

ECO-SCHOOLS ENERGY TOPIC INFORMATION SHEET

AS ENERGY IS A COMPULSORY ECO-SCHOOLS TOPIC, WE HAVE PUT TOGETHER THIS GUIDE TO HELP YOU UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENT WAYS YOU COULD TACKLE ENERGY AS PART OF YOUR ECO-SCHOOLS WORK.

THE IMPORTANCE OF CUTTING ENERGY

In 2007, the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) predicted that commercial CO₂ emissions were projected to rise by 17% between 2007 and 2025. DECC's latest Carbon Reduction Commitment impact assessment also estimates that targeted bodies emit 53.2 million tonnes of CO₂ per year.

The Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) launched in April 2010, covers both public and private sectors of the economy. It aims to help these sectors to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 80% relative to their 1990 level by 2050.

THE IMPACT OF SCHOOLS

According to the Department for Children, Schools and Families, schools are responsible for 15% of public sector carbon emissions. The government's new carbon management strategy for the schools sector, published in April 2010, sets an ambitious target to cut schools' current emissions from energy use by 53% by 2020 – helping schools to tackle climate change while at the same time saving money.

CUTTING CO₂ AT YOUR SCHOOL

By joining Eco-Schools, you can take the first steps to reducing your school's emissions and to save money through reduced energy bills.

All Eco-Schools are required to carry out an energy audit as part of their Environmental Review and then set targets for reducing unnecessary energy use through their Action Plan.

Tips on completing a whole school audit and action plan are available through a number of organisations, such as the Carbon Trust and the Energy Saving Trust.

Our Eco-Schools case studies section contains lots of examples of how other Eco-Schools have tackled energy, from achieving whole school behaviour change to linking the energy topic into the curriculum. Visit our case studies page at www.KeepBritainTidy.org/ecoschools/gettingstarted/casestudies and search for the energy topic.

DISPLAY ENERGY CERTIFICATES

As part of the European Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, all state schools with a floor area of over 500m² are required to display a certificate which rates their energy use on a scale of A-G.

The Display Energy Certificate (DEC) looks like the A-G rating you would expect to see when purchasing a new fridge or freezer. Schools have been required to provide details of their Display Energy Certificate (DEC) when applying for the Bronze, Silver or Green Flag awards since September 2010. This is so Eco-Schools can collect data to establish any trends. Currently, if your school floor area is under 500m², you're not required to submit your DEC.

Eco-Schools have teamed up with accredited engineers to provide a Display Energy Certificate (DEC) service for schools. Priced competitively, the DEC's meet a legal requirement that most schools in England are required to comply with. If your Local Authority isn't arranging for your school's DEC to be completed, then why not let Eco-Schools organise it on your behalf?

More information is available at www.KeepBritainTidy.org/ecoschools/schoolservices/displayenergycertificates

THE POD, EDF ENERGY'S PROGRAMME FOR GREENER SCHOOLS

WWW.JOINTHEPOD.ORG

Our energy topic is supported by EDF Energy through its greener schools programme *the Pod*, to make real and measureable improvements to the energy use of schools across the country.

The Pod is an interactive online resource for teachers of Key Stages 1, 2 and 3 children offering high-quality, cross-curricular teaching resources, including information packs, lesson plans and assemblies, as well as a range of practical activities designed to be run either by a class or an Eco-Committee.

The Pod has many whole school projects and offers a place for teachers and pupils to share ideas and inspire each other, their parents and local community to be greener.

All activities on the Pod are specifically designed to help schools progress through the Eco-Schools programme and help schools make real and measurable improvement to their energy use and carbon output. All Pod activities are accredited by Eco-Schools England and will count towards Bronze, Silver and Green Flag awards.

The Pod's energy activities typically come with an activity resource pack, energy information pack, lesson plan, take-it-home sheet, interactive game, energy assembly and an audit to help you track and measure the impact of the activity. When you finish the activity you can enter your start and end audit data into the Pod's special online Pod-o-Meters to measure any savings you make.

The Pod is expanding its resources all the time, but the following is a list of the energy activities they currently have available for Key Stage 2 and 3.

- GOODBYE STANDBY:** Save energy by reducing the number of devices left in standby mode
- SWITCH-ON TO SWITCHING-OFF:** Turn off lights and electronic devices in your school to save energy
- ENERGY MIX:** Fossil fuels, nuclear power, renewable energy - how should we power the UK?
- THE BIG ENERGY SHOW:** Get the whole school involved to save energy
- THE HEAT IS ON:** Save energy - insulate your classrooms
- WILL WIND WORK:** Could your school have a wind turbine?
- TEST A TURBINE:** Are you ready for wind power?
- SCHOOL WARM UP:** How well is your school insulated?

As well as providing activities and teaching resources, the Pod runs national environmental campaigns each year to help get the whole school, parents and the local community to engage in a more sustainable lifestyle.

SWITCH-OFF FORTNIGHT is the Pod's extremely popular energy awareness campaign and takes place in November each year. Switch-Off Fortnight is based upon the Pod's Goodbye Standby and Switch-On to Switching-Off activities and schools can sign up to receive a free campaign pack which includes posters, badges, stickers and more.

As you can see from the above, the Pod's activities and resources can help at all stages of the Eco-Schools framework – from the Eco-Committee leading on choosing and delivering the activities, the activity audits supporting both your Environmental Review and monitoring and evaluation efforts, and the lesson plans helping you to link energy into the curriculum. Taking part in Switch-Off Fortnight is also a brilliant way to get whole school involvement.

Both teachers and pupils can use the Pod and joining is completely free. Visit www.jointhepod.org to register.





OTHER SOURCES OF SCHOOL ENERGY RESOURCES

To see a list of other organisations that can provide you with school resources and advice on tackling the energy topic, visit our Useful Links page at www.keepbritaintidy.org/ecoschools/freeresources/links

Eco-SCHOOLS ENERGY

Eco-Schools Energy is a joint venture between Eco-Schools and Winch Energy bringing cutting edge renewable and energy saving technologies to make the business of running schools more sustainable in the future. Eco-Schools Energy believes that being a sustainable school is about more than teaching pupils about the environment, it is about schools themselves looking at what they can do to change the ways they operate.

Our Eco-Schools Energy programmes are designed to help schools reduce their impact on the environment, improve their financial positions, create better learning environments and introduce topics for learning underpinning the ideas and concepts of sustainability with practical actions that will make the school more sustainable in what it does and what it teaches.

Eco-Schools Energy will assess renewable and energy saving technologies as they emerge and bring them to schools to help embed the principles of sustainability into school business management.

We are currently running programmes offering;

solar PV for schools <http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/ecoschools/schoolservices/EcoSchoolsSolarPV>,

LED lighting <http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/ecoschools/schoolservices/LEDlighting>,

Biomass heating <http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/ecoschools/schoolservices/BiomassHeating>

and radiator reflectors <http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/ecoschools/schoolservices/heatkeeper>.

ENERGY BROKERING

Eco-Schools can now offer a solution to reduce your energy costs. We have developed with the Business Advisory Service Ltd an offer to schools to purchase your energy through us.

For more information about sourcing an alternative energy supplier in conjunction with Eco-Schools visit www.keepbritaintidy.org/ecoschools/schoolservices/blueenergybrokering

THE ECO-SCHOOLS ENERGY AWARD

Eco-Schools have now revamped and relaunched our Energy awards.

The award recognises schools which have made significant reductions in their carbon emissions. The award recognises the efforts of English schools to reduce their carbon emissions as part of their wider sustainability work and commitment to tackling Climate Change.

To apply for a new Energy award, schools simply need to log into the school's page on the Eco-Schools website (log in at the top right corner of this page). Then upload information from their Display Energy Certificate (DEC) or Energy Performance Certificate (EPC). The new Energy award runs in addition to the Bronze, Silver and Green Flag awards. It rewards energy efficiency, whatever stage you are on your Eco-Schools journey.

If your E.P.O level is low enough, you'll be able to download a personalised certificate, showing your five star award level for energy savings, to proudly display in your school. If you keep on making energy savings, you can apply for a new Energy award annually and try to increase your star ratings.

www.keepbritaintidy.org/ecoschools/applyforanaward/energyaward