

Issue 34
Autumn 2009

Environmental Education News

The newsletter of Cambridgeshire Environmental Education Service

Supporting Sustainable Schools

Improving schools, improving lives

For those who have already set out on the Sustainable Schools road, the findings of a new Ofsted report, due to be published in November, will come as no surprise. "Improving schools, improving lives" will present evidence for the positive impact that working towards becoming a Sustainable School can have on both behaviour and achievement.

The report's author, Ofsted's specialist adviser for Geography and ESD, Leszek Iwaskow will share the findings of an extensive study with delegates at the Cambridgeshire Sustainable Schools Conference, which is to be held at Girton College, Cambridge on Friday 27 November.

The conference also includes presentations from Jake Reynolds of DCSF, John Orr of Environment Agency, and Headteacher of The Ashbeach Primary School, Hazel Lambert. A wide range of workshops, from energy and water to global dimension, learning in the school grounds and Eco Schools, completes the programme. The conference prospectus is available at www.cees.org.uk/pdfs/sustainable-schools-conference-2009.pdf.

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**A sad
day for
Thomas
The Tank
Engine?**

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Introducing Sustainable Schools

Concern about sustainable development, and particularly climate change is high and set to increase, and a key DCSF aim is for all schools to have fulfilled the Department for Children, Schools and Families' "Sustainable School" criteria by 2020.

The Department's National Framework for Sustainable Schools details what schools need to do to become Sustainable Schools, and the newly re-launched website at www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainable-schools contains practical resources, guidance and the "s3" school self-evaluation tool.

Many Cambridgeshire schools are already actively involved in programmes such as Eco-Schools, Healthy Schools and International Schools, and the Framework recognises the contribution that these and other existing programmes make

to a school's journey towards sustainability.

The Framework encourages an integrated approach, based on an ethos of care, through curriculum, campus and community. Eight 'doorways' or sustainability themes are entry points where schools can establish or develop their sustainability practices:

- **Food and drink**
- **Energy and water**
- **Travel and traffic**
- **Purchasing and waste**
- **Buildings and grounds**
- **Inclusion and participation**
- **Local well-being**
- **Global dimension**

The layout of CEES' Newsletter this term has been adapted to focus on some of the doorways and to provide information about them and case studies from schools.

CEES support for Sustainable Schools

Working towards becoming a Sustainable School can have a positive impact on school ethos, behaviour and achievement (see page 1) and can also reduce costs and cut carbon emissions from school buildings and school activities. As part of Cambridgeshire County Council's Climate Change and School Communities project, CEES can offer to support schools with their work on the Sustainable Schools Framework, including:

- Staff and governor training
- In-school pupil workshops and assemblies
- Sustainable-themed class visits to CEES centres (day or residential programmes)
- The Energy Works programme based at Coldham Wind Farm
- Signposting to other regional and national organisations for support and grants, see www.cees.org.uk.

For further details contact CEES on 01780 782386 or email cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Happy Bins

DCSF Sustainable Schools Doorway: Purchasing & waste

By 2020 all schools will be models of waste minimisation and sustainable procurement, using goods and services of high environmental and ethical standards from local sources where possible, and increasing value for money by reducing, repairing and recycling.

Following a successful trial with 10 schools in 2008, 19 local schools have signed up to join the innovative Happy Bin project this year. The project is designed to try to change attitudes towards waste and reduce the weekly amount produced by each participating school. For more details visit happybin.org.uk.

Teachers from the 19 schools were introduced to the project at a training day held at Stibbington, where the Centre's waste reduction and other eco action initiatives were seen in operation, and the Recycling Bus was also on hand for inspiration. The teachers returned to their schools armed with support materials and learning resources to help them introduce the project, and a lively interactive puppet show, has been travelling around the schools to inspire the pupils to take action.

Over the six weeks of the project each school will weigh all its waste, dividing it into waste sent for recycling and waste destined for landfill. After the weigh-in at the end of week one the results already show a huge variation between schools in the amount of waste generated in a week, from 0.4 kilograms to more than 1 kilogram per pupil. Whatever their starting point, schools are challenged to reduce the weight of waste over the six week period.

Waste Reduction Stars

Congratulations to **Bar Hill and Great Staughton Primary Schools** for leading the field on waste reduction at the start of the Happy Bin project.



Helping schools to reduce their carbon footprint

DCSF Sustainable Schools Doorway: Energy & water
By 2020 all schools will be models of energy efficiency, renewable energy and water conservation, showcasing opportunities such as wind, solar and biomass energy, insulation, rainwater harvesting and grey water recycling.

Cambridgeshire County Council's Climate Change and Environment Strategy was launched in 2008. Underpinning the action plan is the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as agreed by the UK government through the international Kyoto Protocol. The UK targets set within the government's 2008 Climate Change Bill are to reduce carbon emissions by 60% by 2050 (compared to 1990 levels). From April 2010 new government legislation, the Carbon Reduction Commitment, will mean that the County Council will have to buy a £12 carbon permit for every tonne of CO₂ it produces. In 2008/09 this would have cost the County Council £468,000

Energy use in Cambridgeshire schools produced almost 40,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in 2008/09 - 46% of the Council's total CO₂ emissions. When taking into account the emissions associated with County Council buildings alone, the contribution from schools rises to 80%.

Working with partners both within the County Council and beyond, CEES is developing a programme of Climate Change and Sustainable Schools activities designed to help schools reduce their carbon emissions as part of a broader programme of work on Sustainable Schools. For details contact CEES on tel 01780 782386 or CEES Sustainable Schools Leader, Nicky Ayscough at Nicola.ayscough@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

CEES' Energy Works programme

CEES' Energy Works programme focuses on energy generation and energy saving, and offers visits to the education centre at Coldham Wind Farm as well as in-school workshops and teaching resources. The Energy Works programme is designed to cover a range of subjects including science, geography and design and technology for students from age 7 to 18. Energy Works programmes are funded by Fenland District Council and the Co-operative Group and are available to all schools free of charge.

Three year 4 classes from Alderman Jacobs Primary School visited Coldham in October and enjoyed half-day workshops using mini solar and wind turbine kits back at school. Their lead teacher, Caroline Johnson remarked in her evaluation, "The pupils liked the hands-on approach and the chance to 'try it' themselves. It made a huge contribution to my pupils' progress and has really broadened the curriculum."

There are still a few dates available for this popular programme later this term. Teachers should book early for the rest of the school year as June and July are already **very busy!** For details, see the Coldham Wind Farm page of the CEES website, www.cees.org.uk or phone 01780 782386.

First steps to energy saving

Cambridgeshire County Council has recently launched a series of energy saving guidance documents aimed at helping Cambridgeshire schools to reduce their energy use and limit their climate changing carbon dioxide emissions.

The Council recognises the challenge that all schools face in addressing their energy use. The guidance documents therefore provide a range of quick-win practical tips, as well as longer-term investment advice, to help all schools take the first steps towards reducing their energy consumption.

The energy fact sheets are available to download via the Cambridgeshire Education Portal, (Resource Number 4853) at www.ccceducation.net or as hard copies on request.

For more information or to request a copy of the energy saving guidance, contact Cambridgeshire County Council's Environment Policy & Projects team on 01223 715560 or email the Energy Management Team, energy@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

A sad day for Thomas the Tank Engine? As part of its Climate Change and Sustainable Schools project, CEES' Eco Centre at Stibbington is being developed as a demonstration Centre for energy saving and sustainability initiatives, and Thomas the Tank Engine will be the first casualty. The very popular oil tanks are about to be replaced with a bio fuel tank, a first for the County Council. Solar and wind power installations are also being upgraded as part of the project. See photo. p1 and more details in next term's newsletter.

Energy Saving Stars

Congratulations to Elm Primary School where 44% of the electricity used in September was generated by recently installed solar photovoltaic panels, together with the school's existing wind turbine.



Eco Action at King's Hedges

DCSF Sustainable Schools Doorway: Inclusion & participation

By 2020 all schools will be models of social inclusion, enabling all pupils to participate fully in school life while instilling a long-lasting respect for human rights, freedoms, cultures and creative expression

During the past few months children, staff and community at King's Hedges Primary School in Cambridge have been enthusiastically taking up the Eco Schools challenge. Having registered with the scheme and achieved the bronze award in January, lots of progress has since been made towards the national Eco Schools silver award.

The school has an active Eco Council, led by year 2 teacher and Science Co-ordinator, Lulu Kirby who attended CEES Eco Schools Inspiration workshops last Summer Term. Lulu then approached CEES for support with King's Hedges' journey through the Eco Schools scheme to become a sustainable school.

CEES Sustainable Schools Leader, Nicky Ayscough, visited King's Hedges to meet the Eco-Council in July and was impressed with work on the school grounds and courtyard areas, led by Lulu with her newly formed gardening club and enthusiastic site manager Simon Miller.

Since then action has included:

A staff training session on "Learning in the school grounds" in September

CEES teacher Judy Dimpleby led this twilight workshop, which aimed to share with the whole staff team ideas for taking learning outside the classroom. The school's well-established grounds lend themselves very well to cross-curricular learning activities, and the planned addition of a woodland nature trail will further enhance opportunities.

Judy used a mapping trail, based on a story, to provide a framework of activities with cross-curricular links for Reception children to Year 6. Activities included environmental and clay artwork, tree hugging and poetry, minibeast hunting, numeracy and locality studies.

An Eco-Week of activities in October

Cottenham Primary's School's Eco Week, held last year and shared with participants at CEES' Eco Schools workshop, provided Lulu with the inspiration for planning King's Hedges' Eco Week. After a briefing by Lulu, each year team planned their own environmental activities and integrated them within the week's lessons.

Activities included:

Traffic surveys and other activities in the local area to link with the previous week's Walk to School Week for year 2.

A **farm visit** and a focus on **vegetable growing** and cooking for year 5 & 6

And for the whole school:

A **Happy Bin Project Puppet Show**, which raised awareness of waste minimisation.

And **renewable energy workshops** led by CEES teachers Richard and Nicky. These included a link to recycling for years 3 to 6 and a specially developed Foundation workshop on solar and wind energy based on Lynn Nixon's book: "The Wind, the Sun and the Boy".

Further activities to come next month include Energy Works visits to CEES Centre at **Coldham Wind Farm** for two year 5 classes and a visit by the **Anglian Water** mobile classroom.

With the support of CEES and other partner organisations, King's Hedges' work across several of the Eco Schools themes will facilitate whole school participation in becoming a Sustainable School. Chances are that silver award will soon be achieved, and next on to the Green Flag!



Eco Schools Stars



Congratulations to

Somersham Primary School

on achieving the Eco Schools Green Flag Award. The school's work, which involved the whole school community, including children, staff, governors, parents and the village community, will be showcased at the forthcoming CEES conference on Sustainable Schools, see page 1.

Congratulations also to

The Meadow Primary School

on achieving its second green flag award, the first having been awarded in 2007.

Grounds for Learning

DCSF Sustainable Schools Doorway: Buildings & grounds
By 2020 all schools will manage their buildings in ways that visibly demonstrate sustainable development. Through their grounds schools will bring pupils closer to the natural world, capture their imaginations in outdoor play and help them learn about sustainable living.

CEES' programme of professional development courses for 2010 includes "Learning in the school grounds" workshops, which have been devised to help Primary School teachers and teaching assistants make more effective use of their grounds for learning.

With increasing emphasis on creative approaches to learning and a move away from separate subject teaching, the school grounds provide a hugely valuable resource to support teachers with learning activities across the curriculum.

Venue for the workshops will be Stibbington Centre, itself a former Primary School, where the grounds have seen significant improvements during the past year. A wide variety of learning activities has been developed for use on site, with themes ranging from literacy and numeracy to science, geography and art. The workshops will give "hands on" practical experience of leading and managing learning activities outside the classroom, and participants will return to school equipped to re-create many of the activities in their own school grounds.

Dates for workshops during the Spring Term are:
Monday 1 March, 2 – 5pm, KS2, and
Monday 23 March, 2 – 5pm, Foundation and KS1

CEES' "Learning in the school grounds" programmes are also available for delivery in schools at whole school staff training days and staff meetings.

For further details contact CEES on tel 01780 782386 or visit www.cees.org.uk or email cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Inspirational GIANTS for Cambridgeshire Outdoors

Thanks to "Cambridgeshire Culture", the County's commitment to cultural entitlements and partnerships for children and young people, the three Residential Centres that are part of Cambridgeshire Outdoors are now home to a family of giants! During the summer break giant's head sculptures were created in the grounds of Burwell House, Grafham Water Centre and CEES Stibbington Centre. Since then the inspirational giants have captured the imagination of hundreds of visitors to the Centres, and have been incorporated into learning activities too.

A special event to celebrate the new giants is being planned by the Cambridgeshire Outdoors group in the Spring Term.

Trees for Breathing Places

The BBC Breathing Places Schools project has now launched its final, "do one thing" activity. This autumn term they are asking schools to 'get tree planting'.

There are lots of interesting facts about trees, along with ideas for related activities in a range of curriculum areas at www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces/autumn09.

Orchard Opportunity

The national charity Learning through Landscapes (LTL) has developed an exciting new national project enabling thousands of children to establish heritage fruit orchards within their school grounds and in partnership with their local communities. **Fruit-full Schools**, has recently been awarded a National Lottery Local Food grant and is due to start in January 2010. Ten Regional Coordinators will link with community orchard groups in their area and draw upon existing relationships to encourage secondary schools to apply. Those interested in taking part in *Fruit-full Schools* should contact fruitfullschools@ltl.org.uk or speak to Helen Robinson on 0208 8503112 (#210)

GIANT Design Stars

Congratulations to pupils from St John's Primary School, Huntingdon and Newborough Primary School, Peterborough whose winning designs were used by the sculptor to create the new giant in the grounds of Stibbington Centre.



Sustainable lifestyles and residential experience

What better way to embed sustainable citizenship than to immerse pupils in a three-day residential experience with sustainable lifestyle choices and eco action at its core?

CEES Stibbington Centre offers residential programmes that support the curriculum, develop social and teamwork skills and help the environment too. For sample programmes visit www.cees.org.uk/residential_courses and for details of availability contact CEES on tel 01780 782386.

Excavations at Wisbech Castle

An archaeological dig at Wisbech Castle has attracted great interest in the local community. 800 pupils from 14 local schools, and 80 volunteers have been involved in the project, which was funded by Heritage Lottery Fund.

The dig took place in the grounds of Wisbech Castle and involved excavating the site of the Bishop's Palace. Many boxes of artefacts were taken away for analysis and the results are eagerly awaited.

With its central location and rich heritage, Wisbech Castle is an invaluable educational resource. CEES already offers several courses for KS 1 and 2 at the Castle and aims to develop further courses using the outcomes of the dig.

Wild activities with the Wildlife Trust

The Wildlife Trust's Really Wild Days Out, based at The Great Fen project offer all year round interactive environmental education programmes facilitated by experienced Wildlife Trust staff with curriculum-based programmes for reception, key stage 1 and 2, supported by hands-on activities, teachers notes and full risk assessments. For bookings and more information on current programs contact Senior Education Officer Helen Moore on helen.moore@wildlifebcnp.org or 07595 090778 or visit www.wildlifebcnp.org

DCSF Sustainable Schools doorway: Local well-being
By 2020 all schools will be models of corporate citizenship within their local areas, enriching their educational mission with activities that improve the environment and quality of life of local people.

Seasonal Art at Upware

Autumn is an ideal time to explore art in the natural environment. At CEES Upware Centre fenland colours are at their best, especially this year when the dry weather has contributed so much. Nearer Christmas, an environmental art day programme can reflect the festive season, making a creative start to the celebrations and providing natural decorations to take back to school.

Artists at Upware

If you should come to Upware, for art techniques galore. You'll find much inspiration waiting just inside the door. Drawn from our surroundings from animal and bird, From plants and Fenland landscape, the choice is quite absurd. There's watercolour painting and moulding clay to choose, Environmental printing, winding wool with many hues. Batik is quite a favourite with wax and coloured dye, Mosaics and pebble painting if those options take your eye. And from the Centre building there's a walk across the fen, To South Pit's outdoor pleasures, inspiration once again. Constable had Suffolk, John Chrome, Norfolk fair, Future artists, Upware? Perhaps we'll see you there!

'Lapwing' (Aka Brian Hutchings, CEES Teacher)

A Christmas Nativity day course for Foundation and key stage 1, and a Victorian Christmas day for key stage 2 are also offered at Upware Centre in late November and December.

Upware Centre's Open Day on Sunday 14 March is an opportunity for children to return to the Centre with their families to try out many of the art activities and to explore the fenland environment.

For details contact tel 01780 782386 or email cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

New for Spring 2010 is an interactive heritage programme where pupils journey through time to discover the landscape and social changes of the past, present and future of the fascinating fenland. Teacher development sessions, outreach and assemblies are also offered. For details contact Louise Rackham, on louise.rackham@wildlifebcnp.org or 0759 5090777 For studying Saxons a 'Journeys of People and Wildlife' programme is offered at Paxton Pits Nature Reserve. Details from Debbie McKenzie on 01480 811075 or log on to <http://www.wildlifebcnp.org/education-paxton.htm>

Why the Global Dimension?

Growing interdependence between countries changes the way we view the world and ourselves. Schools can respond by developing a responsible, international outlook among their young people, based on an appreciation of the impact of their personal values and behaviours on global challenges.

The major challenges and opportunities for our society are global ones: In a fast changing, globalised world, education needs to help people understand the wider world around them. We need to recognise and understand global connections between, for example, poverty, climate change and our own lives.

International Education and Sustainable Schools

Mark Oliver, CAS Adviser for International Education, highlights ways in which the Global Dimension links with international school partnerships and with other Sustainable Schools doorways.

Powerful global learning opportunities are offered by international school links where there is a significant difference in levels of development between partner schools. Exploring what each school uses, re-uses and recycles would offer insights to challenge thinking on what can be done. Comparing how schools use their grounds, and reviewing who does what in the school and local community to live sustainably could also open eyes to additional possibilities.

The following are examples of global learning resources that link to other doorways:

Food and Drink: Oxfam has a range of resources related to food and the impact of choices we make about food. Go to: www.oxfam.org.uk/education and select Food. For Fairtrade resources covering the primary and secondary age range go to: www.ie.ccceducation.net and select Resources.

Energy and water: Oxfam's Water for All is a resource aimed at 9-13 year olds. It explores the

Embedding the global dimension in learning helps pupils to become articulate, responsible, critical thinkers. They engage with global issues and experience and value diversity. This has far reaching benefits for pupils' motivation to learn, their behaviour and their participation in the world around them.

Over three quarters of pupils think it is important that schools help them understand what people can do to make the world a better place (MORI research, 2008)

importance of water, water shortages, and ideas for positive action. Go to: www.oxfam.org.uk/education and select Water from the topics.

Travel and traffic: The Association for Science Education website includes support and materials for teachers on the use of biofuels that links science, the global dimension and sustainability. Go to: www.ase.org.uk/html/ase_global/ltr2009/itmakesyouthink/index.php.

For further information on support in Cambridgeshire, go to www.ie.ccceducation.net or contact Mark Oliver at mark.oliver@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

The Harambee Centre

Based in Cambridge, The Harambee Centre for Development and Environment Education holds a comprehensive range of resources, specialising in global education. Materials include books, teaching materials, photos, games, videos, maps and artefacts from around the world. Training workshops for teachers and classroom workshops for pupils are also offered. For details contact Jane Carpenter, Development Education Programme Coordinator, Harambee Centre, tel: 01223 358116, www.harambeecentre.org.uk or email Jane.carpenter@harambeecentre.org.uk. 7

CEES Global Dimensions Workshop

A Global Dimensions workshop for upper KS2 and KS3 pupils has been developed by CEES teacher, Richard Green. The workshop includes:

- An introductory activity setting the context of resource inequality around the world using photopacks of families from a range of different countries and cultures
- A case study of a cash crop and the implications of how this is traded through both free trade and fair trade systems
- An exploration of the issue created by water supply for this same cash crop

For details contact CEES, tel 01780 782386 or email cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

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

DIARY DATES

Date	Event and Venue	Contact
Weds 18 Nov	EXPO ED Trade Fair for schools At Burgess Hall, St Ives Including sustainable procurement	schools.purchasing@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
From 23 Nov	Christmas Nativity, Victorian Christmas and Christmas crafts courses available at CEES Centres	Tel 01780 782386 or cees.stibbington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk See p 6
Fri 27 Nov	CAMBRIDGESHIRE SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS CONFERENCE 2009 At Girton College, Cambridge	Contact details as above See p 1
Mon 1 March	LEARNING IN THE SCHOOL GROUNDS – KS2 At Stibbington Centre, 2 – 5pm	Contact details as above See p5
Sun 14 March	CEES UPWARE CENTRE FAMILY OPEN DAY, 10am to 4pm	Contact details as above. See p6
Mon 23 March	LEARNING IN THE SCHOOL GROUNDS – F & KS1 At Stibbington Centre, 2 – 5pm	Contact details as above. See p5
Fri 26 March	CEES STIBBINGTON CENTRE GREEN OPEN DAY for schools	Contact details as above. Further information next term.
Sat 27 March	CEES STIBBINGTON CENTRE GREEN OPEN DAY for families	Contact details as above. Further information next term.
April to July	ECO SCHOOLS INSPIRATION A programme of twilight workshops at schools where work on Eco Schools has begun is planned for the Summer Term. The sessions will include information about the Eco Schools scheme, and details of how the host school is working towards an Eco Schools award. Schools interested in offering to host a workshop should contact CEES.	Contact details as above. Further information next term.

CEES Evaluation draw, Summer 09 Congratulations to the following winners of CEES draw for last term. A small token to thank them for returning their comments about the service is en route to their schools:

- Upware Centre:** Helen Harland of Holywell Primary who took her Reception class for a "Fenland food and farming" day in May.
- Coldham Wind Farm:** Mrs Wesley of Rackham Primary who brought year 3 and 4 children on an Energy Works visit in July.
- Stibbington Day Centre:** Andrew Pattison of Alderman Jacobs Primary whose year 3 class was evacuated to Stibbington in June.
- Stibbington Residential Centre:** Linda Dransfield of St John's Primary, Huntingdon who brought year 2s for a 3-day residential course in May.

