

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

January Swap Shops!

Take the opportunity to swap any unwanted Christmas presents at our January Swap Shops. Over 2100 members of the public came out in force to the four swap shops held in Herefordshire & Worcestershire last



January. Young and old swapped an array of random items such as traditional favourite battleships to a Bag puss teddy, china plates to wine glasses. Old paperbacks, bric-a-brac, small furniture and unwanted Christmas presents, all found new homes.

Sat 10th January, 10am -1pm, Priory Lodge (Malvern Hills DC) Avenue Road, Malvern. In partnership with Malvern Hills Agenda 21 Group
Saturday 10th January 10am - 12noon, Newstarts Furniture and Appliance Re-use Centre, 51 Willow Road, Bromsgrove.

In partnership with the Newstarts

Thurs 15th January 10am - 12noon

Kidderminster Town Hall, Kidderminster. In partnership with the Odell Centre

Sat 17th January 10am - 1pm, Belmont

Community Centre, Hereford. In partnership with Newton Farm Information Centre

As well as being fun community events, Swap Shops drive home an important message about the need to re-use items in a bid to reduce the number of valuable resources which are sent to landfill.

For the latest news on swap shops or other re-use initiatives please call 01905 766883 or visit www.wastemissionimpossible.org.uk

Waste Prevention Team, WCC

Switch It Off 2008!

This year's Switch It Off campaign, covering Worcestershire, Coventry and Warwickshire, started on Monday, October 20 and then culminated with a special Switch it Off on Friday, October 24.

Schools, workplaces and households were all encouraged to take part in the week-long campaign and reduce their electricity consumption by turning off unwanted lights and electrical appliances left on standby.

Central Networks were instructed to monitor the energy consumption across Worcestershire, Warwickshire and Coventry and compare this to the week before Switch It Off (October 13 through to October 17). They monitored energy usage throughout the campaign and revealed there was a **22 Mega Watt drop on Friday night for Worcestershire, Warwickshire and Coventry between the hours of 4:30pm and 6:30pm. This is the equivalent of switching off 372,276 60W light bulbs for an hour.**

A **Big Thank You** to all schools who took part, and to those who were also able to take the message home and carried out a 'Home Energy Check' to save energy there too ~ we have heard some positive stories about this which is great news.

Please don't forget to send us a copy of your results!

Faye Walters, Asst ESD Officer, WCC

Travel Buster - New Online Calculator to Encourage Kids to Walk to School

To support International Walk to School Month, Environmental Protection UK have launched their brand new interactive online Travel Buster – a colourful cartoon calculator aimed at encouraging 7 – 11 year olds that walking, or cycling, to school is healthier for them and their local environment.

The School Journey

The Travel Buster takes pupils through simple steps to assess the impact of their school journey on their health, local air pollution and noise pollution. Pupils can then make a pledge to improve their rating by changing how they travel – for example walking or cycling more, instead of travelling by car. The Travel Buster asks pupils how they travel to and from school over 1 week and how far their journey is. It uses animation and sounds to demonstrate the impact their choices has on their health and their local environment, and then gives them a rating based on their choices and the impact their travel has on their health, local air pollution and noise pollution.

The Travel Buster is available at www.travelbuster.org.uk



switch it Off...
don't just 'stand by' and waste energy

Nov/Dec 2008

 **worcestershire**
countycouncil

Eco Schools 



Please circulate	✓
ESD Coordinator	
Head teacher	
Eco Schools Coordinator	



John Rhymer
01299 250513
jrhymer@worcestershire.gov.uk

Rupert Brakspear
01905 766378
rbrakspear@worcestershire.gov.uk

Faye Walters
01905 766809
fwalters@worcestershire.gov.uk

Education for Sustainable Development Team
Worcestershire County Council

Dates for your diary...

Less Is More – Curriculum Development Project Twilight Sessions

Wed 3rd December 2008 & Wed 28th January 2009, 4.00pm to 6.00pm Free

Following the Less is more? Curriculum Development Day (8th October 2008), these twilight sessions offer the opportunity for teachers to share the work they are doing, look at strengths, barriers and opportunities, and work together to continue developing opportunities and activities that explore this theme. The work that goes on in schools will be shared at the Summer Term Eco Schools Conferences for both Primary and Secondary schools.

Contact Faye Walters at fwalters@worcestershire.gov.uk or on 01905 766809.

Energy Management in Schools for Headteachers & Site Managers

Ref: 2LW002/01

Wed 14th January 2009, 9.30am to 2.30pm

Cost £70

To know the benefits of managing energy and water more efficiently in the school setting

To look at curriculum links with energy and water management in the school

To learn from school energy case studies and energy management at Bishops Wood

To explore how site managers and teaching staff can facilitate whole school involvement in energy management

To plan energy and water management in the school over the school year

To know what support Worcestershire County Council property Services can give to schools

To know what financial assistance for energy conservation measures and management in schools is available from grant giving bodies

To answer any energy and water management issues faced by the school

Tutors: Jon Cree & Rupert Brakspear. For availability, contact the INSET Office on 01905 740125. To book, please submit INSET1 form to INSET office.

Improving your school grounds Part 2: Making the Changes

Ref: 2LT018/01

10th February 2009, 1pm to 4pm (repeated 5th May 2009, 1pm to 4pm) Cost £70

The purpose of this activity is To enable participants from schools which have a clear understanding and vision of how they want their grounds to be used, to identify practical solutions to their needs, implement changes and evaluate the effect of these changes.

How to design aspects of your school grounds, come up with innovative and exciting ideas, simply but effectively putting plans into action, understand of some of the health and safety issues relating to their plans for school grounds, obtain grants, advice and support, develop a personal action plan, create an improved vision plan or concept board of ideas to share with colleagues.

In most cases participants will have either attended "Starting to improve your school grounds Part1" or worked with experienced School Grounds Professionals to identify the schools needs and create a vision plan.

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

Going for Green! Working towards the Eco Schools Green Flag Award

Ref: 2LTW003/01

Wed 11th February 2009, 9am to 4pm

Cost £130

The day is specifically designed for all Eco Schools Coordinators who have reached Silver Award in the Eco Schools Award Scheme, and want to prepare for their Green Flag application and assessment.

The day will be varied with sessions devoted to training input, outdoor learning, practical workshops, planning and preparation with other colleagues

The day will give teachers the chance to prioritise actions necessary to achieve Green Flag status and will dedicate some time to looking at, and getting started with the application form.

Tutor: Rupert Brakspear. For availability, contact the INSET Office on 01905 740125. To book, please submit INSET1 form to INSET office.

Friends of Bishops Wood Programme

Sunday 14th December 2008, 2.00-4.00pm ~ Christmas trail

Help decorate our trees with edible snacks for the birds, enjoy some seasonal crafts, make a Green Man mask and explore the Christmas wildlife trail.

Sunday 18th January 2009, 11.00– 3.00pm ~ Working Party

Burn off those Christmas calories by joining in some of the winter tasks such as coppicing the willow beds. Bring a packed lunch to supplement the spuds which we will attempt to incinerate in the fire! Adults and children over 8 yrs.. Advanced booking essential. *No charge*

Sunday 8th February 2009, 2.00-4.00pm ~ Day of the Dinosaurs

Stories of dinosaurs, dragons and rocks that talk. Make your own casts of fossils and pictures of scenes when dinosaurs roamed the earth.

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.

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



COMPETITION! ~ Calling all Bromsgrove and Wyre Forest Schools!

Bromsgrove and Wyre Forest are working in partnership to launch a competition to transform 'Litter into Glitter'!

The idea is to make fantastic globes and baubles out of recycled materials to decorate your Christmas Tree.

So dress to impress to be in with the chance of winning some great prizes! Contact r.kennett@bromsgrove.gov.uk (01527) 881716 or joanne.duffield@wyreforestdc.gov.uk (01562) 732906.



Woodland Trust ~ Green Tree Schools Award

Market Harborough CE Primary School is the first school across the UK to win a gold award for participating in green activities which included tree planting, reducing carbon emissions and recycling. The new initiative launched this year by the Woodland Trust offers schools the opportunity to bring the great outdoors, the wonderful world of wildlife and green issues into the classroom with a range of resources and a new award scheme.

The Green Tree Schools Award scheme rewards schools every time they participate in inspirational learning events, projects or initiatives provided by the UK's leading woodland conservation charity, the Woodland Trust.

Over the past four years the school have planted over 240 new trees in their school grounds as well as joining the Ancient Tree Hunt, recycled Christmas cards, inkjet cartridges and mobile phones and taken part in carbon reducing walk to school schemes.

Karen Letten, schools development officer, said: "The scheme promotes a range of opportunities, each designed to stimulate a child's imagination and sustain their interest in nature. The achievements of the school are recognised through an awards scheme in which they receive points for taking part in activities. As they reach milestones within the project they will receive bronze, silver and finally an attractive wooden plaque which acknowledges they've achieved the environmental accolade of a gold award. Schools embark on a real journey of discovery with us and, along the way, will also be working toward achieving other recognised environmental awards such as Eco Schools."

To take part schools simply register at <http://www.naturedetectives.org.uk/schools/award> and your school can start earning points immediately. These are a few of the many different ways to do this:

Participate in a tree planting event; Receive free trees for your school grounds; Recycle Christmas cards, mobile phones or inkjet cartridges with the Woodland Trust; Reduce CO2 emissions; Register with Nature Detectives; Join the Ancient Tree Hunt.

Source: Eco Schools website

SWITCH IT OFF WEEK

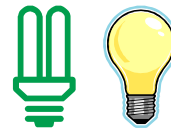
Year 6 pupils at Burlish Park Primary School have taken part in 'Switch It Off Week' by reading the schools electricity meter each day to check how much electricity we use .

The week before 'Switch it Off Week' we secretly went round school checking to see whether lights and other electrical things were being left on when not needed. We recorded the results and at the start of 'Switch it Off Week' gave a PowerPoint presentation 'Money Down the Drain' to the whole school explaining what we had found out. We asked everyone, including teachers to help us save electricity by switching things off when not needed. We appointed light monitors to switch off lights and open blinds in classrooms.

We e-mailed a nice lady, Elaine (Halford- Bishop) to ask her if Wyre Forest Council could send us some energy saving light bulbs to give out to parents. We explained to Elaine about what we have been doing and she came to our school with lots of energy saving light bulbs to give out to parents. The lights bulbs were so popular that we quickly ran out and we asked Elaine if she could come back the following Friday with some more bulbs and leaflets. We are going to ask the parents what they thought of the energy saving light bulbs and whether they will buy some more.

We are going to carry on saving energy in school by monitoring the amount we use each week and we will write this up on the eco notice board for everyone to see. If you want to see what else we have been doing please log on to www.burlishparkprimary.sch.worcs.uk

By Alex and Hannah, Burlish Park Primary School



It's Your Community (O₂) ~ If you could change one thing about where you live, what would it be?

How does it work?

Awards of up to £1,000 are available to local groups and individuals for anything that can be shown to benefit your community. The awards are independently judged and administered by The Conservation Foundation on behalf of O2. The Conservation Foundation is a charity that has been judging community projects for 26 years. For more information please do take a look at their website www.conservationfoundation.co.uk.

What kind of projects do you support?

We support projects that bring people together and benefit your community, here are some examples in our four categories that we supported recently, but you can find many more in the [see what we did](#) section. This list is by no means exhaustive – we are always open to new, ground breaking ideas.

Rebuild and Restore We've cleaned up and painted a bus shelter, restored a sports pavilion's leaking plumbing and fitted insulation to a local hall.

Cultural We've provided art materials to a local group, equipment to a community band and computers to a village shop.

Active We've helped out with equipment for local clubs from football to cycling, although can't kit out individuals.

Green and Clean We've set up and supported community gardens, woodlands, beaches and paths and improved public access to river banks and green spaces.

NB. It is vital that your project includes your local community and goes beyond the immediate school community.

Source: www.itsyourcommunity.co.uk

Go Green Week at the University of Worcester : 17 – 21 Nov 2008

The aim of *Go Green! Week* was to educate students about the many environmental issues affecting our planet and what they could do to change their lifestyles in order to tread more lightly on the earth. On the Wednesday, a selection of stalls based in the Students Union promoted waste minimisation, energy-efficiency, sustainable travel, recycling and other sustainability issues. Students could test their environmental knowledge by participating in a Green Quiz.



The Worcestershire Recycling Bus was on campus for several hours and attracted visits from both staff and students who were keen to learn more about reducing their household waste, increasing recycling and composting of kitchen waste and reducing the amount of food they throw away. Organisations holding promotional stalls in the SU building included One Planet Worcester, Greenpeace, The Hive, Plastic Bags – No Thanks, Freecycle, Healthy Eating and the Duckworth Trust. One Planet Worcester carried out a public transport survey, the results of which indicated that the majority of visitors to Worcester preferred to walk around the City. Questions on public transport revealed that 55% were of the opinion that cheaper bus fares would encourage them to make more use of public transport.

The HEFCE-funded Zero Waste in Universities project was also promoted. The University participated in this project for the first time in 2007 and succeeded in diverting over 800 kilograms of student 'waste' from landfill. The aim of the project, an initiative led by the London School of Economics, is to encourage students to donate their unwanted belongings to a local charity instead of throwing them away at the end of each semester. Items donated last year included clothes, books, DVDs, shoes, exercise equipment, CDs, kitchenware – and even a mini trampoline.

Representatives from Worcester City Council promoted the use of 'Bags for Life' rather than taking a single-use plastic carrier bag at the supermarket checkout. Research has shown that the majority of such bags are used for only 12 minutes before being thrown away. This promotion supported the aims of the Plastic Bags – No Thanks! Campaign which is a project based in the Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty that intends to reduce the number of bags in circulation by 90% before March 2009.

Motov8, a regular visitor to St John's Campus, offered reasonably-priced refurbished bikes for sale. To date, over 70 bikes have been sold to UW staff and students and many have benefited from Motov8's free maintenance advice.

Students living in campus Halls of Residence were also invited to create a sculpture out of old used tins and cans. A prize will be awarded to the flat occupants that produce the most innovative and exciting sculpture – the winner will be announced on 10 December.

On Thursday evening, students and staff were invited to a screening of 'An Inconvenient Truth' the Al Gore compelling eco-documentary that stunned the world when it was first shown in 2006 and raised the threat of climate change in the public consciousness.

Malvern Showground Builds Sustainable Relationships With Worcestershire Schools

The Malvern Showground-based Three Counties Agricultural Society (TCAS), is pulling out all the stops to develop sustainable relationships with more primary and secondary schools in Worcestershire. TCAS is already known for its pro-active approach to working with education providers in and around the county, but wants to do more! It is particularly keen to build on its existing programme of school projects and teacher placements, by developing long-term partnerships for lasting benefits.

TCAS is already known for its pro-active approach to working with education providers in and around the county, but wants to do more! It is particularly keen to build on its existing programme of school projects and teacher placements, by developing long-term partnerships for ongoing and lasting benefits.



TCAS is also working with St. Matthias to develop its own sustainable school garden, and its gardening club, and helping pupils to promote an appeal for 2000 empty pop bottles to build a greenhouse using recycled materials. Through TCAS, the school will also be working with Sussex-based garden designer, Alex Bell, on his Malvern Spring Gardening Show (7 – 10 May 2009) display garden.

Year 8 ASDAN (Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network) students at Malvern's Dyson Perrins Secondary School, are also working closely with the Showground, in conjunction with Greenwoods Therapeutic Horticulture, to learn about the core basics of horticulture. The work will culminate in the renovation of the school's garden and its greenhouse, and Dyson Perrins students will also be building a garden at the Spring Show next year. Finally, Worcestershire's Birchen Coppice Primary School in Kidderminster, are getting in on the act too, by taking part in a number of workshops at the Showground, focusing on nature, sustainability and healthy eating, over the coming months.

For information about all educational opportunities at the Showground, please contact Sue Hodgson-Jones, Education Officer, on 01684 584900 or visit www.threecounties.co.uk

Sharon Gilbert, The Malvern Showground

Top Tips from Sustainable Schools!

The DCSF have produced a number of 'Top Tips' booklets around sustainability issues and the doorways, that are useful starting points.

[Top tips for sustainable purchasing in schools](#) looks at how schools can take into account the impact of procurement choices on sustainable schools. Tips include ideas for planning ahead, not buying unless you need to, looking for alternatives and sharing best practice.

[Top tips to develop the global dimension in schools](#) was published in October. Tips include ideas for exploring global issues from a local perspective, finding out the impact on other countries of your school's buying, and highlighting your school's global-dimension work in your self-evaluation form.

Other brochures in the series are: [Top tips for sustainable school travel](#); [Top tips to reduce waste in schools](#); [Top tips to reduce energy and water use in schools](#)

For summaries of all key DCSF publications relating to sustainable schools, including the [Brief introduction to sustainable schools](#) (updated in October) and the [National Framework poster](#) for sustainable schools, which illustrates the eight doorways and on its reverse contains a condensed version of the s3 self-evaluation tool, visit www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools then 'Support' - 'Core materials' page.

Source: www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools

Eco Schools stationery

Have you ever considered Eco-Schools badges for your action team, or perhaps pencil cases made from recycled tyres? Eco-Schools now have a range of stationery available for purchase including pencil cases, badges, rulers and bags, all of which are branded with the Eco-Schools logo and made from recycled or sustainably produced materials.

Pencil Case £3.00; Bag £8.00; Pencil £0.50; Pen £0.50; Ruler £0.50; Badge £1.20

Postage and Packaging will be calculated once the order has been confirmed. To place an order please email chantel.brown@encams.org or call a member of the team on 01942 612621.

Special Offer - For every Eco-Schools bag purchased you will receive a pen, pencil and ruler absolutely free.

In order to cater to your schools individual needs there is no minimum order requirement. Postage and packaging is calculated depending on the order quantity. Payment should be made by cheque to ENCAMS Enterprises.



Source: Eco Schools website

Top tips for a Green Christmas!

Here are some tips for reducing your impact on the environment this Christmas (without reducing your fun!). Some will be useful for school, some for home and some for both! If there are some tips on topics you have been covering in school, they might even make a useful addition to a newsletter home to parents...

Don't forget to turn off your fairy lights!

15% of household electricity is wasted by leaving TVs, Hi-fi's and other appliances on standby – costing each of us an average of £37 per year. In general lighting accounts for 15% of household electricity, and Christmas tree lights left on for 10 hours a day over the 12 days of Christmas produce enough carbon dioxide to inflate 12 balloons – so make sure you get energy saving light bulbs for your house, and, if you need new lights for your tree, try buying LED lights for your Christmas tree ~ LED lights are the eco-friendly alternative because they use about 10% of the energy, so they are not only better for the environment but will save you money on your seasonal electricity bills. Another benefit is that they last considerably longer, saving you the time testing hundreds of bulbs to find the one that has failed!

Christmas cards

An estimated 1.7 billion Christmas cards are sent each year in Britain, the equivalent of 200,000 trees. After the big day, make sure your Christmas cards don't go to waste – why not take them to a Woodland Trust recycling point. Taking your cards to mainland WHSmith stores, Tesco stores, TK Maxx and Marks & Spencer stores throughout the UK will help the Woodland Trust beat their achievement of recycling **73.6 million cards** last Christmas. Recycling bins will be present in store from January 2nd – 31st 2009. Schools can help by downloading and displaying the poster to promote the scheme from www.woodland-trust.org.uk/cards.

Candles

Paraffin candles are made from petroleum residues so neither do your health or the environment any good. Soy, beeswax or natural vegetable-based candles are better because they biodegrade, are smoke-free, and so more eco friendly.

Deck the halls with real holly

Instead of spending money on artificial Christmas decorations that won't biodegrade, let nature decorate your home! House decorations can be made from organic, recycled and scrap materials. Try cinnamon sticks, bows, gingerbread, holly, seasonal berries, ivy and evergreen branches – once you have finished with them, you can put them in the compost bin!

Christmas trees

If you've been wondering which is better, the simple answer is that real trees are the more eco friendly choice. Although artificial trees last for many years they are made from metal and derivatives of PVC, which requires large amounts of energy to make, and also creates by-products such as lead which can be harmful to both the environment and human health. The average life of an artificial tree is just 6 years and given that they are not naturally biodegradable they will potentially pollute a landfill site for many years to come. Most artificial trees sold in the UK are now made in Taiwan and China and so have additional energy costs associated with transport. Real trees are carbon neutral, absorbing as much carbon dioxide as they grow as they will emit when burnt or left to decompose. They are also a wildlife habitat and a naturally renewable resource, and generally feel much nicer in your home. They can be planted in your garden after Christmas, and even used again next year. If you can, choose a real tree with roots so it can be replanted. If replanting isn't an option most local councils run Christmas tree recycling schemes. Contact yours or go to www.letsrecycle.com.

Be battery wise

Families can get through a lot of batteries, particularly at Christmas. Batteries contain toxic chemicals, don't biodegrade and are difficult to recycle. Instead use rechargeable ones that can be used again and again.

Recycle your unwanted presents

Unfortunately everyone receives at least one unwanted gift at Christmas. Local hospitals and hospices are often very pleased to receive unwanted smellies to give to patients. Charity shops or Worcestershire's swap shops (see front page) are also a good way of insuring your unwanted gifts find another home.

