

Training Opportunities

Starting and Continuing Eco-Schools

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

7th October 2010

INSET no. 8IN142/01

Eco-Committee/Action Team Training

For Eco-Action Teams (primary phase), a highly participative and engaging day to build skills and confidence with children taking the lead on Eco-Schools. The day will develop understanding of the scheme; e.g. the seven steps, developing the committee, action planning and involving the whole school and wider community.

3rd November 2010

To book contact Rupert or Amy

Sustainable Schools: Going for Green!

Working towards the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award

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.

8th February 2011

Tutor: Rupert Brakspear

INSET no. 8IN105/01

Dates for your diary

District Eco-Schools meetings: Biodiversity theme!

Six District Eco-Schools meetings have been arranged for this term. The meetings are a great opportunity for schools to network, share best practice, enjoy a 'tour' from the host school and catch up with latest developments in Learning for Sustainability! **Biodiversity is this term's theme and we are delighted that County Ecologists will be in attendance.** All meetings start at **3.45pm** (with refreshments) and will end by **5.30pm**. Please **book a place** at any of the dates below by contacting Amy Lunt: 01905 766809 alunt@worcesetrshire.gov.uk

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Tuesday 5 th October | St. Richard's CE First School, Evesham |
| 2. Wednesday 6 th October | Comberton Primary School, Kidderminster |
| 3. Tuesday 12 th October | Grimley & Holt CE Primary School, Worcester (N) |
| 4. Wednesday 13 th October | St Barnabas CE Primary School, Worcester |
| 5. Tuesday 2 nd November | Charford First School, Bromsgrove |
| 6. Thursday 4 th November | St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Malvern |



Funding & Competitions

Community Wildlife Funding!

Community Wildlife will fund projects that bring local people together to discover, enjoy or protect the wildlife in their local area. BIG have teamed up with the BBC Wildlife Fund's Go Wild www.bbc.co.uk/wild/ campaign to bring you the Community Wildlife programme. The programme will fund between £300 and £10,000 for projects. There are three rounds: 21 July 2010, 22 September 2010, 24 November 2010.

For further information: www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_community_wildlife?regioncode=-uk

Worcestershire County Council launches Spend to Save Fund!!

This is a ring-fenced, interest-free loan available to schools for the specific purpose of funding the capital cost of energy saving measures. The loan is repaid from the anticipated financial savings your school will make from the reduction in energy bills. For further information contact Worcestershire County Council's **Energy Group** on: 01905 766448.

Other funding:

- **Mary Jane Fund** (local funders for environmental projects) www.themaryanefund.org.uk
- **Duckworth Trust Schools' Environment Fund:** www.dwt.org.uk
- **Heritage Lottery Fund:** (Biodiversity) www.hlf.org.uk/HowToApply/programmes/Pages/yourheritage.aspx

Make a Reel Difference & win £500! Severn Trent Water are inviting High Schools to take part in a film competition about water efficiency. For further information go to www.stwatereducation.co.uk

Learning for Sustainability Newsletter (from the LfS Forum)

September 2010

Welcome back and welcome to the autumn edition of the LfS newsletter! We hope you had a wonderful summer break.

In June the new Government chose not to fund the Sustainable Schools Strategy. It is not yet clear what aspects of Sustainable Schools they will support. Our work around Learning for Sustainability and supporting Eco-Schools continues in line with our own strategy and the UN Decade for Education for Sustainable Development (2005). We will keep you posted as to further developments.

Amy, Rupert & John (LfS Team)



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News, Events & Information

Green Flag success!

Worcestershire has seen so many schools achieve their Green Flag this year. There are now 65 schools in the County (a National leader in this scheme) who have achieved this prestigious award! A huge Congratulations to them all! **Charford First School, Bromsgrove** (pic.) gained the award this year and they have provided some information and inspiration about how they went about it!



We worked towards gaining our Green Flag by...

- Building Eco-Schools into the ethos and everyday activity of the school. Getting the children fully on board and developing ownership i.e. the children worked in pairs to conduct the Environmental Review and wrote a summary in their own words and reported this in assembly.
- Prioritising what can be done -as you can't do it all!
- Engaging in whole school activities and campaigns- Walk to School Week, Recycle Week, Green Day, Switch-it-Off etc. Setting 'eco-challenges' and awarding certificates every term.
- Developing effective ways to inform the rest of school of progress- the Eco-Committee report back in assembly every 2 weeks! The children also make a presentation annually to Governors.
- Developing good ways to monitor progress across themes- children help take electricity meter readings throughout the year, chart these on a wall and report findings in assemblies with arrows to show changes.
- Ensuring as many people help and get on board as possible. We work closely with the School Council and have gained support and involvement from the wider school- governors, parents, TAs etc.
- Setting up ways to gather ideas/opinions such as peer questionnaires and suggestion boxes. Communicating regularly with the wider community- e.g. eco news in monthly newsletters.
- The school's major focus has been on waste and recycling, schools grounds and biodiversity with work also done on energy. Future plans are to explore the global dimension in more depth - with links to Borneo and Fairtrade!

Please circulate	✓
Head teacher	
Eco Schools Coordinator	
ESD Coordinator	

Learning for Sustainability Team
Contact Details - page 2.

Green Flag Success!



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

- Blakedown CE Primary
- Broadwas CE Primary
- Charford First
- Comberton Primary
- Crown Meadow First
- Evesham Nursery
- Finstall First
- Hagley RC High
- Leigh & Bransford Primary
- Overbury CE First
- Parkside Middle
- Perdiswell Primary
- Ridgeway Middle
- St. George's Primary (Kidderminster)
- Stourport Primary
- Tardebigge First
- The Kiddies Day Nursery
- Tibberton CE First
- Upper Arley CE Primary

LfS Team Contacts/Communications

Communications and EduLink

To facilitate communications with schools we are developing the Learning for Sustainability content and functions on **EduLink**. If you have an account with Edulink you will soon be able to access latest news, developments, an events diary and even a discussion forum! If you haven't signed up- then please do so. We will be contacting you in due course with how to receive weekly Learning for Sustainability alerts from the Edulink site: www.edulink.networcs.net/Pages/Default.aspx

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News, Events & Information

Eco-Committee organise successful plant & seed swap!

A hugely successful community plant and seed swap was run by St. Joseph's Catholic Primary (Malvern) Green Flag Eco-Committee on 27th April. Parents, friends and neighbours were invited to the school by the children to swap plants and seeds and to take part in some hands-on workshops; making paper pots, bird feeders and seed packets. A Council recycling officer, a volunteer Master Composter and the Hedgehog Preservation Society were also on hand to offer advice to all! The event was advertised on the Britain in Bloom website and was also supported by members of Transition Town Malvern.



High School Eco-Ambassadors get trained up!

Eco-Ambassadors from The Chantry and Tenbury High Schools met for an action packed and participatory training day on the 25th May 2010. The Eco-Ambassadors explored sustainability issues, got to grips with the Eco-Schools programme and processes, developed their role as Eco-Ambassadors and got to share and inspire each other with what's going on in their schools! The LfS Team offer joint Eco-Ambassador training to two High Schools per term. For more information contact **Amy Lunt** 01905 766809 alunt@worcestershire.gov.uk



University of Worcester is First to Achieve Full Platinum EcoCampus Award!

The University of Worcester has become England's first university to be awarded EcoCampus Platinum for the entire organisation. The university was also recently ranked 17th in this years People & Planet Green League! The University is happy to talk to schools who want to learn about what the University is doing. Contact Katy Boom: 01905 855243 k.boom@worc.ac.uk



Resources: Films & Animations

The Story of Stuff - a short animated documentary about the life-cycle of material goods, available to watch for free at www.youtube.com or the following link: www.storyofstuff.com where you can also download scripts, facts sheets and screening posters etc!



Mole's Dream - The Soil Association has produced *Mole's Dream*, a short film to explore current issues around food and farming. It is suitable for KS1 and early KS2. The animation can be played as a story followed by some class discussion, or as a springboard into more detailed work on soil, animal welfare, food chains and food miles through the supporting materials.



www.soilassociation.org/Schools/Primaryresources/AdventuresofMole/tabid/285/Default

Awareness Days & Campaigns

International Car Free Day: 22nd September
British Food Fortnight: 18th September-3rd October
World Animal Day: 4th October

World Water Week: 5th-11th September
Apple Day: 21st October
Buy Nothing Day: 27th November

News- focus on energy

Schools & the Carbon Reduction Commitment Conference!

To assist schools with understanding the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) and to enable them to *cut energy, cut costs, empower learners and inspire communities*—an informative half day conference will take place on the **19th October 2010** at the Bishops Wood Centre. Speakers to include Richard Dunne (Head teacher of Ashley CE Primary School and Ashden Award Winner), County Officers from across Directorates, Worcestershire Schools Energy Teams and more! **Book a place by 1st October!** Poster and booking form can be accessed at: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/community-and-living/sustainability/learning-for-sustainability/resources-and-support/news-and-events.aspx Or contact Rupert or Amy (contact details on page 2).

Get ready for Switch-it-Off!!

This year's **Switch-it-Off** fortnight for schools will start on the **22nd November** with the undercover/detective week and will be followed by the **Switch-Off Week** of action beginning **29th November**. These dates are in line with the national schools Switch-it-Off campaign being run by the POD (www.jointhepod.org) Please see enclosed letter and resources pack for further information.



Generation Green- Generation Green is a community-based programme for schools from British Gas, which encourages green behaviour through a combination of educational resources, lesson plans and extra curricular activities. Schools can sign up, start earning green leaves for completing tasks and work towards gaining green prizes....from bike sheds to bird boxes! For more information and to register go to: www.generationgreen.co.uk



Free Solar Panels for Schools!- British Gas has unveiled a £15 million investment in solar technology for the nation's schools. The company will donate and install solar panels - worth up to £40,000 - in up to 750 schools in the UK. To register, for more information and how to nominate your school go to: www.generationgreen.co.uk/solarpanels/. However, there may be complex technical issues- an alternative and possibly better option could be through the **Council's Spend to Save Loan** (see p4). We advise that you contact Worcestershire County Council's **Property Services Team** for advice, guidance and support on potential renewable energy installations and offers: Call: 01905 766488.

Global Work Party!- The 10th October 2010 (10/10/10) is going to be the biggest day of practical action to cut carbon that the world has ever seen. Together we'll get to work in our schools and communities on projects that can cut carbon and build the clean energy future. Over a thousand groups have already registered their plans, including bike repair workshops in San Francisco, school insulating and tree planting teams in the UK. Find out more and register a **Global Work Party** in your community www.350.org/campaigns/1010



Action Aid offer 10:10 free workshops!- Has your school signed up to the 10:10 campaign to cut carbon emissions in 2010? If not, don't worry there's still time! To help you Action Aid are offering 100 climate change workshops to schools that have signed up. These workshops are tailored to your needs and offered on a first come, first served basis so sign up and book yours now! Call 01460 238000 or email schools@actionaid.org

Battery recycling- ERP will provide collection boxes and will collect batteries from your school for free! For further information: www.erp-batteries.co.uk/schools/

Free flood awareness classes!- The Duckworth Worcestershire Trust and the Environment Agency have teamed up to provide all schools in Worcestershire with the opportunity to teach their pupils how to be safe and prepared in case of a flood. The sessions last 45 min to 1 hour and can be run at school. Contact Laura Chapman, Education and Information Officer on 01905 734980 or email education@dwt.org.uk



Water Education –free outreach sessions! Severn Trent are offering outreach sessions for schools which include whole school assemblies, group talks and activities, Sewage Treatment DVD, Water Audit project workshops and specific group work with school councils and Eco-councils. **Now taking bookings for Autumn 2010** For further information contact: Kate King, Education Co-ordinator 01242 680164 www.stwatereducation.co.uk

