



Sally Gray (age 13)  
Dr. Thomlinson C of E Middle School (Barnbury)

# Climate Change Lead Schools Newsletter

[www.climatechangeschools.org.uk](http://www.climatechangeschools.org.uk)

## Breaking News...

### Boardroom V Classroom Challenge



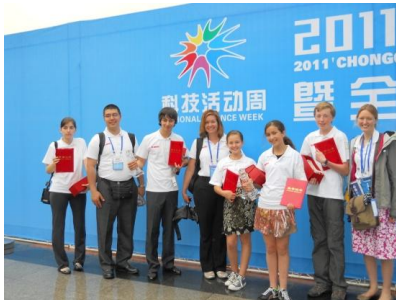
The Boardroom v Classroom Challenge is an exciting new initiative bringing enterprising businesses and students in North East England together in a creative and fun way to find commercial opportunities relating to climate change.

This year, three pioneering businesses have joined up with entrepreneurial school and college students on four exciting projects to identify commercially viable opportunities relating to the low-carbon and climate resilient economy.

The students have until 15 July to work up their ideas before they pitch them to the businesses at the CCSP Celebration Event. If the businesses like the solution that the students come up with, they can take the idea, or a version of it, forward.

**Students offer 'flood' of ideas to green-minded Gateshead business**

## Contents:



Sally Gray (age 13)  
Dr. Thomlinson C of E Middle School (Barnbury)

## Stories from You

Stories from Richard Avenue Primary School, Dr. Thomlinson Middle School, East Boldon Junior School, White Mere Community Primary School, King Edward VI School and Edmondsley Primary School.

## Student's Corner

Scott Martin from Dr. Thomlinson Middle School tells us about his trip to China to share ideas about climate change with a group of young people from around the world.

## Student Correspondent

Our student correspondent Shannon Kerr tells us what Climate Change Adaptation means to her.

## Most Popular

This month, we feature resources from Schools Global Gardens Network, Australian Government Schools Emergency Management, the Woodland Trust and the WWF.

## Upcoming Events

Upcoming events: CCSP Celebration, Become a Climate Change Lead School and Moving Planet.

## How to Contribute

Please send your copy for the next newsletter to Harriet by Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November.



# Climate Change

## Lead Schools Newsletter

A Gateshead design and manufacturing company has teamed up with Newcastle College students to develop a flood defence system. C2M UK owner, Gary Thompson, has challenged the sixth-formers to develop a commercially successful product that can protect buildings from flooding in an emergency.

Gary said: "The students have looked at lots of ways to protect buildings from flooding. They are really enthusiastic and together we have come up with a practical idea that could actually be turned into a commercially viable product. I can't give too much away at this stage as it is top secret until they pitch the full idea to me in July.... The question we all have to answer is this: how can we stand by and watch the future which is no longer in our hands become the issue for our children and their siblings. It is imperative that we encourage the future generations to be innovative and entrepreneurial and engage in activities to correct the mistakes of our fathers and grandfathers.

### Stories from You

#### 'RAPS Eco Update', Eco Club, Richard Avenue Primary School (Sunderland)



As part of the Adaptation Challenge we wanted to get our whole school and local community involved in the project and that's exactly what we did. Our project started back in November 2010 with the idea to write, sing and record a song to make people aware of the risks of flooding in our local area. We worked with local musician and song writer, Steve Angus, to write the lyrics of 'Flood Song' with a clear message – 'we are preparing for the future'. We then asked our whole school to learn the song and talk about the words and what they mean. Over 450 children learnt the song from the ages of 4 to 11 and we began to sing 'Flood Song' in assemblies, hymn practises and in class.

When the time came to record 'Flood Song' our whole school was extremely excited! Steve and local soundman/producer, James Hutchinson, brought their equipment into school and we recorded 'Flood Song'. We then worked on a CD cover for the record and had 75 copies produced. We launched the song at our school summer fair and open day on the 25<sup>th</sup> June and began to sell the record to children, parents and other members of the local community. Alongside 'Flood Song' we handed out leaflets about climate change issues including flooding in English, Bengali and Arabic, which are the main languages spoken in our community.



The sale of our CD was so successful that it sold out before the end of our open day and we are now taking orders from people who missed out. With the money raised from the sale of 'Flood Song' we are enhancing our newly built outdoor classroom which was officially opened at the summer fair by CCSP's very own Harriet Thew. We hope that 'Flood Song' has as much impact on our local community as it has on our school.



# Climate Change

## Lead Schools Newsletter

### **'Green Week', Joanne Sones, Deputy Headteacher, Hartside Primary School (County Durham)**



During Green Week, children at Hartside enjoyed joining in with Green Day activities. We all painted our hands to make a 'caring hands' display. On this display we made promises about how we would help to look after our environment.

Everyone really enjoyed pond dipping. It's amazing what different varieties of animals there are in our small pond! Some of them looked a lot like baby dragons!

We thought about appreciating the beautiful world around us by creating art work from things we found in our school grounds and placing them outside for everyone to enjoy.

After watching a clip of the film 'Wal E', we created superheroes to help save our planet and stop it from turning into a planet like the one in the film.

Throughout the rest of the week, the whole school had a fantastic time structuring their learning around Module 3 of the CCSP Lead School materials: 'Climate Change All Around Me'.

### **'Boardroom v Classroom pupils visit Battlesteads Hotel', Lucy Smith, Geography & Sustainability Coordinator, Dr. Thomlinson CoE Middle School (Northumberland)**



As part of the Boardroom V Classroom Challenge, pupils and staff from Dr. Thomlinson Middle School (Rothbury) visited Battlesteads Hotel in Wark with Krista McKinzey and Harriet Thew from the Climate Change Schools Project

Battlesteads owner Richard Slade and his daughter Kate ran workshops with the children sketching ideas for a new pond area and wildlife haven. (Ideas included plans to harvest winter rainfall to irrigate the crops in drier summer months and to attract frogs and birds which would help to keep pests off the food crops).

The children also had lots of fun exploring the polytunnels, veggie and walled gardens, picking and trying lots of herbs, learning how Battlesteads' biomass boiler works and planting their own climbing beans to take home.

They also asked Richard and Kate many questions about their sustainable business and came away feeling inspired, with many pupils going away with a new interest in growing their own vegetables, and a couple of pupils even deciding to follow Richard's example when they leave school and set up a sustainably run garden and restaurant.



# Climate Change

## Lead Schools Newsletter

### **'Bee Week', Alison McCann, Class Teacher, East Boldon Junior School (South Tyneside)**



We were invited by the Soroptomist Society to get involved with Bee Week to raise awareness of the plight of the honey bee. This turned out to be a super mini topic which the children learned so much from.

It was sponsored by Rowses' honey and the Soroptomist Society who provided the children with a goody bag containing honey for baking, a wooden spoon, a small badge and recipe cards, but more importantly an excellent workbook for the children to work in at home and school organised over a five day period.

We learned so much together and now clearly know why we have the term 'busy as a bee.' The children now want to plant lavender bushes to create a perfect habitat for bees...so I guess that's our next project!

### **'Super Solar Power', Helen Sykes, Climate Change Lead Teacher, White Mere Community Primary School (Gateshead)**

Y5 have been studying the impact of carbon emissions and how the world's climate is being affected. They decided to design and make energy efficient cars - powered either by batteries or solar power, inspired by the launch of the Nissan Leaf. A big thank you to Doc (a science specialist) who came in to help with the project - great fun was had by all! Their work was displayed at the MetroCentre at a Super Science Showcase in March to celebrate National Science & Engineering Week – in collaboration with Thomas Hepburn Secondary School who organised the event. It was a great way for us to demonstrate the electric cars we had made, along with promoting the message about the global impact of Climate Change, in advance of National Climate Week. We were also lucky to write the 'Our School' page for The Evening Chronicle where we publicised our Climate Action Team who were elected to represent pupils within school.



### **Nexus Competition Win:**

Huge congratulations also go to Abbie from Y5 who recently won a prestigious competition organised by Nexus. The task was to use ICT to design a new 'pop' card - a 'smart card' that encourages people to use public transport more frequently. She beat over 200 entries from the region and won a fantastic iPod touch along with £350 of free travel for the school. Her design featured a Metro train outlined by flowers set against a green background. This was a super way for us to encourage people to reduce their carbon emissions and consequently address the climate change issue.



# Climate Change

## Lead Schools Newsletter

### **'Pupil Awarded Diana Award', Victoria Najafi, Student Voice, Leadership and Enrichment Co-ordinator, The King Edward VI School (Northumberland)**



Congratulations to student Steven Fox at The King Edward VI School, Morpeth, who has been awarded a Diana Award, a national honour. Steven has recently left school after completing year 11.

The Diana Award celebrates the amazing achievements of inspirational young people, who defy expectation and challenge the negative stereotypes that are so often applied to them. The Award was established in 1999 to act as a lasting legacy to Diana Princess of Wales' belief that young people have the power to change the world for the better.

Miss Najafi, Mrs Farthing and Mr Hutton contributed to Steven's nomination to recognise his excellent commitment and dedication to the school garden. Steven has played a fundamental role in the development of the Helen Boon Memorial Garden. He recently presented in front of hundreds of staff and students at Abbeyfields First School about his horticultural work, and he was a winner in the this year's Pride of Northumberland Awards in the 'Green Champion Category'. We wish Steven the best of luck with his GCSEs, as well as for the year ahead, during which he will study Horticulture at Kirkley Hall in Northumberland.

### **'Summer 2011', Rose Fletcher, Geography, RE and Able Children Co-ordinator, Edmondsley Primary (County Durham)**



There has been lots of activity in the allotment over the last month with several types of lettuce, rocket, garlic and onions all harvested and taken to the kitchen and produced for us all to eat at lunchtime. The dry spell has necessitated lots of playtime watering of our more exposed tree whips, and there's never any shortage of volunteers. All classes have spent more time outside, playing under the new shade sails, conducting hedgerow surveys, making a prototype pond for our tadpoles (a trial run for the larger scale model we hope to build when funds allow), orienteering and then a whole school walk to the Edmondsley woods during our sports week, where there is the opportunity to talk about the coal mining history of the village and its aftermath as we study the reed beds and picnic on the 'healthy sandwiches' we designed and made earlier (using produce from the allotment). There have been many opportunities to build the children's awareness of their locality, its flora and fauna.

Meanwhile, preparations are being made for our end of year 'Green Tour' for interested parents...led by the children of Environment Club, and performances for the Journal School Awards and Climate Change Schools Project Celebration Day are being rehearsed. All are opportunities to spread the word....

***'There are no passengers on spaceship Earth, only crew'*** ...and we can all play a valuable role.



# Climate Change

## Lead Schools Newsletter

### Student's Corner

#### 'Climate Change in Chongqing' Scott Martin (age 12), Dr Thomlinson CoE Middle School, (Northumberland)

On Friday 13th May my Geography teacher (Mrs Smith) and I set off to Chongqing, China. This was a trip that we had been informed about by the CCSP. We were pleased to be chosen to represent our school and Northumberland on the topic of low carbon living. In Chongqing we would take part in a massive climate change event involving thousands of Chinese students as well as students from America and Canada. To get this fantastic opportunity I wrote an essay about what I do at home and what our school does to reduce our carbon footprint and help combat climate change. We also created a video to illustrate what we do at school, my brother Craig helped immensely with editing this.



To get to Chongqing we took 3 flights: from Newcastle to London Heathrow, then an 11 hour flight to Hong Kong and finally, when we were absolutely shattered, a 2 hour flight from Hong Kong to Chongqing where we would be staying for the next week. From leaving the door of my house to arriving in Chongqing took 25 hours!

Chongqing, like many Chinese cities, is a quickly developing city bustling with cars, buses, taxis and people. The first thing that hit me was how high all the buildings were – every building was at least 7 stories high. The whole city was partially cloaked in a layer of smog. The population of Chongqing municipality is over 31 million, bearing in mind that the population of the UK is only 60 million. Chongqing City itself is home to 7 million people.



As soon as we arrived a host was there to meet us and we were whisked away to the Harbour Plaza Hotel in downtown Chongqing. Later that night we went out to eat with our friend Sinba Duan from the British Council who had helped arrange the visit and liaise with the Chinese organizers.

The next day we attended an awards ceremony where I (along with the other international students) was presented with an award for my essay. A day of many museums and media interviews followed this.

Throughout the next few days we were taken to many different tourist attractions, museums and also the office of the magazine Opendass who were the main sponsor for the event. We each gave a presentation (via an interpreter) at a conference with the magazine representatives on our views of low carbon living. Highlights of our tour included the Three Gorges Museum, ex-concentration camps and a fantastic night time river cruise down two rivers (the Yangtze and the Jialing) to appreciate the beautiful skyline of the city.



After spending the first part of the trip in the city we packed our bags and went up into the mountainous region of Wulong where we saw stunning rock arches, breathtaking caves, sheer ravines and beautiful mountain scenery.

In the morning we drove back to the city where we visited a school for a second conference and exchanged views with pupils and teachers. The next day we visited one last school which has become our link partner. We took 30 pen pal letters from pupils in our school to exchange with a class of young people who specialise in



# Climate Change

## Lead Schools Newsletter

environmental studies, we are enjoying further communication.

Sadly later that day we had to head for home. We took the same journey back as we had on the way out to China, 25 hours travelling all over again.

***Overall I would say it was a thrilling once in a lifetime experience. A great opportunity to make new friends, share ideas on climate change with students from abroad and great fun!***

### Student Correspondent

**What does climate change adaptation mean to me? – Mind the Gap! Shannon Kerr, CCSP Student Correspondent 2010-11, King Edward VI School, (Northumberland)**



Many talk about a “tipping point”, still debating on whether we have reached it and are at the point of no return, or if we still have time to try and stop climate change. We also need to remember that there is a lag built into the physics – we’re still warming up due to previous emissions. It’s a bit like the train with no brakes in Unstoppable. And so far Denzel Washington isn’t on the train.

Personally, I think that we are already at the tipping point, no longer able to stop climate change happening. Therefore we should be focusing more on adaptation which is about reducing the impacts of climate change. These impacts will include flooding, heat waves, drought and many other types of extreme weather such as tropical storms and hurricanes.

We may not be able to prevent these events from occurring, but we can reduce their impacts through adaptation. If we thought that a train was going to come off the rails and crash into a chemical factory, we would start to evacuate people and make plans. Brakes would be good, but we would still make plans and take action.

I think that it is important for young people like me to consider the various ways to prepare for the impacts of a changing climate because....as we are the next generation, we will find that as climate change becomes even more evident, we will be right in the middle of it all. We will be the ones that will have to deal with the effects and impacts of the train wreck!

Education is a key part of adapting to a changing climate and the Climate Change Schools Project is a great example of this. Without people going into schools, many young people wouldn’t know anything about what is happening around them.

Maybe, through the project, young people can start to speak with one voice and find a leader like Denzel who knows what to do with runaway trains?

This is my last article as the Climate Change Lead Schools correspondent as I am going to university in the autumn. I hope that the next Lead Schools correspondent will enjoy writing the monthly articles as much as I have!



# Climate Change

## Lead Schools Newsletter

### Most popular:

**Schools Global Gardens Network:** [www.globalgardens.org.uk](http://www.globalgardens.org.uk)



Whether you already have a food growing garden or are planning one, the School Global Garden Network will help you make the most of your edible classroom. This website is a doorway to a cornucopia of resources which show how the school garden can be a resource for the whole curriculum, as well as the Sustainable Schools strategy, Healthy Living Blueprint and global citizenship. From simple 'how-to' guides on building beds with sustainable materials and growing fruit and vegetables, to photo-packs on school gardens in Uganda, there is something for the novice and expert.

**Dingo Creek:** [www.ema.gov.au/www/ema/schools.nsf/Page/RWP9EDD9A94BE48C6BBCA25747F00812CAE](http://www.ema.gov.au/www/ema/schools.nsf/Page/RWP9EDD9A94BE48C6BBCA25747F00812CAE)



A learning object to immerse middle year students in natural disaster education in an Australian context (but relevant to students in the UK engaged in looking at flooding or global impacts of climate change), Dingo Creek is designed to engage middle year students in the process of identifying risks from natural disasters to their immediate community and using the emergency risk management process to reduce the impacts of natural disaster on the Australian environment.

**The Woodland Trust Jubilee Woods Project:** [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/en/moretrees-moregood/get-involved/plant-trees/Pages/free-trees-community.aspx](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/en/moretrees-moregood/get-involved/plant-trees/Pages/free-trees-community.aspx)



**MORE TREES  
MORE GOOD**

Celebrate the Jubilee and leave a lasting legacy with a free pack of trees from the Woodland Trust. The packs are themed to help you choose the best mix for your project and include a Royal Sapling, grown from seeds

collected on Royal Estates such as Sandringham.

Why not join with friends and neighbours to transform your local neighbourhood together?

Coming later in the year there will be opportunities for schools to take part in themed events, access curriculum resources. Keep an eye on the Woodland Trust website for further details.

**WWF 50th Anniversary 'The Panda Made Me Do It' -**  
[www.wwf.org.uk/how\\_you\\_can\\_help/the\\_panda\\_made\\_me\\_do\\_it/](http://www.wwf.org.uk/how_you_can_help/the_panda_made_me_do_it/)

**THE PANDA  
MADE ME DO IT** 

Lots of people are doing fantastic things to help us protect the natural world - buying sustainable seafood or forest-friendly wood, adopting an animal or saving energy. Find out how others are helping to conserve nature and wildlife and be inspired to take your own actions.



Sally Gray (age 13)  
Dr. Timonin Col. Middle School (Ontario)

# Climate Change

## Lead Schools Newsletter

### Upcoming Events

[REMINDER]

**Become a 'Climate Change Lead School' in 2011-2012 - closing date Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July**



Sally Gray (age 13)  
Dr. Timonin Col. Middle School (Ontario)

From **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May until Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July**, current Climate Change Lead Schools in North East England will have the opportunity to renew their place in the award-winning Climate Change Schools Project for 2011-2012. Any school in the North East - from Nursery to College, Special, Public and Private – is eligible to join.

*\*Please note that Climate Change Lead Schools renew their place in the CCSP annually – so please don't miss out if you'd like to maintain your place next year.\**

The Climate Change Schools Project (CCSP), winner of the inaugural National Climate Week 'Best Educational Initiative' award, aims to put climate change at the heart of the national curriculum and make schools 'beacons' for positive action in their local communities. To-date, **8000 young people aged 5 to 18 years have participated in over 50,000 hours of climate change activity.**

The vision of the CCSP, its 'Climate Change Lead Schools' network, receives:

- expert advice, guidance and support for embedding climate change into the curriculum from Nursery to College levels, and for Special Schools;
- whole-school access to a creative, cross-curricular and extensive suite of Schemes of Work **developed by teachers for teachers in the North East of England** (regularly updated with new materials);
- an ongoing programme of tailored professional development and sharing best practice;
- opportunities to engage and showcase schools from local to international levels;
- access to a wide variety of climate change related support networks across the public, private and voluntary sector;
- opportunities to participate in ground-breaking affiliated CCSP projects (e.g. 'Adaptation Challenge', 'Community Scientists', 'Boardroom vs. Classroom Challenge', 'AstraZeneca Science Teaching Trust' CCSP development, international school partnerships, etc. See [www.climatechangeschools.org.uk](http://www.climatechangeschools.org.uk) for further details & Case Studies).

To renew your place as a 'Climate Change Lead School' for 2011-2012, **please review the range of exciting options contained in the CCSP 'Service Level Agreement' available from [www.climatechangeschools.org.uk](http://www.climatechangeschools.org.uk)** including **core, enhanced and bespoke offers**, as well as special opportunities, too.

Select the option(s) that your school would like to be involved in, and post 2 signed copies, **no later than Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2011** to:

Dr. Krista McKinzey  
Climate Change Schools Project Manager  
Science Learning Centre North East  
Durham University  
Front Street  
Pity Me,  
DURHAM  
DH1 5BZ



Sally Gray (age 13)  
Dr. Timonin Old Middle School (Newbury)

# Climate Change

## Lead Schools Newsletter

**Climate Change Schools Project & ClimateNE Celebration Day – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2011, Discovery Museum (Newcastle-Upon-Tyne)**



Sally Gray (age 13)  
Dr. Timonin Old Middle School (Newbury)

## ClimateNE

On 15<sup>th</sup> July we will be celebrating the achievements of all of the 2010-11 Climate Change Lead Schools at the Discovery Museum in Newcastle.

The celebration will give all of our Lead Schools the opportunity to share ideas and experiences with each other, and also with local businesses and other organisations, as we will be running the event in conjunction with ClimateNE. Exciting projects from young people of all ages will be showcased, including performances and workshops from our Adaptation Challenge schools, Community Scientists, Boardroom V Classroom schools and businesses...and much more!

**Bookings for this event have now closed.** For those of you who are joining us: Please come along for registration and refreshments at 9 am for a 9.30am start. The event will run until 3.15 pm.

**See you on 15<sup>th</sup> .....we can't wait!**

**Moving Planet: A day to move beyond fossil fuels: [www.moving-planet.org/](http://www.moving-planet.org/)**

Moving Planet is a worldwide rally to demand solutions to the climate crisis—a single day to move away from fossil fuels. For too long, our leaders have denied and delayed, compromised and caved. That era must come to an end.

Be part of something huge. It's time to get moving on the climate crisis. Come on bike, on skates, on a board, or just on foot. There are currently no activities scheduled for Moving Planet Day in the North East. Start your own using the resources available and invite your neighbours and your friends, your family and your co-workers!





# Climate Change

## Lead Schools Newsletter

### How to Contribute



**For registered 2011-2012 Lead Schools: 25<sup>th</sup> November 2011 is the closing date for your contributions to the next newsletter.**

Please email Harriet Thew on [harriet.thew@durham.ac.uk](mailto:harriet.thew@durham.ac.uk) to submit:

'Stories from You!' (A snapshot of your recent Lead Schools achievements)

'Student's Corner' (an inspiring and thoughtful commentary from 1 of your Lead Schools students)

'Most Popular' (anecdotes of particular activities undertaken from different CCSP Modules would be most welcomed!)

'Upcoming Events' (if you'd like to draw attention to any climate change related events in your school or Local Authority a month in advance, these may also be included).

To find out more about the Climate Change Schools Project please contact Dr. Krista McKinzey, Climate Change Schools Project Manager, Science Learning Centre North East on [krista.mckinzey@durham.ac.uk](mailto:krista.mckinzey@durham.ac.uk)

**The Climate Change Schools Project is supported by:**



**ClimateNE**



Climate Change Schools Project - winners of inaugural 'Best Educational Initiative'