



Climate Change Lead Schools Newsletter

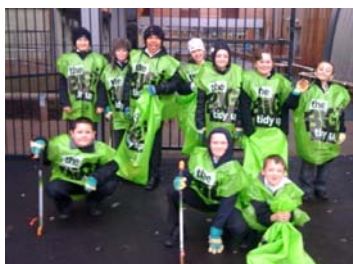
www.climatechangeschools.org.uk

Breaking News...



The AstraZeneca Science Teaching Trust (AZSTT) made an award to the Climate Change Schools Project in 2010-2011 to work with 5 primary schools (who are registered as Climate Change Lead Schools) to enhance the scope and engagement of Module 1 – 'Climate Change Nuts & Bolts' (Climate Change Science), and Module 6 'Making the Most of it!' - (Climate Change Adaptation). The aim is to develop advanced Schemes of Work and whole-school activity planning. The project is also reviewing the provision of teacher professional development associated with these 2 climate change themes, particularly by working in partnership with Science Learning Centre Yorkshire & Humber on 'Action Research' through the expertise of Zoë Crompton.

Contents



Stories from You

Stories from East Boldon Junior School, King Edward VI School, Whytrig Middle School, Gurney Pease Primary School, Academy 360 and Bydales School

Most Popular

This month, we feature another wonderful opportunity to complement your Lead Schools Modules and achievements

Student Correspondent

This month, our student correspondent Shannon Kerr writes about the difficulties in communicating climate change science.

Extra Resources

From the ASE, Woodland Trust, Geological Society and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

Upcoming Events

Loads of upcoming events to take part in and awards to be won: Fairtrade Fortnight, UNICEF day for Climate Change, Observer Ethical Awards, Climate Week, Eco Schools Conference, TES School Awards.

How to Contribute

Please send your copy for the next Newsletter by 25th March 2011.



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The resources and Action Research development for primary Lead Schools will also be reviewed by a group of the South Yorkshire Climate Change Lead Schools. This is a wonderful opportunity for extending collaboration between teachers and schools across both regions. On 11th January, Diane Murray (Broadway East First School), Gemma Nardini (Moorside Community Primary School), Clare Reeve (Sacred Heart Primary School), Maureen Hobbs (Gurney Pease Primary School) and Mandy McLean (Highcliffe Primary School), who are all leading the project in the North East, spent the day working with Zoë, Krista, Harriet and Dorothy Warren from the Royal Society of Chemistry on Module 1. Dorothy is leading a CPD session on chemistry and climate change for primary Lead Schools on 28th June helping to offer creative approaches for teaching and learning about the ozonolayer, sedimentology and trees as indicators of climate change).

Lookout for the new KS2 Module 1 'Climate Change Nuts & Bolts' coming online soon!

Stories from You

Climate Change around the World - Alison McCann, Science Co-ordinator, East Boldon Junior School

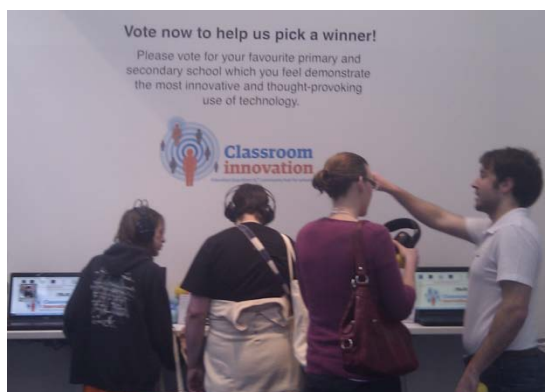


Before Christmas, the Year 5 children at East Boldon Junior School spent an exciting half day with staff from Groundwork. Firstly the children looked at the effects of climate change on the environment.

This was particularly inspiring for class 5 who were planning a whole school assembly on the subject to which parents were invited.

Each class were then given a country to investigate and were given facts and pictures to support them. Our two classes looked at Spain and Greenland. The children then had to create posters to show the effects of global warming on their country. We then discussed what could be done to adapt to these changes. The children produced some super results which we have used to decorate our 'Climate Change' notice board.

KEVI Runners-Up at BETT – Victoria Najafi, Student Voice, Leadership and Enrichment Co-ordinator, King Edward V1 School



The King Edward VI School has achieved second place nationally at BETT, the world's largest educational technology fair, at the London Olympia in January 2011. Students have been using Student Voice software www.every1speaks.com to collect anonymous feedback from young people on a host of issues including Climate Change Education, to research further innovative ways in which the whole student body can actively participate in the development and success of Climate Change Education.

The school has been congratulated for reaching the final three nationally in this year's secondary school section of the Asus Classroom Innovation Awards hosted by the Guardian Newspaper. More than 1,700 votes were cast.



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Adaptation Challenge Open Afternoon, Maureen Hobbs, Teacher at Gurney Pease Primary School

Pupils at Gurney Pease Primary have taken action to protect their school from the changing climate. They have made big changes to 'climate proof' their school, including moving the school boiler, improving the playground drainage system, installing radiator thermostats in classrooms and planting trees in the school grounds.



The school is hosting an open afternoon on **Tuesday 1 February 2011 which will run from 1.30pm – 2.45pm**. Pupils will talk about the practical actions they have taken to 'climate proof' their school and will share their expertise with the local community. Darlington's Mayor the Worshipful Councillor Bryan Thistlethwaite will be attending, along with School Governors, parents, teachers and pupils from Gurney Pease and Alderman Leach Primary Schools.

If any Climate Change Lead Schools are interested in attending this event please contact Gurney Pease School office on Tel: 01325 380790.

Maureen Hobbs, Teacher at Gurney Pease Primary School, said: *"Through the 'Adaptation Challenge' we have been able to look at the risks and prepare and protect our school from real threat of climate change. One of the things we have learned is that the best time to put adaptation measures in place is when school renovations and improvements are already planned; it saves time and money in the future and means that school business can continue as usual."*

Academy 360 Update, Laura Deacon, Teacher and Sustainable Schools Co-ordinator



The Academy is now running a successful, well attended Eco Squad. Since starting the new academic year they have been grading the litter problem in the school and identifying problem areas where the litter accumulates as well as taking positive action and doing something about it.

The Academy is currently recycling their Christmas cards for the Woodland Trust and is taking part in a Comenius project, with other European schools, looking into water and energy issues. The Eco Squad have also been preparing their raised bed for the new growing season by clearing, composting and saving seeds. Miss Deacon and Mrs Carr would like to thank The Eco Squad for all their hard work to date and hope they continue to grow from strength to strength.





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Bydales Climate Change Adaptation Conference , Seana Rice, Deputy Headteacher, Bydales Foundation School, A Specialist Technology College



On Friday 26 November 2010 we invited a wide range of representatives from our local community to our adaptation open afternoon. It was the first snowy day but that did not prevent us from carrying on and many braved the weather to attend the conference, even our local MP Mr Ian Swales made it! The aim of the conference was to inform community groups and local businesses about the risks to the local environment from the changing weather patterns and look at ways of working together to address future challenges.

In preparation for the day some of our senior pupils worked with Paul Taylor from Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council, who is an Environmental Sustainability Specialist. The team worked successfully to organise the day which included a big fat adaptation quiz, a workshop to develop adaptation plans, a drama performance and a tour of our new community outdoor classroom, which was designed to provide a cool learning space in which to escape from projected rising summer temperatures.

A focus for the afternoon was ensuring that everyone had a shared understanding of a number of issues including:

- What are the impacts of climate change
- What are the threats to our school and our community
- What is the difference between climate change MITIGATION and ADAPATION

The afternoon concluded with the creation of adaptation plans for the short, medium and longer term.

The feedback from the afternoon was really positive with many local businesses and community groups expressing an interest in continued collaboration with the school.

Whytrig Middle School- Serious Recycling, Helen Campbell, Eco Schools Co-ordinator



Whytrig Middle School has started a huge drive on recycling all paper, card plastic and metal as part of their resolutions for 2011 to improve the school's recycling procedures.

Whytrig has been recycling paper and card for a number of years, but unfortunately there was no formal procedure for recycling plastic or metal cans. Whytrig's Eco Committee were growing increasingly concerned by the number of plastic bottles that were being thrown away as general waste every lunch time and decided to do something about it!



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After a meeting with the company who collect Whytrig's waste, the Eco Warriors chose new recycling bins to purchase for each classroom.

The design they chose have green lids, which make them ideal for all recyclables. Eco club then designed labels for each bin, ensuring that all pupils and staff would be clear about what could go in the recycling bin and what could not. They also ensured that each classroom had a 'general waste' bin for all non-recyclables and removed all other bins to avoid any confusion and make the procedure as simple as possible!

At lunchtimes, members of eco club empty the recycling bins into the main recycling bin in the car park. They have also recruited class 'recycling monitors' to assist them in this. They also supervise the large bins in the hall at lunchtime to ensure that everyone puts their recyclables into the correct bin.

Mrs Campbell, Eco Schools Coordinator, spoke to the whole school in assembly to launch the new recycling scheme. She said 'I am very pleased with the purchase of the new recycling bins and I am very optimistic about the benefits this new initiative will have for our school and our planet.'

Most Popular

SCENE Ambassadors



SCENE Ambassadors are volunteers who are aged 16 to 19 in full time education who go into schools to teach younger pupils about environmental and social issues. SCENE Ambassadors must work in small groups to come up with a resource which they can deliver in 2- 4 sessions.

Young volunteers will learn new skills, enhance their personal statement and CV, get a free CRB check and have the opportunity to become a STEM ambassador. Volunteers will receive full training and continuous support.

The project

The projects will be environmental with a 'real world' theme. For example, climate change, biodiversity, water resources etc. The project will explore 3 STEM subject areas ensuring that technology, mathematics and science topics from the curriculum are incorporated into the resources themselves.

Funding will be available for equipment and materials allowing the SCENE Ambassadors to come up with creative and hands-on educational activities.

If you're not confident about those subjects don't worry – you will be given full training and support and remember that it will be at primary school level so it won't be very difficult.

The Commitment

Becoming an Ambassador is an important role and so there is a commitment. Young volunteers must:

- Sign up to be an ambassador in January 2011.
- Attend the training day in early February



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- After the training day meet at least once a week with your team to discuss your progress. This is organised by your team.
- Every two weeks the SCENE coordinator will meet with you to make sure that you are ok and the project is going well.
- Be able to do your sessions in the primary school in March/April.
- Attend a SCENE event in Newcastle for World Water day on the 22nd March where you will have a stand to show off your project. You will be given more guidance on this.
- Attend a focus group meeting where we discuss how you think it went and give your feedback in April.
- You will have the option to continue as a SCENE Ambassador after April should you wish to.

For more information or to sign up as a SCENE ambassador please contact Lizzie Lunn from Newcastle College at scene@ncl-coll.ac.uk

Student Correspondent

Mobile phones give you brain cancer - Shannon Kerr, CCSP Student Correspondent 2010-2011



Well, that was the conclusion of a Swedish study in 2008 that was reported in the Independent newspaper, saying that teenagers were 5 times more likely to develop brain tumours if they used a mobile. Nobody listened. (Although thankfully more recent research was a bit more positive!)

The same is true with Climate Science. Despite 97% of climate researchers saying that climate change is real and largely man-made, 25% of the UK public believe it's not even happening. (As well as having three feet of snow which seems to make people even more cynical!)

It seems that many of us make up our minds on an emotional or ideological level rather than rationally; based on sound science. This is more than a bit frustrating when it comes to the biggest issue facing the planet for thousands of years.

Environment Agency research suggests that you're more likely to be a climate sceptic if you're over 55, left school early, retired, don't use the internet and are male. You are wasting your time trying to persuade these guys. However, you can persuade them that it's good to insulate the loft to save money, and that they should put things upstairs in case the river floods.

The research says that you should be positive with these people about what they can do. Don't sensationalise, and don't spend hours banging away at them about how CO₂ has gone up 30% in 100 years. Just because we've understood for the last 200 years that CO₂ traps heat in an atmosphere, doesn't mean that they will change their minds!

With many students learning about climate change in geography, the majority still think that it won't affect them. We often ask when climate change is going to start, not many believe that it has already started. Many think that climate change just means hotter summers, but it actually means more extremes. That means even more rain!

There is however some good news. It seems that 26% of people believe that climate change is in fact happening and is largely man-made (so slightly more people 'for' than 'against'!). The Swedish study also suggested that teenagers should concentrate on texting. That works for me!



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Extra Resources

It Makes You Think - Ideas for Science with a Global Dimension



This CPD booklet: www.tidec.org/Visuals/Downloads/It%20makes%20you%20thinks!.pdf is one of the outcomes of the 'Global Dimension for Science' project set up by the Association for Science Education with funding from the Department for International Development. A partnership with Tide~ global learning contributed to this project through regional networking and setting up creative work with teachers in the West Midlands. Aimed at teachers of KS3, the booklet uses climate change as a focus to help teach about the Global Dimension through science.

The Geological Society statement on climate change.



The Geological Society has prepared a position statement on climate change, focusing specifically on the geological evidence. A drafting group was convened, with the aim of producing a clear and concise summation, accessible to a general audience, of the scientific certainties and uncertainties as well as including references to further sources of information. This is very helpful and easy to read for all of those interested in

enhancing their understanding of climate change. Read the statement at:

www.geolsoc.org.uk/gsl/views/policy_statements/climatechange where you can also download a PDF copy.

Woodland Trust, My View



The Woodland Trust has launched a new tool called MyView to help you re-design the areas you think need improving in your community. The tool allows you to take a photograph of a local space that would benefit from more trees and upload it to MyView. You can re-design the space by dragging and dropping trees, then you can personalise it with the reasons why you would like to see more trees there e.g. to create havens for wildlife, to improve your community's health

and wellbeing, for carbon sequestration and climate change adaptation etc. My View is a virtual petition that sends an email of your design straight to your local Councillor, calling for action to transform your neighbourhood. Have a go at: www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/en/more-trees-more-good/myview/pages/myview.aspx



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Defra Future Worlds - Inspiring ideas about Climate Change Adaptation



Department for Environment
Food and Rural Affairs

The climate is changing. This means we are likely to experience more flooding, faster coastal erosion, more heat-waves and extreme



weather events. We need to take action now to prepare for these changes. Defra have produced "Future Worlds," a set of images showing potential ways to adapt to climate change in both urban and natural environments, based on our understanding of what the climate will be like in 2030:

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climate/documents/interim2/future-worlds.pdf

Upcoming Events

Fairtrade Fortnight: - 28th February – 13th March



28th February – 13th March is Fairtrade Fortnight and there are lots of ways for you to get involved. This Fairtrade fortnight is a chance to tell everyone you know about the difference Fairtrade makes to the lives of farmers who grow the products we enjoy in the UK. This year there is a particular focus to raise awareness of Fairtrade cotton. <http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/schools/cotton.aspx>

The Fairtrade Fortnight website has a downloadable action pack for school: www.fairtrade.org.uk/includes/documents/cm_docs/2010/s/schools_action_guide_insert_f14_2011.pdf and the Traidcraft Schools' website: www.traidcraftschools.co.uk also contains lots of useful information.

There are 200 FREE Co-op Fairtrade Fortnight packs available on a first come first served basis via Nicola.Wylde@co-operative.coop containing tablecloth, coasters, Co-op vouchers for up to £20 to spend in-store on Fairtrade goods.

Fairtrade Fortnight is the perfect opportunity to work with other schools and with your community, showing them what you have done to embed Fairtrade into your school curriculum and ethos.



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UNICEF Day for Climate Change



Day for Change is UNICEF's annual schools fundraising appeal. Each year 2000 schools from around the UK have a fun and educational day, while raising money for UNICEF's work around the world.

In 2011, Day for Change will be focusing on children affected by climate change in Guyana, South America. Every school that registers receives a free resource kit packed with fundraising ideas, assembly and lesson plans, real life stories, stickers and posters to help make your Day for Change a success.

Day for Change 2011 officially takes place on 4 February 2011, but you can hold your event at any time in the school year that suits you. Resources are available from: www.unicef.org.uk/Get-Involved/Your-organisation/Schools/Day-for-Change/Day-for-Change-2011-resources/

The Observer Ethical Awards 2011

TheObserver



The Observer's annual awards for all things sustainable, dubbed the "Green Oscars" after its lavish awards ceremony and high profile judging panel, is accepting applications for 2011.

The Ecover Ethical Kids category is open to school groups or youth community groups whose members are under 16 on January 1st 2011 and the deadline for applications is 11 March 2011.

Enter at: www.guardian.co.uk/environment/observer-ethical-awards-2011 for a chance to win a bursary from Ecover of £2,000 a year for three years to go towards your sustainable projects.

Climate Week



Climate Week is a supercharged national occasion that offers an annual renewal of our ambition and confidence to combat climate change. It is for everyone wanting to do their bit to protect our planet and create a secure future.

Climate Week will shine a spotlight on the many positive steps already being taken in workplaces and communities across Britain. The power of these real, practical examples – the small improvements and the big innovations – will then inspire millions more people.



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How to take part:

1. Run an Event

Climate Week gives everyone the chance to focus on ways of helping to combat climate change and to inspire others to follow your lead. You can showcase things that your school has done or engage with your community to plan future climate friendly activities. For more information or to register an event, go to: <http://www.climateweek.com>

2. Enter the Climate Week Awards – (but be quick, the deadline is 4 February).

The awards are for work to lower carbon emissions or combat climate change in categories such as Business, Education and Community. Categories include **Best Educational Initiative** and **Most Inspirational Young Person**. Free to enter, the Climate Week Awards will be judged by a star panel of independent experts and presented to winners on 21 March 2011. Enter at: www.climateweek.com/AWARDS/

3. Enter the Challenge

Could a team from your school or workplace come up with a brilliant idea and a great plan of action in just one day? Do you have what it takes to win the Climate Week Challenge?

The Climate Week Challenge takes place on the first day of Climate Week. It will involve people in schools, colleges and workplaces all over the country simultaneously tackling the same task on the same day.

On Monday 21 March 2011 a challenge will be revealed online at 9am, and needs to be completed by 2pm.

It is designed for teams of four to six. Any school/organisation can enter any number of teams, for FREE. No preparation is required – a table to work at is all each team needs.

There are six age categories, with different levels of sophistication expected from the entries, but everyone – from primary pupils to senior managers – will be given the same core challenge.

After the teams have finished, each school, college or workplace selects their own winning team. They then send that team's proposal to the Climate Week national judging panel, who will select regional and national winners.

To participate, you must register your school, workplace or youth group in advance at:
www.climateweek.com/challenge/enter-here/

Eco-Schools Conference 2011, "Greener Schools, Stronger Communities"

Birmingham, 8th February 2011.

The 2011 Eco-Schools Conference, "Greener Schools, Stronger Communities" will explore how young people can contribute to the creation of a sustainable society, while enriching their own experiences and educational outcomes.





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Topics covered will include the role of the Eco-Schools programme, the carbon reduction commitment and practical advice for making your school and community more sustainable.

A diverse range of speakers have been recruited to this one day event including local and regional government as well as some of the leading thinkers in the field of Education for Sustainable Development.

The conference will be held in the Holte Suite at Aston Villa Football Club, Birmingham on 8th February and will offer a valuable resource to teachers, school business managers and education advisors.

The price to attend is £99 + VAT. This includes attendance at all the conference sessions, lunch and refreshments and online access to all the presentations after the event.

They are also offering a '**Buy One Get One Half Price**' deal to Educational Establishments. Book online at: www.keepbritaintidy.org/GetInvolved/YourRegion/NorthEast/Event/Default.aspx?trainingEventID=393

The TES Schools Awards



Schools Awards
Rewarding excellence & innovation in education

The third annual TES Schools Awards are now open for entries.

These awards celebrate and reward the professionalism and flair of those teams making an outstanding contribution to primary and secondary schools in both the maintained and independent sectors. They are open to all schools, in every part of the UK. In addition to entries directly from schools, for many categories, they actively encourage submissions from organisations, partners and others associated with the sector.

The awards encompass innovation in teaching, leadership and community involvement. Of particular interest may be the "Outstanding Sustainable School or Partnership" award which funds a range of different activities including adaptation, mitigation, biodiversity and other 'green' initiatives. The judges are also keen to hear from schools that have teamed up with other organisations to help improve their environmental performance.

Entries are open until 5pm on Friday 11 March 2011. The shortlist will be announced in early April and the winners will be announced at a gala luncheon in June 2011. Download an entry form from:

www.tes.co.uk/article.aspx?storyCode=6004047&s_cid=TESSchoolAwards



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How to Contribute



25th March 2011 is the closing date for your contributions to the next newsletter.

Please email Harriet Thew on 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