



Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of the SEEd e-newsletter. We aim to keep you in touch with news on sustainable development in the Education sector, ESD, jobs, funding and any upcoming events, courses or consultations. Please let us know what you think!

This month our newsletter has an **energy** theme running through it, in light of WWF's Earth Hour Campaign, (see 'Take Part'), which encourages schools and other organisations around the world to join in a demonstration to kill their lights.

If you would like to send us an article to include for the next newsletter please email news@se-ed.org.uk.

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SEEd News

1. Become a Member! New SEEd Membership brochures available

Join us and be part of the new SEEd! This is a fast growing organisation, membership-led, offering a chance to be part of the growth of sustainability and environmental education in the UK. Membership has benefits such as discount on SEEd events, access to resources, up to date information, discussion groups, professional development, and research. You can also be part of consultations and help create the change we need to embed this in all our education work. We already have a cross-sectoral membership – individuals, teachers, Further Education colleges, schools, local authorities, NGOs, and other organisations.

We now have our brand new SEEd Membership brochures printed so if you would like to request one in the post, please email us your contact information: admin@se-ed.org.uk

Or visit the SEEd website for membership details: se-ed.org.uk/membership.html

2. National Sustainable Schools Conferences – June 2010

Please mark your diaries with the next **National Sustainable Schools Conference in June 2010**. One date is confirmed so far – June 18th in London. Please keep checking the website as more details are confirmed. We are looking for 3 regional partners to cut travel again and suggestions of workshops that you could run. Please contact Michael Cutts (michael.cutts@se-ed.org.uk) to register interest in workshops or offers of regions.

Call for speakers – if you have an area of expertise related to ESD and would be interested in speaking at one of the National Sustainable Schools Conferences this June, please contact: facilitation@se-ed.org.uk

Call for workshop leaders – SEEd are looking for facilitators to think of topics to run workshops on at the National Sustainable Schools Conferences. If you are interested in potentially running a workshop please email: facilitation@se-ed.org.uk

Call for exhibitors – SEEd will be offering exhibition opportunities once again at the National Sustainable Schools Conferences, for further information about exhibiting please email Hermione Fricker: hermione.fricker@se-ed.org.uk

You can read the full article about the NSSC Conferences 2009 from Ann Finlayson, SEEd's Chief Executive, in the September issue:

se-ed.org.uk/resources/newsletter/SEEdNews_Sept09.pdf

As promised, the video from the NSSC Preston Conference is available to watch on the SEEd website – let us know what you think!

se-ed.org.uk/news/preston-event-video.html

3. Would you like to become a SEEd Fellow?

SEEd are now offering the opportunity to become a SEEd Fellow. 10 SEEd Fellows will be chosen per year by application and will choose a month of the year in which to develop a



think piece or topic for discussion and produce a piece of work of about 1500 words in relation to ESD. The opportunity is open to anyone, not just academics, and SEEd fellows will benefit from a year's free individual SEEd membership including access to the SEEd Members area. An application form will soon be available from the SEEd website. Enquiries and applications should be directed to Ann Finlayson:
ann.finlayson@se-ed.org.uk

A School's Sustainability Story

Sustainability and Sausages!

Priestlands School is a large comprehensive secondary school in Lymington on the South coast of England. It has over 1200 students from diverse backgrounds due to a large geographical catchment which includes those from farming backgrounds in the New Forest and more urban families from the town. The school buildings were mostly built between the 1950's and 1970's and as such are not particularly energy efficient.

Four years ago Priestlands signed up to becoming an Eco School and used that framework to help change the culture and fabric of the school. An action plan was drawn up by the 'Eco Warriors' as they became known, these were about 100 students from all year groups who took the mantra 'Be the Change' to heart. Some changes were easy, like recycling bins in all classrooms. Others were more challenging, like reclaiming a derelict walled garden which had been languishing in the school grounds since the 1970's and was really only being used for the sorts of 'non-curriculum' activities not exactly endorsed by the school! Over the last three years the students have turned the one acre plat around and we now have eight productive vegetable beds, fruit trees, chickens (which supply eggs to the school), bees (which have produced our own award winning honey) and pigs (from which we breed and make our own sausages!).



Eco Warriors at work



Priestlands Porkers!

What seems to work at Priestlands is that it is a bottom up approach with much of the enthusiasm and ideas coming from the students. Examples of this are the Freecycle Friday's we now run where students (and staff) get to pick through the unwanted (but still useful!) items brought in by other students that week.

Energy is a tough nut to crack. Schools have been using more and more electricity as classes get upgraded with computers, projectors and interactive whiteboards. There are projectors in every classroom at Priestlands and most have interactive whiteboards –

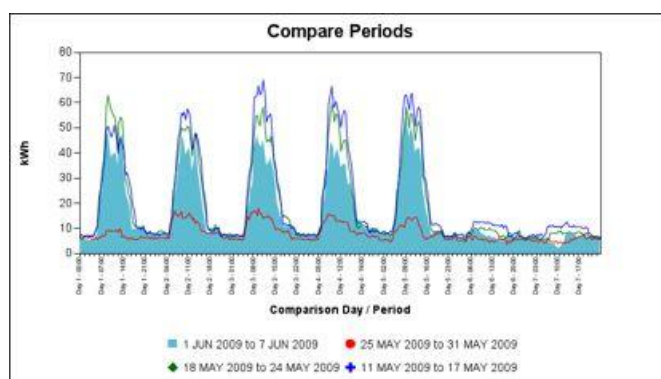
these use large amounts of electricity to run. We started to monitor our electricity use more carefully, getting the half hourly data sent to us from the county council. This allowed us to monitor use to help us assess how we doing in terms of energy reduction.



The most obvious and easy energy saving projects have been things like putting notices on all switches asking people to turn off lights and computers when not in use, posters around school also help with this. Every tutor group has at least one Eco Monitor whose job it is to ensure classes are run in an environmentally friendly manner – this puts the students in a position of authority and allows them to challenge (politely and with respect!) whether lights need to be on or the projector left on stand-by. A more ambitious project was raising £52,000 for a photovoltaic solar array which was installed on the roof of the school.



A frame of our award-winning honey



This is linked to a data-logger and a large display board allowing students and staff to 'see' the energy as it is being produced and to see an historic record of its production. In the last 9 months the system has generated almost 8,000 kWh's of electricity saving four and a half tonnes of CO2 from being released. But what is even more interesting is that our consumption has reduced considerably more than can be attributed to the PV system – we must

be changing our behaviour too. Our electricity consumption per student is now just over 0.5 kWhs per student per day which is one of the lowest in Hampshire. The site is not an efficient one, we do not benefit from modern building design and construction but we have changed our behaviour considerably. Most of our savings are due to generating Nega-Watts. Turning off a 1,500 Watt projector is just like generating 1,500 Watts – we can all become Nega-Watt producers! On March the 27th we will be encouraging the whole Priestlands community to get involved in WWF's 'Earth Hour' and demonstrate our collective Nega-Watts!

Paper is another area where we have succeeded in massive reduction by monitoring and communicating to the whole school. Paper represents massive embedded energy and it is truly shocking how much paper schools use. We calculated that we used over 3 million sheets every year, which worked out at 15,000 a day! Within the last year we have managed to cut this by over 50%. Not only a huge saving in terms of energy and so CO2 but also money.

Priestlands, like most secondary schools, still has a long way to go in terms of sustainability. What is encouraging is that some of the most significant change can occur rapidly and for almost no cost simply by 'being the change you wish to see in the world...'

*Priestlands School are a School Member of SEEd.
Article written by Kit Rogers, Sustainable School Coordinator, Priestlands Secondary School.*



Member Spotlight

Magnified Learning – Kids’ Green Music Festivals

Magnified Learning (ML) is a consultancy that brings together corporate, education and third sector organisations to create community learning experiences, working with learners of all ages, and in the past two years has worked extensively with thousands of young people in primary schools, secondary schools and colleges in London and the south-east. ML designs, delivers and evaluates a wide range of learning projects aimed at developing participants' skills for work, enterprise and sustainable living in a rapidly changing world.

A typical learning event will involve input from community partners in the corporate, SME and third sectors, whose knowledge and expertise can add real value to student learning as well as providing their employee volunteers with a valuable context for personal and professional development.

A frequently staged learning event has been to work with students in KS3, KS4 and KS5 to provide them with an opportunity to develop skills for enterprise and sustainability through conceiving their own theme for a new local music festival event and discovering how to plan it using the framework of the 'Greener Festival Award' (agreenerfestival.com).

Planet Well - for a Greener Festival

Learning outcomes:

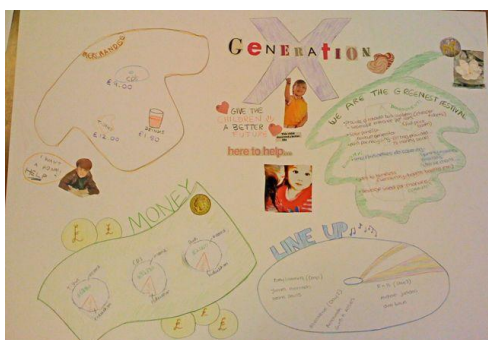
Learners understand more about sustainable development and why it is important, practicing their communication, teamwork, financial and creativity skills through planning and pitching to host a 'greener' public festival.

The challenge:

Learners are challenged by a music promoter to work in teams to create a new idea for a local music festival that will consider key social and environmental needs in its staging and management.

Activities:

The activity begins with a short assembly presentation by the music promoter, followed by a day of learners working in teams to develop their own ideas for a sustainable local music festival, competing to make the best presentations as judged by the music promoter.



In planning to minimise the impact of their music event on the environment, learners are supported by ML facilitators, tutors and business volunteers as they consider practical issues of travel & transport, food & drink, local wellbeing and energy and water as well as other sustainability 'doorway' themes, to show how their event will make a positive contribution to the local community and the local economy.

Project ideas done by the kids while planning their green music festival



Each final team presentation sets out their plans in terms of their chosen festival theme with their band line-up, the green merchandise they will sell and the planning steps they will take to win the greener festival award. Learners have come up with numerous innovative solutions to limit power usage which involve schemes to drastically reduce road traffic, promote waste recycling, use solar panels and wind turbines and much creative use of human energy conversion with static cycling events to simultaneously improve health and provide festival power.

Event evaluations have consistently recorded that between 70% and 85% of learners 'increased their understanding of planning for sustainable outcomes' as well as developing their creativity, teamwork and financial capability.

Magnified Learning are a member of SEEd. Article by Chris Horton.

Publications

1. Report on Effective Practice in ESD from the Education and Training Inspectorate

This new report, published on 15th February 2010, summarises the findings summarising the findings of a survey into the nature and extent of good practice in environmental education and/or sustainable development within a Sample of Primary, Post-primary and Special Schools in Northern Ireland.

The report is available to download from the Education and Training Inspectorate website:

etini.gov.uk/index/survey_theme_reports/survey_reports/primary_survey_reports/effective-practice-in-education-for-sustainable-development-in-a-sample-of-primary-post-primary-and-special-schools-in-northern-ireland.htm

2. New book from Kingston University Press: 'Sustainability in Practice'

Kingston University Press has published a new book entitled, 'Sustainability in Practice'. The book is a collection of essays, showcasing relevant research while informing those who want to make a difference how to go about it. It brings together academia, business, local government and other practitioners to evaluate and discuss the extent to which real progress in sustainability had been achieved and to explore together ways of moving towards a more sustainable future. The book covers topics such as: Greening People and Places; Empowerment and Change; Case Studies in Sustainable Development; Policy to Practice; Educational Change; Sustainability and the Professions and Transformation and Change. Readers will learn that efforts both large and small can benefit the environment and improve quality of life.

For more information about this new publication visit:

kingston.ac.uk/sustainability/happen_news_archives/happen_news_archive_09_10_26.html



Resources

Along with our energy theme this month we would like to highlight a couple of energy resources recommended by participants on the Opening the Doorway to Sustainability course to help with reducing energy in your school:

1. Science Museum Energy resources list

The Science Museum offers a list of useful links in relation to energy for teachers. You can find these at: sciencemuseum.org.uk/on-line/energy/site/TeachersLinks.asp

2. Young Energy People

Young Energy People is a project that runs education programmes designed to teach secondary school pupils (14–18 years) about practical energy management skills and their application to the schools and workplaces. For more information visit:

youngenergypeople.com/default.aspx

3. What resources have you used and which would you recommend?

We are interested in what learning resources you have used in your school – which ones have you found most useful and why have they worked for your class? Do get in touch and let us know – we would love to hear from you. Please tell us:

- Name of resource you used:
- Resource topic: eg climate change, energy, water, wildlife etc
- What age group did you use it with?
- How did you use the resource and why would you recommend it?

Please email: admin@se-ed.org.uk

Consultation

Real World Science consultation

Back in 2005, the first teacher consultation was held for the Natural History Museum's Real World Science project. It provided the groundwork for much of the current secondary science offer at the Natural History Museum as well as the offers of our project partner museums in Oxford, Newcastle and Manchester. Thanks to people's input, the Museum produced the following document to share findings with other museums looking to support secondary science teaching. Available at: www.nhm.ac.uk/resources-rx/files/secondary-schools-20524.pdf

The consultation is now being repeated to find out if what has been put in place at the Museum has been useful and what still needs to be done. The NHM would like to invite you to a consultation focus group held at the Natural History Museum on Tuesday 23 March after school. For more information, please contact Andrew.lee@nhm.ac.uk.



Did you know?

Regional Centres of Expertise

The UK and Ireland has seven RCEs represented in London, the East Midlands, the North East, Severn, Yorkshire & Humber region, Wales and Ireland. An RCE is a network of existing formal, non-formal and informal education organisations, mobilised to deliver education for sustainable development (ESD) to local and regional communities. A network of RCEs worldwide will constitute the Global Learning Space for Sustainable Development. RCEs aspire to achieve the goals of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD, 2005-2014), by translating its global objectives into the context of the local communities in which they operate.

RCEs involve a wide range of stakeholders linked to education and bring together institutions at the regional/local level to jointly promote ESD. They build innovative platforms to share information and experiences and to promote dialogue among regional / local stakeholders through partnerships for sustainable development. They create a local / regional knowledge base to support ESD actors.

To read more about RCEs visit the United Nations website at:

ias.unu.edu/sub_page.aspx?catID=108&ddlID=183

Take part

1. Turn off the lights! WWF Earth Hour

Unite with schools across the UK, and the world, to make a bold statement about the need to care about the people, places and wildlife of this planet – now and for future generations- by signing up your school to take part in WWF's Earth Hour, which takes place on the 27th March 2010. On this day, at 8.30pm, schools, buildings and organisations around the globe will be switching off their lights for one hour in an event to raise awareness on energy consumption. WWF's aim for this year is to get a billion people around the world to switch off their lights.

Last year in 2009 Earth Hour was embraced by people in over 3,000 cities and towns, nearly 1,000 landmarks and more than 83 countries around the world.

The theme for 2010 is "Wear something bright – turn off the light!" and there are FREE online resources to help your school make the most of WWF's Earth Hour, available when you register: register.education.co.uk/Register.aspx

The Earth Hour campaign website can be found here: www.earthhour.wwf.org.uk



2. Earthwatch 'Inspiring the Next Generation' programme

This competition will provide young people from the United Kingdom and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia the opportunity to participate in one of two fully funded Earthwatch projects:

- Sailing the Scottish Hebridean Islands to monitor whale and dolphin populations!
- Working with local communities in the Samburu Reserve, Kenya to protect local biodiversity!

Those selected will attend the Earthwatch research projects Whales and Dolphins of the Hebrides in the UK or Samburu Communities and Wildlife. Both projects take place in July/August 2010. The programme will cover project costs (including accommodation and food) and travel to and from the project to meeting points in the UK and Saudi Arabia.

All information can be found on the Earthwatch website including competition posters: earthwatch.org/nextgeneration

For further information please email: educaton@earthwatch.org.uk

3. SEEd needs your help!

With the climate change negotiations coming up, elections this year and 2010 being the International Year of Biodiversity, we are planning a series of workshops to help teachers find a road map through the plethora of climate change and energy resources as well as biodiversity resources. If you are interested in attending a workshop regionally to review resources and then develop lesson plans and topic plans for a variety of subjects and ages please get in touch. These will be daylong workshops offered around the country and your work will appear on the SEEd website so that others can also find a fast route into these 2 important topics.

Send your contact details to: events@se-ed.org.uk



Events and Courses

1. National Sustainable Schools Conference – June 2010

Please mark your diaries with the next **National Sustainable Schools Conference in June 2010**. One date is confirmed so far – June 18th in London. Please keep checking the website as more details are confirmed. We are looking for 3 regional partners to cut travel again and suggestions of workshops that you could run. Please contact Michael Cutts (michael.cutts@se-ed.org.uk) to register interest in workshops, offers of regions, or if you are interested in having a stall at any of the conferences.

2. Sustainable Schools – How can local authorities support schools better?

Description: Marja Perkkiö, the Head Teacher at Westendipuiston Koulu School in Finland is making a rare trip to London to share her expertise with delegates at the Designs for Learning conference in March. Outside spaces are an integral part of the learning environment, and Marja will give delegates an overview of Finland's education system, with a specific focus on the use of the school grounds.

'Designs for Learning' is the first conference to bring together schools, local authorities and designers from across the UK, to hear from students and teachers talk about what works outdoors. The conference is a unique opportunity to discuss creative designs with landscape architects and question those setting the agenda for capital programmes.

Speakers at the event will include: Tim Byles, the Chief Executive of Partnership for Schools; Jonathon Porritt the Founder/Director, Forum for the Future; Richard Simmons, the Chief Executive of CABE and Robin Hammerton, OFSTED.

Date: 23rd March

Location: The American School of London NW8 ONP

Further Information: To book your place please visit ttl.org.uk

3. Register for Leadership of the 11–19 curriculum: the big picture and beyond

Description: You can gather fresh insights into how schools are leading the 11–19 curriculum changes and overcoming the barriers to reform at our event in Nottingham. It will feature the latest research on the secondary curriculum, plus examples of how schools are connecting the 11–19 initiative with the 14–19 curriculum programme.

Date: 24 March 2010, 9.30am–3pm

Location: National College for Leadership of Schools and Children's Services, Triumph Road, Nottingham NG8 1DH

Further Information: Find out more about the event and register here: nationalcollege.org.uk/index/events/events-item.htm?id=33216



4. Environmental Association for Universities & Colleges Annual Conference

- Description:** This conference will be key in highlighting the sector's successes on sustainability issues, whilst also providing a forum for delegates to discuss the future for their institutions in an ever changing world and their developing responsibilities for the both environment and the local community.
- The conference will include a mixture of keynote speakers, plenary, exhibitions, case studies and interactive workshops, and will bring together the sector's key thinkers and examples of best practice together under one roof to show the way ahead for colleges and universities.
- Date:** 22nd-24th March
- Location:** Bangor University, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2DG
- Further Information:** To find out more about the plenary sessions, speakers, and the interactive workshops, please visit: eauc.org.uk/annual_conference

5. Muck and Magic – Composting Course

- Description:** Discover how to make compost and leafmould, and how to create a comfrey liquid feed. Learn how to choose and use fertility-building green manure plants, and find out how to plan a crop rotation. All of these elements are put together in this fascinating afternoon course with Garden Organic experts.
- Date:** Thursday 15th April
- Cost:** Members - £24.00
Non-members - £30.00
- Venue:** Ryton Gardens
- Further Information:** For more information visit: gardenorganic.org.uk/events/courses/course_details.php?id=468

Jobs

Call for 2 SEEd Interns for June and July

- Description:** SEEd is looking for two interns to support with the running of 2010's National Sustainable Schools Conferences. The posts will be for 6 weeks starting at the beginning of June and continuing into July. Successful applicants will benefit from experience and involvement in the planning and delivery of a series of four national conferences in four locations around the country.
- They will gain experience of the environmental education field, have access to workshops at the conferences and have a chance to meet and network with a range of contacts from within the sector.
- Location:** SEEd office near Covent Garden and conference locations around the country in June.
- Further Information:** For further information please email Michael Cutts: michael.cutts@se-ed.org.uk

Subscription

If you would like to **unsubscribe** from SEEd's e-news please email news@se-ed.org.uk and put 'Unsubscribe' in the subject line.