



## Climate Change Lead Schools e-Newsletter

Issue 2 - December 2008

Welcome to the second issue of our monthly *Climate Change Lead Schools E-Newsletter!*

Each e-newsletter will bring you the chance to:

- share your excellent experiences as Lead Schools
- become inspired through notes from Lead Schools students
- review the most popular Lead Schools activities or tools to help delivery in your classroom
- make a note of important upcoming events!

Read on to find out more!

To find out how YOU can contribute, please scroll down to 'How to Contribute'

**21ST JANUARY IS THE DEADLINE FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEXT MONTH'S E-NEWSLETTER**

### Breaking News

#### Poznań Climate Change Conference



The Poznań Climate Change Conference, 1-12 December 2008, provided an opportunity for world leaders and scientists to build momentum towards an agreed outcome at the upcoming Copenhagen Climate Change Conference taking place in late 2009 – these conferences have been organised to help countries determine how to proceed with global climate change agreements and targets after the Kyoto Protocol runs out in 2012.

Footprint Friends attended the Poznań conference as part of a team representing 'Children in a Changing Climate' – you can read about their experiences at: [http://yoursay.footprintfriends.com/blogs/founder\\_footsteps/archive/2008/12/10/poznan-the-urgency-and-opportunity-for-a-big-historic-movement.aspx](http://yoursay.footprintfriends.com/blogs/founder_footsteps/archive/2008/12/10/poznan-the-urgency-and-opportunity-for-a-big-historic-movement.aspx)

Representing and obtaining young people's voices is paramount to the climate change challenge – the Climate Change Schools Project has attempted to do this via the lovely *Climate Change Schools Project* book published last June (see [www.dur.ac.uk/about/publications/climate\\_change/](http://www.dur.ac.uk/about/publications/climate_change/)).

You might also like to read an inspiring article posted in *The Guardian* on 4th December describing how 'the young are the key to fighting climate change' ([www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2008/dec/04/climate-change](http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2008/dec/04/climate-change)). As a Climate Change Lead School, you are also involved in the engagement of tomorrow's leaders and policy makers...so keep up the great work!

#### 'Climate Change Bill' becomes law

On 26th November 2008, the 'Climate Change Bill' became law. The new legislation commits Britain to cut 80% of its greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The new bill also seeks to ensure that the country is well-adapted and resilient to both current and future changes in climate.

Britain has now become the first country in the world to have agreed to such a legally binding framework on climate change policy. The targets are ambitious, but if we start acting in earnest now, we can achieve our aims!

Alan Jones, manager of the Energy Saving Trust, said: "An 80% reduction sounds like an impossible task: but it's not. Personal carbon emissions (the emissions from our homes and our travel) account for around 43% of the UK total, and we are here to help individuals across the region to understand what they can do to make a difference, from insulating their homes to advising how they can travel in a smarter way."

See [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk) for ways that you can make a difference right now!

#### Energy Monitor Competition...begins in January 2009!



For those schools taking part in the 'Energy Monitor Competition', please remember that January is a 'BUSINESS AS USUAL' month, so that you can collect baseline data from your school – without this baseline, you will have nothing to compare against by the end of May...and this means that all of your school's hard work to reduce its electricity consumption WOULD NOT BE INCLUDED in the running to win the competition!

Although you'll need to ensure that data is collected from the week beginning 5th January, your school's 'ENERGY REDUCTION CAMPAIGN' is to begin in February! Please refer to the competition guidelines that I circulated via email in November for further details/instructions. You can now also download the Excel spreadsheet circulated with that same email from the 'Introduction' page on the Climate Change Lead Schools site (if you haven't already downloaded and saved from that email) – NOTE: you'll need to be signed in with your username and password to see the downloadable Excel file.

For further information about your monitor, see [www.currentcost.com/index.html](http://www.currentcost.com/index.html). The FAQs are quite helpful for yourself or whoever is installing the monitor at your school!

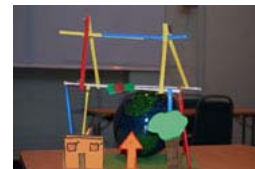
### Stories from You!

#### 'Climate Change Awareness' at Jarrow School (South Tyneside) by Peter Lawson (Assistant Headteacher)

On Monday 8th December, the whole of our Year 8 class at Jarrow School participated in a 'Climate Change Awareness' afternoon. The pupils had a great time exploring parts of Module 1 ('Climate change nuts and bolts'), Module 2 ('Don't believe the hype...') and Module 6 ('Making the most of it!'). The immersive and hands-on afternoon resulted in pupil participation in a wide variety of projects and opened up their eyes to new and really creative ways of investigating climate change.



Some of the fantastic 3D models demonstrating the greenhouse effect (Module 1) are shown here. Students incorporated carbon footprints, snowmen, global warming, sea level rise and carbon dioxide molecules into their models, just to name a few of their ideas!



The students also enjoyed becoming 'documentary makers' by using Microsoft Photostory (Module 2) – they examined how imagery, language and music can become persuasive media tools, especially when themed around climate change. It helped them to realise the importance of critically assessing the things they see and hear on TV and to really question what's being portrayed. Some of the students have even posted their videos onto Footprint Friends and YouTube – what a great way to share their work and spread the message about climate change!

The Year 8s also enjoyed putting their design and marketing skills to use when creating travel brochures for North East England in the future (Module 6)...their brief was to showcase the North East as 'the place to be' as a tourist destination in the year 2050. The brochures were clever and interesting and really made the students think about how climate change may impact their own backyards, so to speak!

All in all, it was a fantastic afternoon, and we look forward to staying actively involved as a Climate Change Lead School.

### Student's Corner

**This month, 'joek' from Bydales School in Marske-by-the-sea poses some thought-provoking questions in the Poznań Footprint Friends forum...**

I have a few points which I believe are quite important regarding climate change and how countries' economic interests often conflict with their environmental ones.

The European Commission estimates that the Eurozone is now in recession and the OECD warns Britain will suffer a severe recession next year. As economies reduce in size, how are governments and businesses planning to ensure that they still have the money to invest in sustainable technologies?

Also, we are fortunate that climate change is now one of the public's primary concerns, but as the economic outlook worsens and unemployment rises, is it not probable their interest in the state of their economy will become greater than their interest in the environment?

Perhaps the state of the economy is a great way in which the world can become more sustainable. People surely do not want to have to pay large energy bills; can money not be invested by governments to encourage greater amounts of energy generation in a domestic setting (by subsidising small wind turbines etc.)? Governments probably also want to reduce their reliance on foreign fuel and this is a great time this can be encouraged, whether through clean coal, nuclear power or sustainable sources of energy.

*What very thoughtful suggestions! The climate change challenge and state of the economy do not have to be mutually exclusive...the opportunities they present together can have positive and beneficial outcomes!*

### Most Popular...

This month, we feature another 2 wonderful tools to complement your Lead Schools achievements...

#### SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS POWERPOINT



**The Government wants every school in England to be a Sustainable School by 2020.**

The National Framework introduces eight doorways through which schools may choose to initiate or extend their sustainable school activity. It focuses on ways in which sustainable development can be embedded into whole-school management practices and provides practical guidance to help schools operate in a more sustainable way.

To help better understand the *Sustainable Schools* framework and consider how your school might get involved, **please see the very helpful powerpoint presentation by Andrea Carling, Environmental Education Officer, Groundwork South Tees**, on the 'Extra Resources' page of the Climate Change Lead Schools site under 'Sustainable Schools' ( NOTE: you'll need to be signed in with your username and password to see the downloadable powerpoint file).

#### POWERDOWN!



The PowerDown toolkit brings to life some of the causes and impacts of climate change from around the world, particularly from developing countries, and explores the extraordinary potential for schools to shape some of the solutions. PowerDown (and Carbon Detectives, featured in the November Climate Change Lead Schools e-newsletter!) will also **help your school with its journey to become more energy efficient...and makes the best use of your energy monitors!**

You can order your free PowerDown toolkit by visiting [www.actionaid.org.uk/101018/powerdown.html](http://www.actionaid.org.uk/101018/powerdown.html)

The toolkit includes:

- over 20 photo cards
- teacher's booklet with curriculum links, lesson ideas and activity sheets
- DVD-ROM with 'Be the Solution' film, digital teaching guide and digital photos

## Upcoming Events



**20th December – Enrolment begins for 'Opening the Doorway to Sustainability': An online course for educators from WWF-UK which is being run by Sustainability and Environmental Education (SEEd) from 12th January through 22nd March 2009. This online course offers educators an opportunity to explore how using the *Sustainable Schools* framework can benefit pupils, teachers and the wider community.**

The Climate Change Schools Project is recognised through the 'Regional Centre for Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development' by the UN University Programme. Therefore, this is a great opportunity for all Lead Schools teachers to further their expertise and experience of the *Sustainable Schools* framework.



Enrolment is limited, so educators are invited to complete their application forms as soon as possible. To request a registration pack and further information on this course, please contact SEEd on:

Phone: 07525 264 540

Email: [hermione.fricker@se-ed.org.uk](mailto:hermione.fricker@se-ed.org.uk)

Or visit: [www.se-ed.org.uk/onlinecourse2009](http://www.se-ed.org.uk/onlinecourse2009)

The course fee is £200.00. SEEd members and schools that wish to enrol more than one educator (co-learner) qualify for a 10% discount.

**15th February, 2009 - The next EWOC (Education: Weather, Oceans, Climate) conference, will take place in Prague from 6-10 July 2009. Links to sites for registration and submission of abstracts may be found at <http://www.ewoc2009.org/>**



The Royal Meteorological Society is pleased to offer support (covering registration costs, travel and accommodation) to a small number of teachers who wish to attend the meeting and present a paper. Teachers chosen for support will be requested to provide a very short conference report.

If you would like to apply or require further information, please email the RMS at [ateducation@rmets.org](mailto:ateducation@rmets.org) no later than 15th February detailing:

- your current position & school
- your proposed presentation
- any other funding sources available to you
- and any other information supporting your application, such as experience in this field, opportunities to disseminate information collected at the conference etc.

**STOP THE PRESS!!**

**EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT of Dr. Dave Reay seminar! (1st July 2009, 4:15 – 6:15 pm\*) £10 per person which includes a lovely afternoon tea and a copy of his new book *Your Planet Needs You: A Kid's Guide to Going Green*. Dave is a well-known and highly regarded climate change scientist, author and engaging speaker, and he believes whole-heartedly in climate change outreach with schools and young people. Visit his personal website [www.geos.ed.ac.uk/homes/dreay](http://www.geos.ed.ac.uk/homes/dreay) to see how involved he is in communicating climate change science to the public. \*NOTE: details about how to book your place on this seminar will be circulated no later than the January e-newsletter.**

## How to Contribute

**21st January – closing date for your contributions to the January e-newsletter!**

Please email Krista on [krista.mckinzey@durham.ac.uk](mailto:krista.mckinzey@durham.ac.uk) to submit:

- 'Stories from You!' (a snapshot of your recent Lead Schools achievements; we will include one Key Stage 2 and one Key Stage 3 story per month)
- 'Student's Corner' (an inspiring and thoughtful commentary from 1 of your Lead Schools students; we will include one or two commentaries per month)
- 'Most Popular' (monthly anecdotes of particular activities undertaken from different Modules would be most welcomed!)
- 'Upcoming Events' (if you'd like to draw attention to any MAJOR 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 Officer, Science Learning Centre North East on [krista.mckinzey@durham.ac.uk](mailto:krista.mckinzey@durham.ac.uk)