

LESSON 6: SOLAR IN THE COMMUNITY (SCIENCE AND GEOGRAPHY)

OBJECTIVE	To explore other areas in the community where solar panels could be fitted and engage the community in considering whether their community could use more solar power.
BACKGROUND	If your school has participated in the Eco-Schools Solar Programme you will have access to some key data showing the benefits in terms of energy costs. The next important phase of the project is to engage members of the local community and business groups.

PROCESS

Stage 1

- Discuss and evaluate the success of the school Solar Programme.
- Why did the school decide to install solar panels?
- What benefits has the school derived?
- What revenue in terms of reduced fuel costs has been generated?
- How have the school's carbon emissions been effected?
- Use data to provide evidence to support your claims.

Stage 2

- Study examples of solar powered communities, e.g. [The Drake Landing Solar Community, Canada](#), [Solar, California](#)
- Think of ways in which your community could become solar powered.
- Where in your community could solar panels be introduced? For example: hospitals, other schools, blocks of flats, bus stops.

Stage 3

- Plan a presentation for members of the community to discuss the school's experience having installed a solar panel and your recommendations for the community. Include reasons why the organisations that your guests represent should consider solar panel installation.
- Split the class in groups and allocate a different aspect of the presentation to each group.

Stage 3

- Decide which members of the community to invite to the presentation. Perhaps include members of the local council.
- Design and send out invitations. The invitations will include a brief explanation of the purpose of the meeting. Make sure they RSVP details.
- Students might like to organise some healthy refreshments for the guests.
- When students know the numbers attending they will need to organise their reception space and presentation arena.
- Based on replies, students organise and produce the refreshments.

CONTINUED ON NEW SHEET...

SOLAR IN THE COMMUNITY CONTINUED...

LESSON SUCCESS

- Students elect a member of the class to give a keynote speech to explain why people have been invited and outline the meeting's objectives.
- Students give their presentation.
- Invite questions from the audience.

DEVELOPMENT

- Students elect a few classmates to monitor the guest responses and interest. Ask guests to consider the ideas presented, discuss with their colleagues and families and if they are interested in pursuing some ideas or installing a solar panel to write to the relevant students at the school.
- Students to monitor the interest and respond accordingly.

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