

News, Events & Information Continued

Grant awarded for Solar Panels

St Georges Catholic Primary School were one of 100 lucky schools to recently be awarded funding from the Co-op's Green Energy for Schools scheme. The school received a 4KW solar panel system (enough to power 33,000 hours of computer use per year), with a value of £20,000.



Solar Totaliser

A display panel the 'Solar Totaliser' (see picture) has been fitted in the school reception area which shows how much electricity has been generated and the CO₂ emissions saved. Head Teacher Mike Painter explained that pupils are really looking forward to recording and monitoring energy use as part of their Eco-Schools work. 'The panels and displays are a great learning tool and being an Eco-School definitely helped us to secure the grant'.

The scheme is match funded by the Government's Low Carbon Buildings Programme and managed in partnership with Solarcentury. Nominations have now ended but the Co-op is intending to offer further investment in similar schemes over the next few years.

Super School Sustainability Day!

Our Lady Queen of Peace Primary School, Worcester held an exciting day of sustainability activities this year for the whole school and local community...

- Everybody, including the teachers, took part in a waste free lunch.
- A 'Freecycle' Swap Shop was held for children, parents and families.
- Worcestershire Recycling Bus was stationed at the school for the day and plastic bottles were collected to make a new greenhouse.
- Seeds were planted in pots, wild bird feeders were made and the schools grounds were tidied up.
- Creative art and design workshops were held using recycled items.
- Children visited the Pump House to learn about water efficiency, recycling and waste management.
- And to top it off a new energy-efficient form of transport was on site...an electric 'trike' (on loan from Worcester University) a great attraction for all!



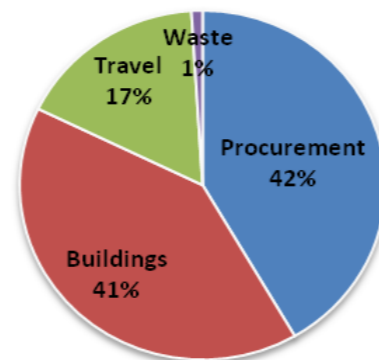
The Pump House, Worcester

Carbon emissions from schools

The Sustainable Development Commission (2008) made some analysis of carbon emissions associated with the English schools estate and found that 42% arise from emissions in the supply chain including school food and construction activity. Another significant proportion is related to emissions from the use of heat and power in school buildings. Waste accounted for less than 1% of carbon emissions. (See chart opposite)

For a copy of the full report go to:
www.sd-commission.org.uk/publications.php?id=765

English Schools Estate Carbon emissions (2004)



Be a part of England's newest nature reserve

The Big Wildlife Garden can help you turn your garden into an oasis for plants and animals. Register for free and find out everything you need to know to get birds, butterflies, frogs and toads migrating to your back yard. It doesn't matter if you have a tiny patio, a huge lawn or a school playing field; your garden could become part of England's biggest new wildlife reserve. So register your garden today and get green fingers for wildlife!

For further details: www.bwg.naturalengland.org.uk

Learning for Sustainability Newsletter (from the LfS Forum)

October 2009

Welcome back!

We hope you are looking forward to participating in the **Switch It Off fortnight**. If you don't have all the information you need to take part please go to: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/switchitoff.

We have had a great response from schools to the Poetry Competition and are anticipating a thought provoking evening of debate on 2nd December when schools will get together to share their work and meet with local decision makers.



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Eco Schools

Contents

Training.....	p1 & 2
Funding.....	p2 & 3
News and events.....	p3 & 4

Training Opportunities for Sustainable Schools and Eco Schools

Sustainable Schools: Going for Green!

Working towards the Eco Schools Green Flag Award February 3rd '10

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**

INSET number 3LT029/01

To book on the **Bishops Wood Courses** below please contact Liz Branford on 01299 250513 or email lbranford@worcestershire.gov.uk

Emotional Literacy in the Outdoors BW6

November 13th & 14th '09

Discover how the natural world and activity in it can support creative & safe emotional expression. Learn about the four core emotions and our relationship to them. Realise the importance of relaxation, fun and play through direct experience and how to support powerful communication skills. Explore techniques to empower your personal and professional life as a Forest School Leader, an Educator, Teacher, Trainer, Youth Worker...etc. This course provides a real practical way of working with Emotional Intelligence and supporting the SEAL and SEAD programmes.

Trainers: **Hoppi Wimbush and Jon Cree**

An Introduction to Storytelling BW9

December 7th & 8th '09

This annual lively workshop is led by the internationally renowned storyteller, Ben Haggarty. Ben will introduce people to essential storytelling techniques. Participants will come away with several stories to tell immediately and many ideas for finding and developing their own environmental material.

Trainer: **Ben Haggarty**

Wild Words and Leafy Pages BW10

January 26th '10

This workshop will include activities that can be used to help groups of all ages use language to explore, enjoy and celebrate their environment. We will play with words to create instant stories, sudden poems, beautiful moments and laughing incidents. Then we will explore exciting ways of recording written words in bog books, wild scrolls, mapsticks, water pictures and handmade paper. This day is aimed at primary teachers and professionals working with primary schools in literacy, art and environmental work.

Trainer: **Gordon MacLellan**

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Green Flag Success!



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

- St Richard's CofE First School
- Great Witley CofE Primary
- Sidemoor First School
- Stanley Road Primary
- The Coppice Primary
- Alvechurch & Bordesley Nursery School

Training Continued

Eco-Schools Conference



The 2009 Eco-Schools Conference (5th November) in London will be focusing on the **Carbon Reduction Commitment** (CRC). The conference will support Local Authorities and teachers at Eco-Schools to understand the impact of the legislation, and how by working together, they can achieve their energy reduction targets. Rupert Brakspear from Worcestershire County Council's Learning for Sustainability team will be attending. For further details on the conference go to: www.eco-schools.org.uk/news/. The Carbon Reduction Commitment is a theme that the LfS team is working on with Property Services, with a local conference being planned for next year.

Funding & Competitions

Love where you live - Photographic Competition

Eco-schools has partnered with not-for-profit recycling organisation Alupro to offer prizes for schools worth a total £1,000 for the best pictures in two categories:

- How your school encourages love of local landscape and wildlife
- Practical measures taken by children in your school to look after the environment

Closing date for entries is February 28th 2010.
For further details: <http://www.eco-schools.org.uk/news/>



BRE Community Sustainable Energy Programme

CSEP is an open grants programme run by BRE as an award partner of the Big Lottery Fund. Grants are available for not-for-profit community based organisations, including schools. Two types of grant are available; Capital and Project Development Grants.

- **Capital** (max grant £50,000 or 50% of the project cost) for renewable energy systems and energy efficiency measures, including insulation, heating and lighting control.
- **Project Development:** Grants are available for studies investigating the feasibility of installing a combination of microgeneration technologies. The maximum grant available is £5,000 or 75 per cent of the study cost - whichever is lower.

Next round: Friday 29th January 2010.
For further details: www.communitysustainable.org.uk/index.jsp

Further funding opportunities can be found at: www.eco-schools.org.uk/links/

What's the WRE?

The Worcestershire Resource Exchange is a 'scrapstore' which collects clean and safe waste from a range of local industries and businesses, diverting it from landfill. This 'Aladdin's Cave' of low cost reclaimed material is then made available to members (such as schools) as a creative resource for projects.



More information on the WRE and a potential competition will be outlined in the next LfS Newsletter, so watch this space!

For further information and opening times go to: www.wre.uk.com
or Tel: 01905 726796

News, Events & Information

School ambassadors meet Youth Climate Conference representative!

On 7th October '09 nine students from Hagley Catholic and Nunnery Wood High met with Katie Haywood (Royal Grammar School, Worcester) one of four national representatives attending the Youth Climate Conference in Copenhagen in December '09.



Katie Haywood, Nunnery Wood and Hagley Catholic High School ambassadors

Katie gave a presentation about her role and the goals of the Youth Conference, which aims to ensure youth voice and participation in the debate on solutions needed for Climate Change. Lively discussions were held between the two schools about what actions they could take to raise awareness of Climate Change and the Conference across the school and local community.

Ideas generated included; extending any Switch It Off involvement right up to the time of the Conference, writing to environment ministers and MPs, attending the Climate March in London in December, writing to Mayors and Town Centre Managers about unnecessary lighting, starting a 'Countdown to Copenhagen' awareness campaign in schools and much more!

All students passed on personal messages to Katie about why Climate Change matters to them. Katie is planning to collect 350 messages from people across Worcestershire as part of the **'350 Campaign' and International Day of Climate Change Action**, which took place on Saturday 24th October. Thousands of events were held across the world, including Crown Gate shopping centre in Worcester. **Why 350?** According to leading scientists, 350 parts per million is the safe upper limit for atmospheric CO₂. For further details go to: www.350.org

Countdown to Copenhagen!

To tackle climate change the world needs to move quickly and to act in unison. 2009 will be an absolutely crucial year. This December, world leaders will meet in Copenhagen, Denmark to craft a new global treaty on cutting emissions. It is essential that children and young people all over the world are given the opportunity to act on Climate Change.

CountDown to Copenhagen, a **FREE resource pack**, is now available to help school children get their voices heard prior to the critical climate talks. For more details visit www.actionaid.org.uk/countdown or call ActionAid on 01460 23 8000.



Unite for Climate. The web-based community www.uniteforclimate.org has been created so young people can discuss ideas, co-ordinate activities and sign up to campaigns.

One Million Feet to Copenhagen. Children, young people, schools, youth groups etc are being encouraged to paint their feet, upload pictures and send messages to the Climate Conference via: www.footprintfriends.com/one-million-feet-to-copenhagen.htm

Further links related to the Copenhagen Climate Conference:

- www.350.org
- www.headsup.org.uk/content/
- www.foe.co.uk
- www.unicef.org.uk/campaigns/climatechange/
- www.hopenhagen.org
- www.ukycc.org