

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

ENERGY SAVING AWARD SCHEME & SWITCH IT OFF REMINDER!! - DON'T FORGET TO LET US KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO TAKE PART IN OUR WIN:WIN ENERGY SAVING AWARD SCHEME (££!) ~ IT STARTS WITH SWITCH IT OFF WEEK AS THE LAUNCH! (20th October 2008)

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

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

Let's Grow ~ seeds and gardening equipment

Morrison launches 'Let's Grow', with thousands of packets of seeds being sent to schools taking part in the scheme for teachers to encourage pupils to have fun with food and start planting - enough free seeds to grow around 1.5m salad leaf plants for six million salad bowls. Shoppers can collect vouchers in store on all purchases of £10 or more to pass on to their local participating school, from September until the end of November. Schools can then redeem the vouchers in January for free gardening equipment, including seeds, spades, composting bins, planters and even a greenhouse, meaning they will be ready for the start of the Spring growing season in March. A team of gardening experts provided by community garden specialists, Federation of City Farms & Community Gardens (FCFCG), will be visiting some of the participating schools to give hands-on support.

Let's Grow is supportive of the Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) 'Learning Outside the Classroom' manifesto and the 'Growing Schools initiative. National Schools Partnership has helped to develop additional resources linking growing lessons to key stages. We would however urge schools to consider the impact of encouraging parents to switch their shopping to big stores on local shops that might be struggling to survive. Local shops are integral to the local community and often support their local schools in an individual way

through donation of raffle prizes, co-operation with schools to provide healthy food, encourage better behaviour out of school etc. However, for parents who already shop at supermarkets this seems to be one of the more helpful schemes.

John Rhymer, ESD Advisor

FREE Biodiversity Fact Sheets available!

Do you need information and pictures on wildlife in Worcestershire? Printed copies of Biodiversity Factsheets ~ 18 species and 9 habitat sheets, plus some general biodiversity leaflets ~ are available from the address below, or email

biodiversity@worcestershire.gov.uk. For a full list of the available factsheets go to www.worcestershire.gov.uk/biodiversity and click on Factsheets.



Also, around Switch It Off...

Universally Challenged' eco quiz

Calling all Year 8's for our 'Universally Challenged' eco quiz on Tuesday 9th December at County Hall ~ teams of 4 are welcome. The winning team will be representing Worcestershire at the final in Warwickshire in February. Please email fwalters@worcestershire.gov.uk or call 01905 766809 by **7 November** if you would like to take part!

Jaguar Ecological Footprint Project

This competition invites pupils to complete ecological footprints and present their results imaginatively on a footprint ~ prizes available to individuals and to schools for best overall submissions. For an information pack, please contact Bill Johnson on 01926 476623 or at billjohnson@warwickshire.gov.uk.
Deadline: End of November

October 2008



Eco Schools



Please circulate	✓
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Education for Sustainable Development Team
Worcestershire County Council

Congratulations to Wyre Forest District Council

for being short listed in the **National Recycling Awards 2008** for Best Partnership Recycling Project with West Midlands Safari Park for the Rocket Composter that is going to the district's secondary schools over the next two years. This project will enable schools to divert food wastes from landfill. Good luck for the finals in November!
Faye Walters, Asst LfS Officer

Forthcoming events & training

Dates for your Autumn Term diary...

Week beginning 20th October ~ Switch It Off week

Wed 3 December - Less is More Curriculum Development Project ~ twilight meeting (plus a further twilight meeting on Wed 28 January) **Free**

This event takes place at the Bishops Wood Centre. If you would like to book in, please contact Rupert Brakspear on 01905 766378 or at rbrakspear@worcestershire.gov.uk.

Training through Bishops Wood

Tues 21 October - Starting to Improve School Grounds

Ref: 2LT021/01

1 - 4pm

£60

(repeated 17th March 2009, 1pm to 4pm)

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.

Tues 11 November - Improving Outdoor Provision for Foundation Stage

Ref: 2LTW002/01

9 - 4pm

£130

- To explore how you can provide opportunities outdoors for imaginative
- To examine simple, inexpensive, yet effective ways of transforming stark areas of tarmac and fencing into colourful and enriched learning resources
- To examine case studies of Nursery and Reception outdoor classrooms
- To plan activities which take the curriculum outside
- To discuss the needs of the early years child: planning, resourcing & implementing changes
- Safety and supervision issues
- To identify sources of funding and support for projects

Tutors: John Rhymer & Ann Clay

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

Friends of Bishops Wood Programme

Sunday 16th November 2008 2.00-4.00pm ~ Shelter building and cooking

Try your hand at making shelters large and small, fire-lighting and simple cooking. A Family event. Please book in advance by phoning 01299 250513 or email jrhymer@worcestershire.gov.uk

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.

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

TIDE~ Primary global learning ~ *thinking about the new curriculum*

Tuesday 18th November 2008

Building on the experience of West Midland schools, this conference shares ideas and raises questions about global learning in the context of the primary curriculum review.

How can we plan for learning that is exciting and outward-looking, but also builds on the best primary traditions of being learner-centred?

This conference is for primary teachers, heads and senior managers across the phases, as well as those in support roles.

TIDE ~ Gambia study visit course

Global learning, sustainable development & educational partnerships

Deadline for applications ~ October Half Term

A professional development opportunity for teachers who are taking a lead role in supporting sustainable development in primary schools.

This course will offer: An opportunity to develop leadership skills in this area; A seven day study trip to The Gambia (February 2009); Five full professional development days; A chance to engage in creative dialogue.

For further information on TIDE opportunities, please visit www.tidec.org or call 0121202 3290.

Join the Big Tidy Up!

The Big Tidy Up campaign is set to get the whole country tidying up their patch – and Eco Schools would like your school to join the thousands of Eco-Schools that are already involved! Keep Britain Tidy is launching England's biggest ever tidy up - helping schools and communities get together and clean up their patch. Tidy ups can happen any time throughout the year – so you can take part in a Big Tidy Up whenever you choose.

Taking part could help your school work towards the Green Flag but it will also give your pupils the opportunity to learn outside the classroom and gain a better understanding of their impact on the environment.

Once registered, you'll receive a Big Tidy Up kit with posters, stickers, tabard bibs and badges with some top tips and guidance on how to carry out your tidy up safely. Also included are details of competitions and information on other organisations that may be of use to you. In fact - everything you need to have a great Big Tidy Up! By registering online, you will also create an online profile page, where you can advertise your tidy up and encourage others to join in if you so wish. Simply visit the Big Tidy Up website www.thebigtidyup.org and register your interest now!

Source: Eco Schools website



TRACKS ~ Pupils voice their opinions and ideas!

Pupils now have the opportunity to voice their opinions and ideas regarding their school journey through a new newsletter. Sustrans, the UK's leading sustainable transport charity, has launched a new free newsletter about the school journey, TRACKS, written for young people, by young people.

TRACKS aim is to create a space for pupils of all ages to say exactly what they feel about their school journeys. The newsletter features articles by pupils on what they are doing to get school transport issues going and allows them to discuss what they feel needs to change and why. Sustrans runs a national Safe Routes to Schools (SRS) campaign, encouraging projects where pupils can consider alternative forms of travel and which help improve access to the school for walkers and cyclists. TRACKS also looks at the bigger picture such as how the school journey affect peoples health, the environment and the world around us. You can read the first issue of TRACKS at www.saferoutestoschools.org.uk, click on Resources, then Newsletters.

If your school would like to receive regular copy either by post or email, subscribers can send their name and school address (or email details) to schools@sustrans.org.uk or ring the information line on 0117 915 0100. Pupils can send their contributions to Alistair Goulding via email alistair.goulding@sustrans.org.uk, or to Sustrans, 2 Cathedral Square, College Green, Bristol, BS1 5DD



Join The Great Plant Hunt with Kew Gardens

Royal Botanic Garden, Kew is on the look out to find the next Charles Darwin and it's asking Eco-Schools around the UK to take part. The Great Plant Hunt promises to offer primary school children hands-on experience of what it's like to be a plant hunter, working with Kew's scientists who play a vital role in saving our natural world heritage.

In March 2009, Royal Botanic Garden, Kew will be sending the UK's 22,000 state primary schools a Treasure Chest full of free resources to be used in the classroom, online and in the great outdoors. The free resources are clearly mapped to the primary science curriculum and include fun activities for Years 1-6.

With exciting missions to discover plants in the wild (from the school playing fields to weeds growing in the cracks in the pavement!) The Great Plant Hunt also gives children the chance to be part of the UK's biggest ever school science project. They will be invited to take part in a unique experiment which will help Kew's scientists at the world-famous Millennium Seed Bank.

Teachers are invited to register their interest in the project by visiting www.greatplanthunt.org.



The Pod Launches

The Pod, which aims to reach 2.5 million children by 2012, encourages teachers and schools to share examples of best practice with others via the website

Participating schools can blog about their projects, share images, movies, podcasts and written work. Six activities will be available in September including 'Switch on to Switching Off' and 'Flushed with Success'. In addition to the online resource, schools will be able to apply for funding for sustainable equipment through the EDF Energy Green Fund.

As the programme develops, The Pod will be working together with Eco-Schools to help schools further their journey towards sustainability. Further announcements on this collaboration will be made in the near future so watch this space.

To learn more about EDF Energy's Programme for Greener Schools visit www.jointhepod.org

Source: Eco Schools website



Local Food ~ Food-Related, Community Project Grants

Local Food, a new and exciting grants programme funded by the Big Lottery Fund, is now available for food-related community projects across England. The £50 million programme aimed at making locally grown food accessible and affordable to local communities has been developed by a consortium of organisations, and is managed by the Royal Society of Wildlife Trust (RSWT).

Grants from £2,000 up to £500,000 will be awarded to not-for-profit groups and organisations in England delivering such projects as growing, processing, marketing and distributing local food; composting and raising awareness of the benefits of such activities. To find out more please call the **Changing Spaces Advice Line** on **0845 3 671 671** or visit www.localfoodgrants.org/.



The Ashden Awards
for sustainable energy

Schools with Energy Sought for Global
Green Awards Scheme

Applications must be received by 2 December 2008

The Ashden Awards for Sustainable Energy are seeking inspirational and innovative local sustainable energy projects being run in UK schools. Entry is free, and the Awards will be presented at a VIP ceremony in London in June 2009. Applications forms are online at www.ashdenawards.org/uk_awards. This competition is open to any UK school providing education for pupils aged between 5 and 16 which has developed both an ethos and practice of sustainability, in which the responsible use of energy is a key component. We're looking for schools that can demonstrate they've made actual energy savings, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and possibly generated renewable energy.

The Schools Award carries a first prize of £15,000 and two second prizes of £7,500.

What does it take to be a winner? Among the key criteria for a school to win an Award are:

- Sustainable energy needs to have been a key part of the practice and culture of the school for at least one year.
- The sustainable energy work includes behavioural changes that save energy, curriculum developments and technical measures.
- There are demonstrated benefits to the environment.
- The sustainable energy work of the school is innovative, inspirational and replicable.

The school must have both the capacity and the commitment to make sustainable energy more widespread by working in partnership with others (such as the local community, local education authorities, non-governmental organisations, energy supply companies) on sustainable energy. (Source: Ashden Awards website)

CABE Education Grants (www.cabe.org.uk/educationgrants)

The aim of the grants (6 awards up to £1500 - primary and secondary) is to promote educational projects that explore architecture or the design of buildings, places and green spaces in an imaginative way. These could be linked to any curriculum subject where you can demonstrate relevance to the grant award categories. Out-of-school-hours projects that are not specifically curriculum related may also be funded, as long as they relate to broader educational and participatory aims.

All applications must be submitted under one of the following five categories.

- 1. Sustainable building design** - for projects that engage young people in thinking about how buildings and places can be better designed to reduce their negative impact on the planet.
- 2. Designing your school grounds** - for projects that use school grounds as a learning resource, and allow pupils to learn about design by turning their schools grounds into more attractive and effective places.
- 3. Exploring spaces through ICT** - projects that make imaginative use of new technologies for young people to explore buildings, urban design and public space.
- 4. Pupil participation and school buildings** - for projects that take advantage of a new school build or refurbishment project (e.g. a BSF project), to help pupils to think about good design and participate in changes to their school environment.
- 5. Learning about local places** - for projects that use the rich source of learning opportunities right on our doorstep through visits, on-site explorations and creative work.

Deadline of Monday 17 November for applications.

Severn Trent's Water Efficiency Project ~ an opportunity to save water ~ for FREE!

We have recently been made aware of an excellent opportunity from Severn Trent Water for schools to have water-efficient devices installed for free. This follows a very successful trial carried out with 44 primary schools in Leicester City and Severn Trent are looking to work with 600 schools over their region. As part of the project they are looking to install monitoring equipment in the schools so water use can be monitored pre and post installation. Devices can include urinal flush controls, water displacement devices in cisterns and retro fit dual flush toilets for staff. Please look out for your letter from Severn Trent's Water Efficiency Team in November.

Faye Walters, Asst LfS Officer