

Issue 36
Summer 2010

Environmental Education News

The newsletter of Cambridgeshire Environmental Education Service

Supporting Sustainable Schools

Inspirational, innovative Eco-Councillors' Convention

An innovative programme designed to support the national Eco Schools green flag award scheme has proved a resounding success. Four Cambridgeshire schools chose to opt into the experimental programme, each of them selecting, from their year 5 and 6 Eco Councillors, up to 8 children to take part. CEES teachers laid on a two-day residential experience at Stibbington Centre, including a sustainable sleepover, with learning activities during the two days related to each of the 9 Eco Schools themes. The initiatives and installations on site at Stibbington Eco Centre provided inspiration for the Eco Councillors, and they also learnt from each other – each group gave a presentation on their school's eco action so far and their aspirations for the future.

Teacher, Karen Denton from Somersham Primary rated all aspects of the programme excellent, adding, "I wanted to use the experience as a training opportunity for our year 5 Eco Councillors, and they are now "fired up" with lots of ideas to lead the rest of the school next year."



The other participating schools were Rackham, Holme and Stilton Primaries.

Following the success of the trial, two further dates have been set aside for Eco Councillors' Conventions: September 20 – 21 and February 7 – 8. Further details from CEES.



Active learning for Eco Councillors: water conservation (left) and biodiversity

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CEES Centres' News

Green Day Success

They arrived en-mass by train at Wansford station. Almost 150 key stage 2 pupils from 14 different schools then followed a trail through the village to Stibbington Centre to take part in a varied programme of activities, including a special Eco-Celebration at lunchtime.

There were workshops on energy, minibeasts, seed sowing, and recycled art on the Recycling Bus. Each school completed one segment of a giant mural using recycled bottle tops.



When the segments were finally joined the effect was stunning! The children enjoyed a 'green' lunch of healthy food and ended the day with a sustainable return train ride.

Teachers from Ashbeach Primary commented, "All the children found the Green Day highly enjoyable. They came back invigorated and ready to pass on the eco-messages to the rest of the school"



Record-breaking Upware Centre

The Open Day held at CEES Upware Centre in March attracted more visitors than ever before.

Throughout the day the Centre was buzzing with activity as family groups tried their hand at model making, pond dipping, painting, mask making, printing, badge making and following an Eco Trail. More activities were on offer at the nearby South Pit Nature Reserve where fossils could be found in the limestone coral reef bank and there was a treasure trail to follow too.

There were so many activities to do that lots of families stayed for most of the day – what a treat for mums on Mother's Day!

Pictured above left, the finished mural; far left, the CEES team leads the singing of "We're a Sustainable School" and left, making new friends and sharing eco-ideas at the Eco Celebration.

GIANT unveiling

Thursday 18 March was a day of giant celebrations at Cambridgeshire's three residential education centres: Burwell House; Grafham Water and Stibbington. The unveiling of the Cambridgeshire Outdoors Centres' new giants took place simultaneously, with special guests in attendance, including representatives of Cambridgeshire Culture, the group that commissioned the giants.

At Stibbington, special guest, Cllr Linda Oliver, Chairman of Cambridgeshire County Council, was joined by non-giant actor, Ray Griffiths, and children from Primary schools, St John's, Huntingdon, and Newborough, Peterborough, whose designs had been used by the sculptor. Also unveiled on the day was a Cambridgeshire Culture sign post, the giant's name - The BSG, a giant

display, a giant cake, and a giant song.

Head of CEES, Rosie Edwards commented, "Our new giant is a superb addition to the art and sculpture works in the Centre grounds, and greets everyone with a cheery smile as they approach the front door. The BSG is also providing Centre visitors with inspiration for writing stories – perhaps there will be a future best seller amongst them!"

To round off the special celebratory event a Lowry print was presented to the Centre by Cllr Oliver. It now hangs in pride of place for all to admire in the children's lounge.

Stop Press: CEES is now taking bookings for day and residential courses for pupils from September 2010 to July 2011. Details and a brochure are being circulated to schools in a postal mailing or contact CEES for information



Focus on Water

Summer Savings

– How much water does your school waste?

Water consumption is energy intensive and costly. A typical primary school can spend upwards of £2000 per year on its water bills, with secondary schools paying twice as much. As we move towards the summer months, cutting water wastage could help your budgets as well as the environment.

Typically, around one quarter of a school's water use goes on washing, with almost two thirds on toilet and urinal flushing. There are many steps that you can take to help reduce water consumption in your school, not all requiring expenditure. Why not try the following:

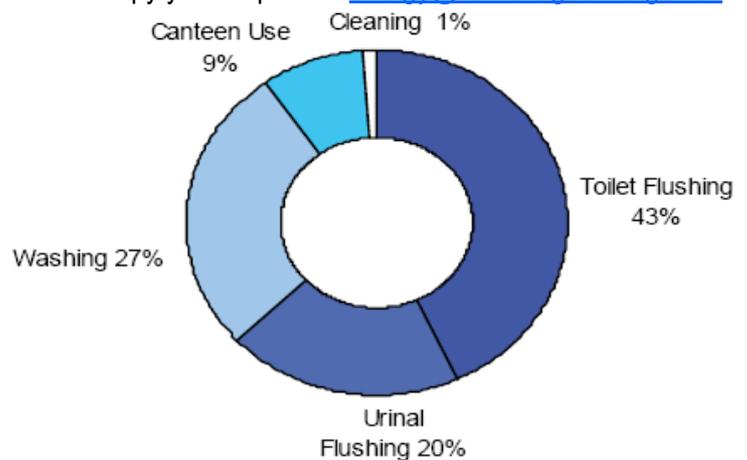
- Establish a 'water savers' monitoring team, to get children involved in water efficiency
- Appoint a sustainability champion to lead on all aspects of water and environmental performance
- Invest in flow restrictors for taps or install water efficient taps when taps need to be replaced
- Place cistern blocks in toilets to save water with every flush.
- Fit efficient automatic flush controls on urinals
- Install water efficient showers when the showers need upgrading, or flow restrictors into shower heads
- For grounds maintenance, select plants which do

not require much watering and use water butts to collect rainwater for watering

- If your school is an Anglian Water customer, arrange a free water efficiency assessment and receive some recommendations of where your school can improve efficiency

You can find more information on water efficiency and a range of other environmental issues, including energy, wildlife, waste and travel on the Cambridgeshire schools portal. See: <http://crg.e2bn.net/e2bn/leas/c99/schools/crg/?verb=view> for more information.

To request a free Anglian Water assessment, send your school name and address, along with your account number to businesscustomerservices@anglianwater.co.uk and copy your request to energy@cambridgeshire.gov.uk



Newsplash from Captain Splosh!

Captain Splosh, Anglian Water's superhero, is always on the look out for new ways to encourage children to save water. His latest search led him to Burwell Village College where enthusiastic teacher Nicola Plumb and Burwell VC's talented year 5s and 6s recorded the Captain Splosh Waterwise song. Neil Halliday, the mobile education centre manager explains, "The song has been written to help promote the water efficiency message around the whole Anglian Water area and is going down really well." The song can be found on the Captain Splosh website <http://www.captainsplosh.co.uk/teacher13.htm>. Look out for the waterwise video and lots of other resources on the same site.

The mobile education centre (with Captain Splosh) is now taking bookings for Cambridgeshire for the second half of

the Autumn term. If schools are interested in receiving a visit, complete a booking form on http://www.anglianwater.co.uk/assets/media/MEC_booking_form.doc or email us on Mobileec@anglianwater.co.uk



Captain Splosh to the rescue!



Cambridgeshire schools go green

The number of local schools working on the national Eco Schools green flag award programme has seen a significant increase during the past year.

In April 2009, when CEES took on the challenge of supporting Eco Schools and Sustainable Schools in Cambridgeshire, there were 101 schools registered with the scheme, including 33

Focus on Eco-schools

with the bronze award, 14 with silver, and 8 with green flag. By April 2010, a 30% increase had been achieved.

CEES' next **Eco Schools Inspiration** workshop for teachers is to be held at Swaffham Prior Primary School on Wednesday 30 June from 4 to 6pm. The session will include a general introduction to Eco Schools, a chance to find out how Swaffham Prior achieved their green flag, and a special focus on waste management.

Places are available free of charge but must be booked with CEES on tel 01780 782386 or email cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

East of England Eco-Schools Show 2010

This year's Eco-Schools Show takes place on Wednesday 23 June at the East of England Showground, the Exec, Peterborough. With around 3,000 attendees expected it is the largest sustainable schools event in England. The event is also unique in that its target audience is young people from Eco-Schools committees; all the activities, presentations and workshops are written with that in mind.

This year's show will feature a packed programme of activities aimed at highlighting the work schools are doing across the country including:

- The Activity Zone where pupils can have a go at a variety of eco activities

- Workshops for both pupils and teachers providing practical advice for schools looking to attain and keep the Eco-Schools Green Flag
- Ask the Experts Area where Eco-Committees can put questions to an expert on a topic of their choice
- A wide range of exhibitors displaying relevant and exciting information or products for Eco-Schools
- Inspiring special guests and special announcements

A visit to the Show could be a reward for Eco-Committees. For further details about the Show and to book free places visit <http://keepbritaintidy.comtec-presentations.com/>

Eco-schools announces 'Green Flag Ambassador Award'

Eco-schools are soon to launch a new high level award, the Green Flag Ambassador School Award.

This new award recognises those schools that have made progress in all nine Eco-Schools topics and have fully embedded sustainability into the life and ethos of the school.

Ambassador Eco-Schools will be expected to have successfully delivered change in the culture of the school, be able to demonstrate successful pupil and community interaction and have used their knowledge and experience to support and share information and advice with their local authority and other schools.

Energy becomes compulsory for Eco-schools

From September the Energy element of the Eco-schools programme will be mandatory for all schools wishing to attain their green flag. They must demonstrate how they have tackled energy usage through the Eco-schools process.

Great tips and help is available from EDF Energy's education website www.jointhepod.org.

Working with the Department of Energy and Climate Change Eco Schools will also be launching a brand new Act on CO2 School Award in September to reward those schools that can demonstrate energy savings of 10%.

Wonderful waste education

Did you know the Recycling Buses are operated by experienced teachers? And they aren't just about recycling – schools can book them to teach a broad range of skills for the new creative national curriculum.



Young designers on the bus

Getting children involved in fun hands-on activities, from making aeroplanes to musical instruments, inspirational teachers Nick King and Em Ritchie introduce children to the wonderful world of waste and environmental issues, such as the benefits of preventing waste, re-using or repairing unwanted or broken items, recycling and wider environmentally-friendly behaviour. "We get a chance to work with children of all

abilities to inspire them to think about the problems facing our environment and what they can do to help", says Nick. "The buses are key in developing successful learners, creative individuals and responsible citizens to help create a greener future" Em affirms.

The buses are perfect for small group activities, but the bus message spreads wider than that as lessons can be carried out into the classroom or school hall. Thousands of children have taken something from the bus home with them this year – the wind turbine they might have made, the science behind it, why it's important, and the knowledge of what goes into their recycling bin.

"It is the best example of learning and having fun at the same time" said one bus-goer. What more can you ask from something which ticks several National Curriculum and Framework for Sustainable Schools' Doorway boxes?

For more information about the buses and waste in general visit <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/environment/waste>

Recycling Open Day - Saturday 19th June 10am—4pm

Don't miss out on a fascinating day out at Donarbon's Waste Management Park on the A10 Ely Road at Waterbeach.

With guided tours, a variety of attractions and good food, drink and ice cream available it will be a great experience for all the family. Phone 01223 861010 for more information

A wasted day?

The children of Swaffham Bulbeck Primary School learnt about naming body parts in a novel way earlier this term.

Em Ritchie spent the day at the school with her recycling bus and her "wasted family", a collection of eye-catching sculptures made from recyclable materials. Following an assembly, Em worked with the school's Eco Councillors, together

with small groups of children from each class, to construct a "wasted person" who would take up residence at the school. By the end of the day the new member of the school community was almost 2 metres tall, and consisted of milk cartons for feet, cans for lungs, kitchen roll inners for ribs, and clear tape for skin.

A truly memorable way for the children to learn about body parts, as well as recycling!



Focus on Energy

Schools are energetic places!

All Cambridgeshire schools have received a copy of recent Energy Guidance Notes from Cambridgeshire County Council. The notes outline ways schools can save energy, cut carbon dioxide emissions and save money. Further copies can be downloaded from the schools' education portal:

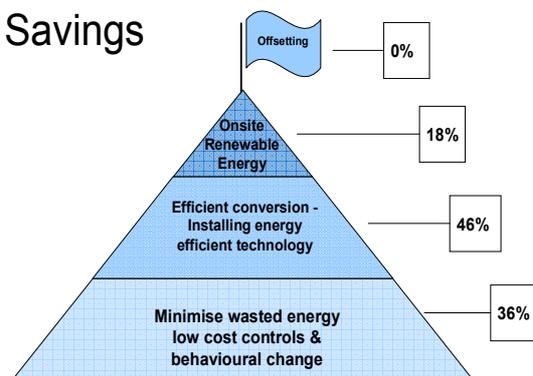
www.ccceducation.net Resource ID: 4853.

Carbon dioxide emissions from school buildings account for over 80% of the emissions from county council buildings. These can be cut by a third by changing behaviour and installing low costs controls. CEES can help with promoting an ethos of energy saving in school by engaging KS2 and KS3 pupils in **free** workshops to look at how to reduce the impacts of climate change.

The second stage, which can reduce Carbon emissions by almost 50% is ensuring that the school building has adequate insulation, double or triple glazing and other energy efficient technology. An example of this is replacing fluorescent with LED lighting (see page below)

The final stage (up to 18% saving) is the use of renewable energy such as solar water heating, photo voltaic cells and wind power. Pupils can learn about these technologies through CEES' **Energy Works** programme, which includes a visit to **Coldham Wind Farm**.

Savings



The Energy Works programme is offered free to schools thanks, to funding from Fenland District Council and the Co-operative Group. Pupils from Elm Primary School were one of the first set of visitors to the wind farm and now have their own solar cells and 5kW wind turbine. Their head teacher, Chris Child, has calculated that on average the combined technologies generate 17% of the school's energy. He adds, "Children are very interested in the wind turbine and solar panels. One of the biggest impacts is that it has encouraged them to be more energy conscious and to save energy."

CEES is now taking bookings for Energy Works class visits to Coldham Wind Farm and workshops in schools, tel 01780 782386, cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Low energy lighting reduces Council's emissions

Light emitting diodes (LEDs) use much less energy than traditional fluorescent lighting. The Council's Energy Management Team is currently undertaking a project to replace the existing inefficient lighting over three floors of Castle Court with the more energy efficient LEDs. The new lighting will save the Council £18,000 and 123 tonnes of CO₂ *each year*, in comparison to the old lighting. The bulbs also last for up to 50,000 hours - about 7 times as long as fluorescent tubes. Other projects across corporate office sites will follow later in 2010.



LED lighting may offer schools opportunities to significantly reduce both their carbon emissions **and** their lighting bills, especially where lighting improvements are already planned.

Learning Outside the Classroom – Opportunities for All

The importance of learning outside the classroom is now recognised as crucial to a broad, balanced and creative curriculum from Foundation stage upwards.

Whether working in the school grounds or the local area, or venturing further afield for day visits or residential experiences, the range of options open to teachers is vast.

Cost has long been one of the barriers to educational visits, especially residential ones, deterring some schools from offering such experiences, and putting other schools in the position of including only those who can afford to pay the cost. The time for change is now.

To ensure that ALL children are included in day and residential visits, many schools are now

using disadvantaged funding through the Extended Schools subsidy. The promised “Pupil Premium” may in future be allocated for similar purposes to ensure inclusion.

Staff at the Cambridgeshire Outdoors group of residential centres: Burwell House; Grafham Water and CEES Stibbington Centre, would be very pleased to help schools plan a progression of residential experiences, perhaps using a different centre and theme for each year group.

Bookings for residential experiences up to July 2011 are currently being taken at Stibbington. For details and examples of curriculum-linked programmes visit www.cees.org.uk or come along to an open afternoon on Thursday 17 June at 3 to 5pm. To book places tel 01780 782386.

Extended Schools and Sustainable Development

TDAS has produced a report on "how schools can use extended services to support the sustainable development agenda". Containing real practice examples and guidance on evidence gathering for self-evaluation, this downloadable publication looks at ways that extended services can support the Sustainable Schools agenda", see <http://www.tda.gov.uk/about/publicationslisting/tda0825.aspx>.

Children unearth the past on the Great Fen

On a recent visit to the Wildlife Trust Countryside Classroom at Ramsey Heights, children from the local Ashbeach Primary School stepped back in time on the new Fen Time Traveller heritage programme. This interactive programme took the children on a journey through the past, present and future of the changing fenland landscape and the people who lived there.

Along their journey they met ‘Sybil’ the old Fen Wise Woman in her hut who ‘cured’ them from their fen ailments with natural ingredients found in the wild. They also made their very own safe keeps to ward off any fen bogarts and bogels on dark fen nights. Students discovered how the local eel catcher caught his fish and trapped his eels and then armed with trowels and brushes they unearthed fenland artefacts dating back from prehistoric

times to modern day. A self-guided trail around the nature reserve unearthed the history of the site that was once the Victorian brickworks, a land fill site and the nature reserve it is today. The day was complimented with a trip down to Woodwalton Fen to experience the magical atmosphere of an ancient traditional fen habitat and to learn about the future of the fens in the ‘Great Fen’ area.

“The effort and attention to detail were superb, the staff providing a super insight into everyday life in the fens. Children felt encouraged, challenged and confident to take on the activities, thoroughly enjoying themselves and learning many new things”

For more details of the new Fen Time Travellers programme and other programs on offer at the Great Fen, visit www.wildlifebcnp.org or tel 01487 710420 or email info@greatfen.org.uk.



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Whilst every care has been taken to ensure that the information contained in this publication is accurate, readers should always obtain independent confirmation of any details upon which they wish to rely.

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CEES is part of Cambridgeshire County Council's Children & Young People's Services.

DIARY DATES

Date	Event and Venue	Contact
Sat 5th June	World Environment Day 2010	www.unep.org
7—11 June	School Grounds Week	www.ltl.org.uk
10 June	CAS Primary Geography course at Stibbington Centre: Locality studies across the curriculum	01780 782386 cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Thur 17 June	Stibbington Residential Centre Open Afternoon, 3—5pm	Tel 01780 782386 to book places
Thur 17 June	Green Britain Day 2010	www.jointhepod.org
Sat 19 June	Recycling open day at Dunarbon's Waste Management Park	01223 861010
21—25 June	Geography Awareness week Focus on Global Issues	www.geography.org.uk
Wed 23 June	Eco-schools Show—East of England Showground	Keepbritaintidy.com c-presentations.com
Thur 24 June	Tide Global Learning Secondary Schools Conference—Brimingham	www.tidec.org
Wed 30 June	Eco-schools Workshop Swaffham Prior Primary School	01780 782386 cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
20-21 Sept	Eco-Councillors Convention at Stibbington Centre	01780 782386 cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
5—7 Jan	NAFSO / CEES Annual Conference, Curriculum change in the outdoor classroom at Girton College	Conference prospectus available from September
7—8 Feb 2011	Eco-Councillors Convention at Stibbington Centre	01780 782386 cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

CEES Evaluation Draw, Spring 10: Congratulations to the following winners of CEES draw last term.

A small token to thank them for returning their comments about the service is en-route to their schools:

Upware Centre: Jane Johnson of St Faith's School who brought her year 3 class for an Investigating Rocks day

Coldham Wind Farm: Lynn Saunders of Histon & Impington Junior School who brought three year 5 classes for an Energy Works programme

Stibbington Day Centre: J Southwell of Ramsey Junior School whose year 5's enjoyed a Victorian Day

Stibbington Residential Centre: Karen Denton of Somersham Primary School whose Eco Councillors joined the Eco Councillors' Convention

