



*Basingstoke
and Deane*



Spring/Summer 2011

Eco schools

News

Welcome to the second edition of the Basingstoke and Deane Eco Schools newsletter which aims to keep you informed of training dates and information. This is an opportunity for your school to share news and views, also raise awareness of current environmental issues and events.

Local Eco-School update

Margaret Rainford -
Overton C of E Primary School

Overton C of E Primary School started its Eco-School journey in September 2010, with the formation of an Eco-Council comprising of 12 pupils and 6 adults. Two adults attended the Eco Schools training Day, which gave good insight into the scheme. Each class then completed one page of the environmental review, after which we decided to focus on waste, biodiversity, energy and water, putting targets for each into our action plan.

To help get us going, we signed up for Hampshire Schools Recycling Programme, and received three informative visits from Recycling Rachel (education officer) who worked with the Eco Council. We have now spread the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle message throughout the school.



The Eco Council demonstrating recycling with the Mini MRF (Materials Recycling Facility)

To increase biodiversity in the school grounds, the Eco-Council braved rain and snow to plant 30 native trees. We plan to purchase bird boxes and wildlife-friendly plants to make our grounds more attractive to wildlife.

Tree planting by the School Eco Council, with the reception classes watching.



On the energy front, we have introduced a 'Red Light Bulb' scheme, administered by our dedicated Site Manager. If he finds lights or projectors left on unnecessarily, a red card is given to the offending class. Good behaviour is encouraged with green cards, and an Eco-Class Certificate awarded to the greenest class each week. We'll all be eating our carrots to ensure we can work in the dark and get a green card!

Margaret and site manager Tim also attended the twilight sessions at the Walled Garden so will shortly be growing their own delicious carrots!

If you have some interesting news stories, or would like to celebrate your achievements please email marilyn.davies@basingstoke.gov.uk Environmental Education Officer at Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.



Hampshire Solar Challenge 2011

The challenge has been running for a few years now and has proved to be a very successful and enjoyable event while offering pupils an opportunity to participate in an exciting curriculum related activity. It supports the primary curriculum in many areas including science, design/technology and citizenship along with developing team work and project management skills. Many schools have found that solar model construction made an excellent after-school or science club activity; this activity could also be included in your Eco-schools action plan under the **topic energy**.

Participating teams from local primary schools in the borough have been invited to **BCOT** on the **Monday 20 June 2011** to present their designs. Local judges will choose the two best entries to be selected to go forward to the finals at Intech Science Centre & Planetarium, in Winchester, on **Wednesday 6 July 2011**.

The council provide the kits, for free, which contain all the parts required, aside from the additional recycled materials needed.

Last years area winners were Tadley Community Primary School, with their model of the Tadley Eye.



On reaching the finals at Intech, the winning teams will compete against schools from other authorities and be invited to present their designs to the panel of independent judges. The panel will include Dr Peter Wilson of Team Tarka the Southampton Solar Boating Team, Dr Matthew Wright Senior Lecturer at the University of Southampton, Terena Plowright founder of the Greening Campaign, Chris Nixon of Southampton Audi, and David Garlovsky of Solar Active.



The panel will score each model based on a number of criteria, the three finalists will then give a presentation of their winning entries in the planetarium. A presentation will follow with the winning team for 2011 trophy.

Rowledge Primary School from East Hants was the winner of the Hampshire Solar Challenge trophy 2010.

Good luck to all schools in this year's challenge!

Ashford Hill Primary, Bramley CofE Primary, Four Lanes Junior, Great Binfields Primary, Merton Junior, Oakley CofE Junior, Overton CofE Primary, St Johns CofE Primary, St Mary Bourne Primary, St Marys CofE Junior, Sherborne St John CofE Primary.

Primary School Gardens Competition 2011



Don't forget last date for entries for this year's school garden competition is Friday 17 June, for more information email **blanche.miles@basingstoke.gov.uk**

Schools Training

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council held its second fully subscribed eco schools training day on 20 October 2010. Following on from this training three twilight sessions took place at the Walled Garden, Down Grange during the Spring Term.

The first to take place was composting, facilitated by Peter Hill, Waste Reduction Officer from WRAP, followed by wildlife gardening session and vegetable gardening both facilitated by Adrian Goodhand, Education Officer, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.

The outcomes were positive and it is anticipated that further sessions will take place in the autumn and Forest School style sessions were requested.

Facts and figures on Going Green

- 22 participating pre-school /nurseries
- 37 primary schools
- 11 Secondary schools
- 2 colleges



Check out the Big Wildlife Garden at www.eco-schools.org.uk/bigwildlifegarden

Other useful contacts

- www.eco-schools.org.uk
- www.bagitup.org.uk/shoes
- www.recycleforhampshire.org.uk
- www.carbondetectives.org.uk
- www.hwt.org.uk
- www.cabe.org.uk/education/green-day