



Climate Change Lead Schools e-Newsletter

Issue 1 - November 2008

Welcome to the first 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](#)'

11TH DECEMBER IS THE DEADLINE FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEXT MONTH'S E-NEWSLETTER

Breaking News

North East Schools Lead on the Climate Change Challenge

On 20th October, a fantastic celebration was held at Science Learning Centre North East to kick off the new Climate Change Lead Schools network! It was a wonderful evening, providing opportunities for everyone to learn more about the Climate Change Schools Project and to get to know one another. It was also the perfect event to share everyone's enthusiasm around...the whole Centre was buzzing with excitement!

About 50 of the region's 80 visionary new Lead Schools attended the launch, along with Local Authority staff, Climate Change Schools Project partners and inspirational young Climate Change Champions, David Saddington and Jack White. David and Jack in particular enthused the crowd with their passion and dedication to raising awareness and understanding about climate change, and warmly welcomed the new Climate Change Lead Schools.

Footprint Friends, who kindly provided energy monitors for all of the Lead Schools in collaboration with the Environment Agency, gave an insightful overview of the power of their social networking forum which Lead Schools staff and students are encouraged to use to keep in touch. Carbon Detectives were also on-hand to give a very helpful training session on using their school's toolkit to reduce the community's carbon footprint.

To find out more about the launch, see the [press release](#) and the [video clip](#).



Specialist Stream teachers on-hand to receive recognition from the Climate Change Schools Project – these are some of the teachers who developed the excellent Lead Schools materials, and we are most grateful for their



Defra's Climate Change Champions in attendance including Akhil Amlani (London), Jack White (North East 2008) and David Saddington (North East 2007).

contribution.

Lead Schools CPD courses – a hit!

'Every school, everywhere, should be getting involved in this!' was just one of the passionate statements proclaimed during the Climate Change Lead Schools CPD course days in late October – mid-November held all around the North East. This viewpoint was shared by many, and Lead Schools teachers would like to see our pioneering network replicated around the country as soon as possible. What an amazing sentiment to officially kick-off the Lead Schools pilot year!

The CPD courses were a requirement for Lead Schools to undertake, such that they were given the opportunity to discover how to make climate change a core part of the national curriculum in a creative, dynamic and cross curricular way – this was achieved through 'taster' sessions from the different Modules making up the Lead Schools package, and involved everything from making cornflour ice sheets and craft models of the greenhouse effect, to real 'documentaries' and tourist brochures promoting the North East as 'The Place to Be!' in 2050!

'Activities were an excellent mix of practical, discussion and study activities that made the day pass too quickly!'

'Creative activities from Modules were fun, exciting and easily adaptable for all year groups.'

'The variety of useable resources are already structured for progression across the Years and Key Stages...a wealth of resources to take forward in school.'

The CPD days were also a powerful tool in which teachers began to collaboratively explore the different ways in which their own schools will implement the Modules and essentially establish themselves as a Lead School during the 2008 – 2009 academic year. Adaptability and a flexible approach for working through the Lead Schools package was promoted, all of which will be brought to life through the Module evaluation and Case Study process.

'I thoroughly enjoyed all of it – it was very inspirational in content, and it also made the Lead Schools process easier to understand.'

'Thank you – one of the most informative courses that I've been to for a long time.'

'Thank you for an excellent day, can't wait to get started!'

Well, we can't say it any better than that! **Let's ensure that we, as a network and a team, maintain the momentum begun this autumn, and make the North East truly the 'hub' of excellence for climate change teaching, learning and positive action...well-done to everyone for a terrific start!**



Immersed with ice sheets! Chris Keelty (Silver Tree Primary School) and Stuart Pickup (Yarm County Primary School) enjoy a simple but most effective ice sheet modelling experiment. (See Key Stage 2/Module 3/Year 4 Scheme of Work).



Signs of life? Key Stage 2 teachers exploring SLCNE's 'backyard biodiversity' (see Module 4/Year 5 Scheme of Work). A delightful abundance of life was discovered, even on a cold autumn day...what can you find in your own school's 'backyard'?



Getting crafty...a clever 3-D model of the greenhouse effect and linkages to global warming by a team of Key Stage 3 teachers (see Module 1). This was a hugely popular activity!



Ian Bird (Sandhill View School) explains his team's greenhouse effect model, while Peter Lawson (Jarrow School), Jane Sanderson (Farringdon Community Sports College) and Sue Lister (Wolsingham School & Community College) are delighted with their team's creative result!

Stories from You!

'Climate Change Week' at Broadway East First School (Gosforth) ***by Diane Murray (Science Coordinator)***

Climate change is already an important part of the curriculum across Key Stage 2 at Broadway East First School because of the children's enthusiasm about the topic. We held a 'Climate Change Week' 20th – 24th October to run Module 1 'Climate Change Nuts & Bolts' as a block, which meant going off timetable, apart from Literacy and Maths. By blocking the Module, the children were immersed in the issues that were raised and eagerly brought in information from home to add to our discussions. The practical activities and cross curricular nature of the Module appealed to the children and easily led them towards a good understanding of what climate change is. They especially loved 'Ice Detectives' & 'Feeling Warm'. The yeast experiment in 'Troubled by Gas' was also a real 'wow' session, as the children loved explaining to their understanding to class visitors. The Curriculum Web and Scheme of Work were easy to use and adaptable, as activities often led naturally towards debates about issues that we had not foreseen.

Teaching about climate change fits in well with our school ethos, as we have already been awarded the Eco-Schools Green Flag for our work about looking after our environment, and will clearly remain an important part of our curriculum, due to its popularity with our children.



Fabulous artwork showing students' interpretations of the question 'What is Climate?'

St. Hilds CoE School (Hartlepool) 'Starting the Climate Change Schools Project' ***by Paul Gibson (Head of Science)***

Interpretation, fear, uncertainty...when starting any new project, these thoughts and emotions naturally enter your head. But as with any journey into the unknown, the first step is always the hardest. Fortunately, a safety net was in place – the fantastic Schemes of Work and support offered through the Climate Change Schools Project. I decided to start with Module 1 ('Climate Change Nuts & Bolts') early in the school year – immediately it became a huge success. I asked for some feedback a week after the end of Module 1.

'It was brilliant, my group worked as a team....we found facts, made a spider gram and presented this in a poster. I liked everything we did and definitely would do it again'. (Chelsea – Year 7)

'Place the Earth in your heart' – I wrote this because we need to put the Earth in our heart, it's our home. (Suzanne – Year 7)

The Module made a huge impression on the class. It increased their awareness, tugged on their emotions and created an environment where discussions, group work and independent learning could all take place. I would like to thank everybody involved in the project.



Year 7s confidently present their understanding of climate change 'nuts and bolts'.

Student's Corner

This month, David Saddington from Blakeston School in Stockton writes...



It is brilliant to be involved with the 'Climate Change Schools Project,' as teachers can have life changing influences on pupils when it comes to educating them about one of the most important issues facing mankind today and how we can tackle it.

It was through my Geography teacher that I entered a competition run by Defra and become the Climate Change Champion for the North-East of England. Throughout my 18 months I met Tony Blair, Sir David King and David Miliband and saw for myself the melting glaciers in Switzerland.

Part of my project was to get climate change on the school curriculum. I was fortunate enough to interview David Miliband and asked if climate change could be taught to all pupils. As a result, all 11 – 14 year olds will have climate change on the curriculum. I also took part in a video conference with David Milliband and his Chinese counterpart Dr. Lu in China, I asked Dr. Lu about getting climate change onto their school curriculum, too.

This year I was chosen to represent Europe as a 2008 Global Teen Leader by a New York foundation WAFF, Three Dot Dash. I spent a week in New York attending workshops, meeting influential people in the arts and media. I also helped to unveil the wind-powered electric car for the Climate Change Schools Project...what an impact on the world's carbon footprint this would have if it went global!

At my own school, I set up an Eco-Council which meets once a week - the pupils design posters and discuss how we can reduce our carbon footprint around the school and in our homes. I am also setting up an interactive world map whereby people can add tags where they have planted trees around the world.

In March this year, our school also began developing some unused land into an eco-garden. This project has gone really well - we now grow our own vegetables, herbs and plant trees; this beautifies the area and gets pupils involved in an interactive way. The garden increases local biodiversity and offsets the school's carbon footprint since the food grown is organic, has zero food miles and no packaging.

By being a 'Lead School', our Geography department will be able to expand the coverage of 'Climate Change' across the whole Key Stage and ensure it is covered with up-to-date information. Pupils will be studying the causes, effects and possible solutions to the problems of climate change. They will study it at local, national and global levels. They will learn about the importance of individual as well as national and global political action in tackling climate change.

Bzz, bzz goes the bees

by Sophie Weatherill – Year 8 (St. Hilds CoE School, Hartlepool)

Bzz, bzz goes the bees,
Collecting honey from disappearing trees,
Woodcutters cutting snip, chop, snip,
Destroying rainforests that'll end up on the tip,

Aeroplanes flying, animals crying,
Desperation, war, people lying,
Is it worth it, just you think?
Maybe we will end up living on an ice rink,

Holidays, cars, jets and superbikes,
Too many people having their dislikes,
The younger generation has to suffer,

As the world gets rougher and less tougher,

Beauty is fading,
The world looks like an old hag,
As we use more carrier bags,
Hurry up and make up your mind,
Before we run out of precious time!

Most Popular...

This month, we feature 3 wonderful tools to complement your Lead Schools achievements...

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION...MADE EASY!



Climate change adaptation can be a difficult concept to grasp, so visit The Nature Conservancy's 'Adapting to Climate Change 101' www.nature.org/initiatives/climatechange/features/art26193.html

to learn more in an easy-to-understand information section and overviews of projects they've commissioned around the world. Be inspired by these explanations/examples to amend for your own school/local community!

FOOTPRINT FRIENDS

Footprint Friends calls all Young People, parents and influencers to sign up and get involved in this social networking site. We all leave footprints and we need to demonstrate that people around the world do actually care about our future generations and the state of the planet both now and in the future. Through Footprint Friends we can join as one loud voice.

Visit Footprint Friends today and sign both yourselves and your students up!*

See Krista's forum 'Hello all Climate Change Lead Schools!'

<http://supporters.footprintfriends.com/forums/t/388.aspx>



- as a way to keep in touch with other Lead Schools teachers. What Modules have you been working on? Which activities work best? What adaptations to the activities have been helpful?
- to encourage a little positive competition! Have your student 'Climate Change Ambassador' regularly log on and share the excellent Module activities that you've been up to (e.g. upload documents, videos, powerpoints etc)...and see what others have been achieving, too!

***Hello to our newest members on Footprint Friends, Fairfield Primary School & Abigail, their newly nominated 'Climate Change Ambassador'! Can't wait to hear about the activities you've been doing as a Lead School!**

CARBON DETECTIVES' KIT



Carbon Detectives' Kit is an online carbon footprint calculator for schools in England. The project is funded by the Department for Children Schools and Families and was developed by the Field Studies Council (FSC) Environmental Education Unit.

Visit Carbon Detectives to get your whole school started...how much of a difference can your school make? Actually, reducing your school's electricity consumption might help with this...so your **energy monitor** will come in handy for Carbon Detectives, too!

Upcoming Events

4th December - don't miss out! Closing date for 'Expressions of Interest' for the International Glaciological Society Outreach Events (July 2009)



International Glaciological Society

Outreach events associated with an International Symposium on Glaciology

- This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for you and your students to experience real polar explorers - the cutting edge glaciologists who study Earth's icy places and know first hand how climate change is affecting our planet.
- There are only 120 spaces available (including both students and adults) each day, so you've got to be 'in to win'!
THERE ARE ONLY A FEW PLACES REMAINING!
- **NOTE: the Outreach Days are 28th & 30th July, during the start of the summer holidays, so parents/guardians of students you'd like to bring MUST KNOW soon, too (so they don't book their summer holidays on these days!)**

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 to see how involved he is with communicating climate change science with 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

11th December – closing date for your contributions to the December e-newsletter!

Please email Krista on krista.mckinze@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