

Shout about Climate solutions...

2007

...Local group Review

Friends of the Earth's Youth and Education Network was busy in November visiting schools and youth clubs up and down the country. As part of this year's Shout about climate solutions week local group members ran workshops, gave assemblies and even visited Parliament. Joanna Gray and Nikki Packham report on this year's activity.



The students all felt very strongly about the environment and I was surprised by how much they already knew. Two of the older students even enquired about joining the local Friends of the Earth group.

Katie Watson, Kingston Friends of the Earth.



Being able to go to the Houses of Parliament was so much fun for them; a real adventure. These kids are simply an inspiration to us all, if this is the next generation then maybe the polar bears will be OK."

Tania Sayer, South Cheshire Friends of the Earth.



I found the whole event really enlightening. To know that other people cared and they are thinking of the same issues that we think need sorting out.

Lucy Atkinson, student, on her visit to Parliament.

Saving the world

Katie Watson from the Kingston Friends of the Earth group was invited to Coombe Girls' Comprehensive to run a workshop to tie in with the launch of their Save the World Club. The lunchtime club was created by students for students with the aim of motivating and inspiring them about climate solutions.

Katie's workshop focused on the environmental impact of transport and the sustainable alternatives. During a climate quiz the students were astonished to discover that the amount of CO₂ emitted from just one seat on a return flight to Australia is the same as the total emissions from two cars over an entire year.

Teacher Vicky Shield who runs the club said: "I would be very happy for Friends of the Earth to visit the school again and work with the girls on environmental issues."

Battle of the Bills

Tania Sayer from South Cheshire Friends of the Earth travelled to the Houses of Parliament with six students from Malbank School, where they met Joan Ruddock MP and Jim Knight MP and presented their own Climate Change Bill to Gregory Barker, Shadow Environment Minister.

Tania explained: "The Climate Club from Malbank School is a great group of young people. Throughout the Shout about Climate Change Bill project they never ceased to amaze me with their innovative ideas to reduce carbon emissions. They just kept thinking outside the box."

In addition to carbon emission cuts of 80 per cent by 2035, the students' Bill stated: "So that everyone can see what is being achieved, there will be a large 'carbon thermometer' next to Big Ben which will show how much our emissions have been reduced by in that year."

Everyone agreed it was a brilliant day out.



Diane Wallton/Malbank School

Story circle

St Mary's in Colchester devoted a day during Shout about week to tackling climate solutions in every subject across the whole of the curriculum. Activities ranged from designing "Save Water" posters in Italian and re-using old clothes in Textiles, to green town planning in Geography.

The day culminated in three captivating talks by Irene Willis from the South East Essex group. The students gathered round in a circle and listened, enthralled by her tales of environmental campaigning and ideas for climate solutions, and they asked lots of questions.

Irene's talk focused on eating seasonal locally produced food and holidaying in the British countryside instead of flying abroad. The students came away inspired. "I've never been on a plane, it's something I've always wanted to do but now I'm thinking twice about it," said 13 year old Louise-Jayne Watts.



Joanna Gray/ Friends of the Earth



They thought what you were doing was wonderful – standing up for what you believe in.

Sarah Wilding, Head of Geography, St Mary's School, talking to Irene.



DVD sparks climate solutions

Teacher and member of the Rutland group, Gabrielle Maughan, showed the *Shout about* DVD to five year groups, ranging from year 7 to 11. The DVD really got the students thinking about what they could do to tackle climate change.

She explained: "There were many conversations in classrooms about what was on the DVD. One year 7 boy approached his tutor with the suggestion that a fun run they were planning was used to raise money for environmental projects."

Other ideas included solar panelling for the school, vending machines that take plastic bottles back in exchange for tokens and a herb garden.

Eco Schools Club

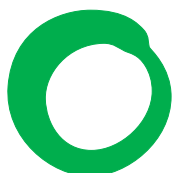
Chepstow Comprehensive's 20 strong Eco-schools Group enjoyed an illustrated talk on climate change by Janet Rawlings from Chepstow Friends of the Earth. Following Janet's visit the Eco-Schools Group is working with the school bursar to monitor and reduce the school's energy consumption and is also working with the catering company to reduce disposable packaging. One of the pupils also reported on Janet's visit in the local newspaper.

Get involved

The Youth and Education Network is made up of local group members with an interest in working with young people. We run regular training days throughout the year to support members in planning their activities with young people.

If you want to work with young people on behalf of Friends of the Earth, you must have a Child Protection Check done. This is a free service offered by Friends of the Earth and is an integral part of the Education Network.

If you would like to find out more about our Youth and Education work or discover what kind of resources we have available for work with young people, then have a look at <http://community.foe.co.uk/youth> or email us at education@foe.co.uk



Friends of the Earth

Friends of the Earth inspires solutions to environmental problems, which make life better for people

**Friends of the Earth, 26-28 Underwood Street, London N1 7JQ
Tel: 020 7490 1555 Fax: 020 7490 0881 Email: info@foe.co.uk
Website: www.foe.co.uk**

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