



MERSEYSIDE SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS NETWORK SEPTEMBER 2008 NEWSLETTER

Hello Everyone

Here's our next newsletter- we hope you find it useful.....

STOP PRESS.....STOP PRESS.....STOP PRESS!!

Liverpool World Centre
Toxteth TV
37 - 45 Windsor Street
L8 1XE

www.liverpoolworldcentre.org

Display Energy Certificates

From 1 October 2008, schools will be required to display in a public place certificates containing information about energy use. These will be required for all buildings with a floor area of more than 1,000 square metres. Display Energy Certificates (DECs) are being introduced to raise public awareness of energy use and efficiency. This is based on records of gas, electricity and other meter readings. Display Energy Certificates include an A to G energy rating for the building, similar to those that are required for fridges and many other new white goods. The rating provides an indication of how energy use compares with benchmarks for similar buildings.

Display Energy Certificates can only be produced by accredited energy assessors, but schools can assist in their production by collating meter readings, energy bills and other information on energy use, so that annual consumption can be established or verified.

In England and Wales failure to do so could result in possible penalties, such as;

- Failure to display a DEC at all times in a prominent place clearly visible to the public - £500
- Failure to have possession of a valid advisory report- £1000
- A maximum fine that can be imposed dependent on the nature of the breach of regulations- £5000

For more information visit: www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools/news

NETWORK SUPPORT

Save Our Squirrels

To celebrate National Red Squirrel Week schools are invited to get involved and to build their community and environmental credentials by encouraging pupils and families to take part in a sponsored walk. Get Sponsored for Sefton's Squirrels takes place on Sunday 5th October — So come on down to the 5km family friendly sponsored walk on Formby's coast between Lifeboat Road and Victoria Road.

For more information and to download a sponsor form visit: www.saveoursquirrels.com – News & Events.

Forest Schools

Are you interested in finding out more about Forest Schools? The North West Forest Education Initiative (FEI) Cluster group has just received funding from the FEI and Mersey Forest to set up a web resource of potential sites and providers and to hold a 'taster day' in Merseyside for teachers and pupils to experience what's involved. The date is yet to be confirmed but in the meantime, if you'd like to register interest or sign up to the mailing list to receive updates from the cluster group, please contact Liz Webley on ewebley@lancswt.org.uk or on 01772 751121.

There's lots of general information about Forest Schools also at:
www.foresteducation.org/forest_schools

Eco Challenge

Eco Challenge is a three year project offering around 7500 pupils from 250 schools in 22 urban areas of England the opportunity to experience and enjoy the natural environment. It is funded through the Big Lottery Fund Changing Spaces programme. Eco Challenge provides funding for up to 30 KS3 students to take part in a specially developed three night residential course and also to provide three days post course support to help students work in their school grounds or a nearby green space. Environmental education charity the Field Studies Council (FSC) is leading on the project in partnership with the Civic Trust. Secondary schools in Liverpool and Knowsley Borough are within the project area so to find out more visit www.fsc-eco-challenge.org or email cathy@field-studies-council.org

Food for Life Partnership

The Food for Life Partnership is a network of schools and communities across England committed to transforming food culture by revolutionising school meals, reconnecting young people with where their food comes from and inspiring families to cook and grow food. A total of 340 schools are now enrolled and working towards achieving a Bronze, Silver and Gold Mark award in the lead up to the 1st Annual Food for Life Partnership Awards Ceremony on 1 December 2008. All schools can enrol online by filling in a short form and then you will receive a free introductory pack with resources and guidance on the awards. For more information or to enrol your school, visit <http://www.foodforlife.org.uk>

SUSTRANS- New young people's newsletter

Sustrans have just launched a new newsletter for young people called TRACKS. The newsletter is written by young people for young people and features news stories, practical advice and competitions to encourage more young people to walk and cycle to school. Copies of the first edition can be downloaded from their website: www.sustrans.org.uk

Update..... ROTTERS composting more and more!

All the hard work of June & July in contacting schools about recycling and setting up compost collections has paid off. They now have 11 schools signed up for this scheme; assemblies are currently ongoing, while collections are due to start any day now. Two of the schools will be setting up their own on-site composting, for which Rotters will be providing some initial support. While these schools settle into their new routine, Rotters will start contacting more schools on their list and initialise the process of organising compost collections with them.

Rotters can provide a full collection service if your school is situated in the following areas: Aigburth (south end), Woolton, Netherley, Garston and Speke. However, do not despair if your school is not in these areas, as it is still possible that they can provide a recycling/composting assembly and some support to set up an on-site composting scheme. For more information, please contact Karen Fernandes at the Rotters office on 0151 448 1532.

United Utilities Climate Change Programme

United Utilities are launching the pilot of their new 'Climate Change' programme this month at their Worthington Lakes Education Centre. The programme increases UU's support for schools with a three phase programme including a free visit to the centre followed by two further visits by their education team to the school. The programme will encourage and support a whole school approach to water monitoring and water conservation. For more information or to get involved, please contact Jayne Clarke on 01257 425550.

Free Recycling Workshops from Waste Works

More than 2,500 young people so far have joined the **Paper Trail** – Waste Works free two hour workshop packed with fun learning activities, which teaches recycling beginners how important it is to reduce, reuse and recycle. This autumn, Waste Works launches a second workshop, **Closing the Loop**. This is a free two hour workshop for groups who already know a bit about recycling. The workshop uses hands-on activities to explore the value and limitations of the world's natural resources, and the environmental and other benefits of recycled products. Waste Works bring recycling to life with a tour of The Co-operative Recycling Centre, and everyone gets to design, make and take away their own recycled plastic object. To book your free Closing the Loop or Paper Trail workshop or for more information call Waste Works on 0161 833 4563.

ACTIVITY DAYS

Child Poverty Day- Friday 17th October 2008

Take part in ActionAid's Big School Dinner this Child Poverty Day. Asking your colleagues to bring in a packed lunch- then donate everything you would have spent to ActionAid. Just £5 will provide nutritious porridge for an orphan in Malawi everyday for a year- so just one day will help some of the worlds poorest children the start in life they deserve!

For more information about Child Poverty Day and to get a free Big School Dinner kit call 01460 23 8047 or visit www.childpovertyday.org

International Education Week (IEW) - November 17th - 21st, 2008

International Education Week (IEW) is an excellent opportunity to show the world how an international dimension benefits your school. If you are planning any events related to your international activities for the autumn, consider holding them between 17th and 21st November so the whole country can celebrate together. Email iew.england@dcsf.qsi.gov.uk with the details of events your school is holding or visit www.teachernet.gov.uk for more information.

Shout about Climate Solutions Together- 2nd-9th March, 2009

Your school and local community can change the world. Sign up now to receive a free action pack that will show your pupils how to stop global climate change by making the right choices at home and in their local community. To order a free Shout about pack, go to: www.foe.co.uk/learning/education/ Packs will be sent out from October 2008!

AWARDS, GRANTS AND FREE STUFF!

Free Solar Panels

Schools are being offered the chance of free solar panels from the Co-operative Group. The group has already spent £1 million fitting 100 schools with panels, and is now looking for a further 60. It will also pilot wind turbines, biomass boilers and ground source heat pumps. Applications must be submitted by **November 5th 2008**

For more information visit: www.co-operative.coop/greenenergyforschools

Faiths4Change grant funding for Merseyside Schools

Faiths4Change can fund environmental projects initiated by faith communities, which work in partnership with the local community. Faith schools can apply to them directly if their faith community is heavily supporting the project. Community primaries can also benefit if working in partnership with a local faith community. For example they can support the development of school grounds for community use. They can arrange training for staff, parents and children on an environmental theme, hosted by a faith community. The grants are;

- Large grant up to £2000 (next deadline for applications 10th December 2008)
- Small grant up to £500 (apply any time)

To discuss the grants further please contact Helen Dawson on 0151 705 2108

Ashden Awards for Schools

The Ashden Awards reward outstanding local sustainable energy solutions in the UK and the developing world. The **schools award** is for all schools which have made sustainable energy a key and on-going part of their practice and culture. Closing date is 2nd December 2008 and for more information and to download an application form visit: www.ashdenawards.org

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Sustainable Schools: How national recognition schemes can support your school's progress

The document published on the 21st July 2008 demonstrates how seven nationally recognised schemes compliment each other and play a fantastic role in supporting schools on their sustainable journey. It also clearly shows that Eco-schools is the only National Scheme which meets all eight doorways of the sustainable schools strategy across school campus, curriculum and community. To download a copy of the guidance visit: www.teachernet.gov.uk

Right Here, Right Now

Right Here, Right Now is a teaching resource which supports schools in the effective teaching of human rights, including the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child within Key Stage 3 citizenship. The resource will help teachers bring human rights to life, enabling them to explore with students concrete issues such as poverty, and discrimination, and to stage challenging debates. To download the guidance visit: www.teachernet.gov.uk

Sustainable School Teaching Resources

These free Sustainable Schools Training resource packs from DCSF include excellent cross curricula activity ideas for primary and secondary students around the eight sustainable doorways. There are two packs available:

- Sustainable schools Teaching Resource- Primary. Ref. 00777-2007 PCK-EN
- Sustainable schools Teaching Resource- Secondary. Ref. 00778-2007 PCK-EN

Their school improvement handbook is also well worth reading;

- Planning a Sustainable School- Ref. 00245-2008 BKT-EN

All of these can be ordered free, by ringing DCSF Publications on 08456022260 or check out the DCSF website: www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools

School Council- Voicebox Magazine of the UK School Councils Network

Free school council magazine for Primary and Secondary Schools – helps to get your school council involved in changing habits!

Visit: www.schoolcouncils.org to get your free copy!

Hope this helps your school become more sustainable!! See you in the Winter!

Sandy Carter

Global Education Worker