



Trafford Eco Network News Update

Happy New Year everyone, and all the best for a happy and sustainable 2011.

The Trafford Eco Network was set up by a cluster of schools who benefited from an energy awareness programme early last year. Sharing good practice on environmental sustainability issues was identified as a useful tool for other schools to get involved in.

So the very good news is that we have now made improvements to the virtual room on the Fronter section of the Traffordlearning website, which should be familiar to all of you who are working in schools around Trafford. 'Sustainable Schools' has been set up as a virtual room on the main menu, and we have started to populate it with all sorts of useful information. We hope to set up a forum at some stage where members can chat to each other and seek information and advice whenever they want.

If there is anyone out there who does not yet have a Fronter login and password, please let us know and these can be set up for you. (If at this point you are thinking, "What on earth is *Fronter*?", go to www.traffordlearning.org and have a look at the home page!).

Eco-Schools Awards

Congratulations to the many schools gaining an Eco-School Award in 2010, and good luck for any other schools considering applying for the award scheme. Eco-Schools is part of the Keep Britain Tidy campaign and offers a programme for tackling sustainable issues manageable and easy for all schools.

Award schemes exist to guide schools on their sustainable journey providing a great way to get everyone in the school and community involved in making the school environmentally better. For further information, support and advice contact Sharman Frost, Trafford's Environmental Sustainability Officer on 0161-912-4645, also available to give advice and a dummy assessment prior to applying for Green Flag Status.

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

Caterpillar Eco Awards

Schools will shortly be receiving an invitation letter from Caterpillar Logistics Ltd in Irlam, to complete their application form showcasing eco-activities carried out in your schools. The Caterpillar Eco Awards is an annual event that is supported by both Salford and Trafford Borough Councils.

The winning Eco-teams are invited to a fun filled activity day at Caterpillars offices, and leave with lots of goodies.

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.

Find out more online: www.getmetoasty.com

Fairtrade Fortnight: 28 Feb – 13 March 2011

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 and find out more. The Steering Group have members who can visit schools to talk about Fairtrade.

Climate Week – 21 – 27 March 2011

Climate Week will provide an opportunity for different sectors of society to showcase positive steps that have been taken to stop climate change and to inspire others to do the same. Primary and secondary schools, colleges and youth groups across the UK are planning events ranging from assemblies and classroom activities, to exhibitions showcasing their work in areas ranging from saving energy to enabling young people to learn from local low-carbon projects.

To further encourage students' participation in Climate Week, we have designed the Climate Week Challenge especially for schools and colleges. The Climate Week Challenge will involve several thousand schools and youth groups across the UK, all expected to take part in what will be the LARGEST EVER live environmental competition. Year groups can be split into small teams to tackle a challenge on 21 March, revealed online that morning. The task will develop team-working, enterprise, innovation, creativity and communications skills, as well as focusing on the solutions to climate change.

Please email sharman.frost@trafford.gov.uk to let me know if you are participating.

Find out more online: www.climateweek.com

For more information, visit, support, advice on anything to do with Sustainable Schools projects please contact: Sharman Frost, Trafford's Environmental Sustainability Officer on 0161-912-4645, or email sharman.frost@trafford.gov.uk