



Trafford Eco Network News Update – April 2011

Update Contact List

Just to ensure that this newsletter and any information I receive that would be useful to you, I would be pleased if you would email sharman.frost@trafford.gov.uk the Eco Co-ordinators email address at your school.

Renewable Energy Sources

Enquiries are being made by schools looking into renewable energy, and it is apparent that schools will be targeted by companies looking to provide free solar panels to them via the Feed in Tariffs (TiF) system or separate charging! If your school has signed up to a Service Level Agreement with Trafford's Energy Management Team, you have the opportunity to receive expert free advice from the Energy Team and Construction Engineers, before signing up to any 'special' deals.

Questions you will need to have answered include: how will the offer work, how much will the school make out of this, are you going to be provided with free electricity, who pays for any maintenance and repairs, is the building construction and roof space strong enough to take the weight, how will the electricity be metered etc etc

Contact: Richard Fitton, Senior Energy Officer on 912 4442 for advice or email – richard.fitton@trafford.gov.uk

There is some useful information on the Energy Saving Trust website:

<http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Generate-your-own-energy/Solar-electricity/Consumer-guidance-on-free-solar-PV-offers>



Visits

Glebeland City Growers in Sale - Educational Visits

As part of the Grow For It! project the Glebelands City Growers, Glebelands Road, Sale are open for school visits free of charge.

Facilities available on site include an undercover learning space which can accommodate up to 20 pupils, this also doubles as a lunch area if it's raining. They also have a basic compost toilet with hand washing facilities.

A typical visit could include some of the following activities:

- A tour of a working market garden
- Pond dipping in our wildlife pond
- Growing related activities

- Bug hunt in the woodland wild area
- Tool and tractor demonstrations
- Worksheets and quiz

Visit the Educational pages on their website: <http://www.glebelandscitygrowers.co.uk/>

Recycling Educational Visits

Visits to recycling centres are free of charge to education groups in the Greater Manchester area, a typical visit will include a site tour of the facility along with one or more activities in the education centre.

Bolton at the [Thermal Recovery Facility](#)

Pilsworth in Bury at a [landfill site](#)

Sharston in Manchester at the [Materials Recovery Facility](#)

For further details: <http://www.recycleforgreatermanchester.com/waste-education/visits>



Ideas

This year the Co-operative will challenge young people to become green pioneers, when they launch their biggest ever community education programme - Green Schools Revolution.

Whether your school is just starting out on its sustainable journey or you have been revolutionising your campus and classrooms for some time, this new programme aims to help you on your way. Green Schools Revolution is an inspiring UK sustainability education programme which will encourage schoolchildren from the age of 5 to 16 to actively get involved in issues of how we can all live sustainably and inspire them to change their world.

If you think you're up for starting a revolution (if you haven't started already), registration to Green Schools Revolution will begin in April 2011.

<http://www.co-operative.coop/corporate/ethicsinaction/climatechange/climate-change-projects/green-energy-for-schools/>

Recycling for Cash

Recycool is the easiest way to recycle and raise money for your school. Recycling for cash not only helps your school raise funds but also benefits the environment too!

<http://www.recycool.org/>

Water Hippo's

Older style toilet flushing systems use 7½ - 9 litres of water with each flush, fitting a save-a-flush is an effective way of saving water. The save-a-flush device contains super absorbent polymer and silica sand, which absorbs water when it is placed in the toilet cistern.

You can obtain these packs either from me sharman.frost@trafford.gov.uk

Or from United Utilities - <http://www.unitedutilities.com/SaveaFlush-orderform.aspx>

I also have booklets on saving water and posters which may be useful in promoting water efficiency measures.

Green Day

Register now to receive lots of free stuff and ideas –
<http://www.cabe.org.uk/publications/green-day>

Need help with the Biodiversity part of the Eco-Schools Award?

The Big Wildlife Garden

The Big Wildlife Garden aims to put you in touch with other people who love wildlife and are passionate about their gardens. Doing one small thing today will make a massive difference to England's wildlife.

All the activities and materials developed by the Big Wildlife Garden programme have been approved by Eco-Schools. This means that by registering your garden and taking an active part in the Big Wildlife Garden your school can progress to a Bronze, Silver or Green Flag Eco-Schools award.

Visit the website: <http://www.eco-schools.org.uk/bigwildlifegarden/>

National School Grounds Week 13th -17th June 2011

Every year schools across the UK celebrate National School Grounds Week. In 2011 resources will enable schools and settings deliver their current curriculum objectives through activities outdoors. They will receive materials to help them to experiment with new approaches to learning by taking the lessons outdoors not only during National School Grounds Week itself but in the weeks before and after the event.

- Schools and settings will be able to access free resources that will help them;
- Celebrate the school or setting and its unique outdoor environment
- Involve every child in learning outdoors, regardless of age or ability
- Enable teachers to gain a better, and more sustainable, understanding of how to make the most of the learning opportunities outdoor offers
- Engender a sense of community by engaging parents, governors and other interested parties.
- Have fun outdoors!

Visit the website: <http://www.ltl.org.uk/learning/nsgw.php>

World Environment Day - 5 June 2011

The theme for 2011 is - Forests: Nature At Your Service.

Forests cover one third of the earth's land mass, performing vital functions and *services* around the world which make our planet alive with possibilities. In fact, 1.6 billion people depend on

forests for their livelihoods. They play a key role in our battle against climate change, releasing oxygen into the atmosphere while storing carbon dioxide.

<http://www.unep.org/wed/index.asp>



Funding

School Grounds / Trees - From April 2011, £4.2m will be available to support community groups to plant trees in towns, cities and residential areas throughout England.

<http://thebigtreeplant.direct.gov.uk/funding.html>

Energy / School Grounds / etc - grants for schools; they have funded several school projects including help with the installation of a Wind Turbine, a vegetable garden and some eco-improvements at another school, website:

http://www.naturesave.co.uk/trust_naturesave.html

Eco-Schools website has an up to date list of potential areas for obtaining funding on their Resources and Links page: <http://www.eco-schools.org.uk/links/> - If you have problems accessing this page, let me know and I can email you a copy of the spreadsheet with the information on it.



Eco-Schools Awards

Eco-Schools is an international award programme that guides schools on their sustainable journey, providing a framework to help embed these principles into the heart of school life.

Currently Trafford has 75 schools registered with Eco-Schools:

Bronze Award = 27 schools have achieved the first award

Silver Award = 28 schools have achieved the second award.

Green Flag = 7 schools have achieved a Green Flag, some of these schools have been awarded their Green Flag more than 3 times, well done!

If you need any information, support or advice to advance your Eco-School application please contact Sharman Frost, email at the end of the newsletter. As a qualified Green Flag assessor I am also available to give advice on your Green Flag application, and can provide a practice assessment prior to formal assessment.

<http://www.eco-schools.org.uk/>

Caterpillar Eco Awards

Closing date has now passed for applications to this fantastic award, and winners will receive a letter from Caterpillar Logistics Ltd inviting them to a fun filled activity day at Caterpillars offices early July.

Monkeying around for Fairtrade Competition:

The standard of entries for this competition during Fairtrade Fortnight was outstanding, the imagination and artwork made it very difficult to organise a winner, therefore it was decided that there would be a winner from each participating school, with runners' up receiving recycled goodies.

- Did you know that Trafford has the prestigious Fairtrade Borough Status?
- Does your school have the prestigious Fairtrade School Status?
- Please email sharman.frost@trafford.gov.uk to let me know.
- The Fairtrade in Trafford Steering Group have an ongoing commitment to promote Fairtrade, and encourage schools to get involved.
- The Steering Group have members who can visit schools to talk about Fairtrade.

Eco-Code Competition - I have a number of Computer Powerdowns to give away as prizes to your school. You could use these as an incentive for your Eco Committee or give them away in an Eco Competition.

All you have to do is to let me have a copy of your school's eco-code.

Just email through a copy, or pop one in the internal post to qualify – sharman.frost@trafford.gov.uk

What is a computer powerdown: <http://www.eonenergy.com/At-Home/Going-Green/Energy-Saving-Advice/Interactive-House/Resource-Centre/resource-centre-powerdown.htm>

General Info for Staff at your School

Toasty Trafford Campaign

Trafford Council in partnership with the Energy Saving Trust, are campaigning for householders in Trafford to take advantage of a great discounted home insulation offer from as little as £50.

A third of all the heat lost in an uninsulated home is through the walls and by insulating cavity walls it reduces heat loss and can save around £110 a year on fuel bills. In addition, a quarter of your heat is lost through the roof, making loft insulation a simple and effective way to reduce heating bills - keeping the warmth indoors.

Find out more online: www.getmetoasty.com

Or, ring the Energy Saving Trust on their freephone number: 0800 512 012

Green Office Week 9 - 13 May 2011

Green Office Week (GOW) is an action-packed week full of fun and simple ideas to make your office greener. See if you can encourage your colleagues at work to make a difference to the environment by making a few small changes. We should all be doing what we can 52 weeks of the year.

<http://www.greenofficeweek.eu/default.htm>

Walk to Work Week 9 - 13 May 2011

Register now for National Walk to Work Week, 9-13 May 2011, is the ideal time to give walking a go. An easy form of exercise requiring no special equipment, walking can be fitted in on your way to or from work, at lunchtime or throughout the day

<http://www.walkingworks.org.uk/>

IDEA!

Green Office Week and Walk to Work Week are held during the same week and could be combined to do something special in your school.....

For more information, visit, support, advice on anything to do with Sustainable Schools projects please contact:

Sharman Frost - Environmental Sustainability Officer

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