on front page)



Ashley CofE students

### Climate Change and Schools- new strategy report

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) has published *Climate Change and Schools: A carbon management strategy for the school sector*. The strategy provides a road map by which schools, local authorities and Government can radically reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the school estate through dynamic, collective action. It also sets out the DCSF ambition for emissions reduction and responds to the Introduction of carbon budgets within Government. To download and for more information: [www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools)

### Evidence of Impact of Sustainable Schools

New 10 page report by DCSF sets out the educational and social benefits to young people of learning in a sustainable school. To download and for more information: [www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications)