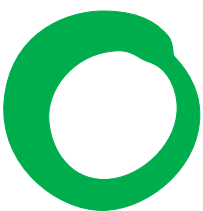


Shout about climate solutions...



...the next generation find their voice

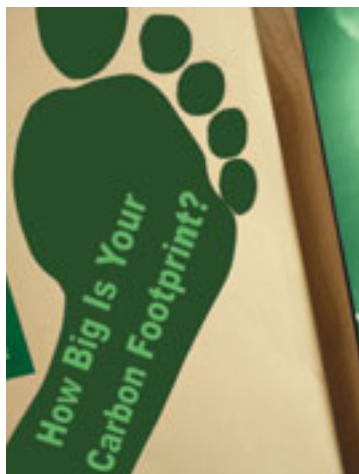
February 2007



**Friends of
the Earth**

Welcome...

... to the Shout about climate solutions magazine.



This review of Friends of the Earth's climate solutions week (November 2006) is packed with inspiring stories from across the UK.

Shout about is Friends of the Earth's annual activity week for 11-13 year-olds aimed at raising young people's awareness of environmental issues.

For the second year running almost 2,000 schools, youth groups and organisations requested our free education pack and signed up to take part in the week. With activities ranging from making mini wind turbines and creating huge climate pledge banners, to writing rock songs and setting up a Youth Against Climate Change movement, there are lots of reasons to be optimistic. Our planet needs us all to hear the message – that together we can beat climate change – and young people are already shouting it.

Read on to find out more...

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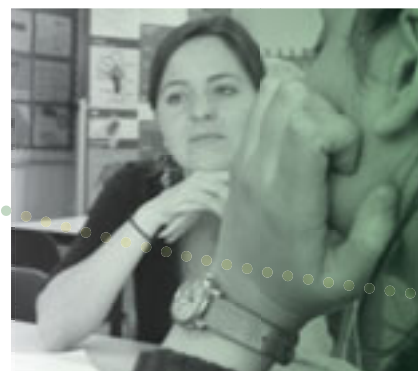
Editor's comment

Shout about is my favourite time of year. It's a chance to escape from the office and see what's really happening around the country, and it never disappoints.

I hope that reading this magazine gives you the same buzz I got when visiting the schools and putting the stories together. This year, more than ever, there is a sense of understanding of climate change – there's no longer any debate about whether it's happening. But I also got a strong sense that young people not only grasp the need for action but are already leading the way.

My thanks to everyone who took part in the week, to all the teachers and young people. If you want to shout with us in 2007, contact our Information Service Team on 020 7490 1555 or go to www.foe.co.uk/learning for details.

Vicki Felgate, Youth and Education Co-ordinator



Want to keep “shouting”? Check out the links and resources page.



From learning to action

This year Broadlands School in Bristol showed their commitment to reducing their environmental impact by taking what they learned in 2005 a step further.

They promoted a No Air Miles for Meals Day where school dinners were sourced entirely from local producers. This followed on from last year's project when they found out that an apple (among other produce) could travel up to 10,000 miles from tree to table. A No Paper Day also made teachers keen to reduce the number of photocopies they used in class.

Each student worked out their individual ecological footprint, and their challenge in Shout about week was to act on their weakest area. Their slogan 'Think local, act global' is encouraging students and teachers to make individual actions that count.

Here's one I made earlier

Students from Netherfield Junior School in Nottingham were blown away during Shout about week. On a visit to Stoke Bardolph Environmental Centre they investigated alternative sources of power – including water, solar and wind – and then designed and made their own mini wind turbines.

"You never know, we may uncover a budding Eddison or Watt and I can't think of a more appropriate place to test wind turbines than at a sewage works," said Lydia Powles, resident teacher at the Stoke Bardolph Centre.

Paul Goodburn, from Nottingham City Council, helped deliver the activities and believes: "Education about sustainable living is the key to changing the way we all think and live."



I can't think of a more important issue to investigate. It's a crucial time to understand exactly what climate change will mean for people of my generation.

Harpreet, Year 11, Villiers High School, London



Nottingham Evening Post

Primary matters

Nottage Primary School in Porthcawl, South Wales, adapted the resource pack for younger children and had a lively morning of activities for the whole school. Year 4 made wind turbines and looked at alternative ways to make electricity. Year 2 promoted walking to school and Year 6 designed an energy-efficient house.

"We also used some of the Key Stage 2 material from Friends of the Earth's *Madabout* resources – which were fantastic," said Sue Kerr, geography teacher.

“

My brother's terrible for keeping his lights on – I have to keep turning them off... You do develop a consciousness that they have to be off.

Student at Howard of Effingham School, Surrey

“

The Earth has helped us by providing food and shelter and now it's depending on us to help it back.

Osman, 12, on why we need to take action on climate change

”

We could ask everyone in Hackney to walk to work two days each week instead of taking their cars.

Year 5/6, St John the Baptist Primary School

“

The Shout about week generated a buzz around the issues and helped focus the activities. And the resources were great.

Fiona McAllister, ecoACTIVE

Working in harmony

Working in partnership was the theme for Shout about week in Hackney, as ecoACTIVE teamed up with Hackney Borough Council to deliver a series of workshops in local schools.

ecoACTIVE is a London-based education service which gets young people talking about environmental issues through practical activities.

Angela Okoh, Energy Officer for Hackney Borough Council, believes that educating young people about climate change is essential because “if we can get them to understand now then we won't be in this position in 10 years' time, when they become adults.”



How big is your foot?

“Isn't it just our demands on electricity that are high, not our actual needs?” asked Year 7 students at Mossbourne Community Academy as they played ecoACTIVE's Big Foot game.

The game, designed to help young people understand their ecological footprint, balances the world atop a column of building blocks. For each act that wastes energy a number of blocks are removed from supporting the world and are laid as a burden on top.

It showed how individual actions can add up to create a real impact – negative or positive. Unsurprisingly, it was the group working together that kept the world stable.



It's got to be a wind-up!

Wind turbines, solar panels and wind-up phone chargers were just some of the delights in store for pupils shown around ecoACTIVE's mobile education centre.

The van, an old milk float, runs on electricity generated partly by a solar panel and a small wind turbine on the roof.

Students got to see first-hand how renewable energy works. They also looked at wind-up devices, including radios, torches and the firm favourite, a phone charger. One of the students liked this so much that he asked if he could keep it.



Stand by or switch off?

A wattage and current meter were used to measure the energy consumed by appliances when left on standby. Both teachers and pupils were surprised at just how much energy is being wasted: "There's no point keeping the computer on when you're not using it because what's the point of wasting electricity," said 12 year-old Osman.

Tell your MP

The day's activities at Mossbourne Academy finished with pupils writing a letter to their MP, Diane Abbot, with suggestions about how to reduce carbon emissions in the borough.

Lyriah and Chloe, both 11, said they wrote to their MP so that she could "find out how important it is to start listening and do something about it". They think people need to know more about climate change and what can be done, and Chloe suggested "instead of big advertising for businesses [the Council] can make big climate change posters that everyone can see".



I'm going to go home and tell my parents what I've learned so that they stop doing bad things like leaving the lights on when they're not using them.

Khalum, 11



The little things add up: each student makes a personal pledge

Other schools that took part in the Shout about week with ecoACTIVE were:

St John the Baptist Primary School, Stormont House Special School, Daniel House Pupil Referral Unit and Sir Thomas Abney Primary School.



Be part of the solution, not part of the problem...

...was the message from a group of Year 11 students at All Saints School, Weymouth.

They made themselves heard during Shout about week performing a hard-hitting rock song about climate change to more than a thousand young people. The lyrics left their listeners in no doubt about what they had to do:

“Turn off lights and all the rest,
Turn down the heat, do our best.”

The school has been doing its bit. Jane Burnet, maths teacher says they have “turned down the thermostat by three degrees” and “light switches are now marked with a red dot, meaning ‘Do you really need me on?’”

Head boy, Jak, leading the school’s War on Waste campaign, has always been interested in the environment. He says he “just thought that something needed to be done. War on Waste is about simple things that can make a huge difference”.

“Friends of the Earth’s Shout about week has provided the group with a way to show other pupils at the school that they are part of a bigger picture, that they are not alone in trying to slow down climate change and that every action to reduce individual carbon emissions is another penny in the communal pot toward changing consumer behaviour. ”

Jane Burnet.

Turn off the lights and all the rest
Turn down the heat, do our best



Challenging travel

Students from Mulberry School for Girls, London, challenged teachers to ditch their cars and walk, cycle or use public transport during Shout about week. As an incentive 50 students offered half a day of admin help to those greening their travel.

The school’s energy committee organised activities for the whole school – from green energy debates and after-school cinema screenings to renewable energy demonstrations and a banner with more than 250 pledges.

“It’s a fun way of learning about climate change, because instead of just telling everyone about it, we are doing activities which they can be part of”, said 14 year-old Anika.

The energy committee – which aims to get young people talking about climate change, promote practical solutions and reduce the school’s contribution to climate change – devised an online survey to “find out what students around the world think about climate change”. Responses came from as far away as India and South Africa, and the students are now hoping to link up with these schools to run joint projects.

For survey results visit www.mulberry.towerhamlets.sch.uk



“ If we don’t do anything about climate change now we will regret it. England could be an example and incentive to other countries.

Chanelle Blace, 18, Villiers High School

The voice of young people



Shout about week came early for pupils at the Howard of Effingham School in Surrey, and it was so good that they just kept shouting.

Following a week of activities in September – including a rock concert against climate change and an energy audit – students decided to form

their own Youth against Climate Change movement. Richard and Hilary, both in Year 13, explained: “We have formed this group to raise awareness of this massive and urgent problem. Whilst there are a number of environmental organisations around, there are very few that are run by young people.”

The group designed a website packed with information about climate change and what everyone can do to make a difference. “We aim for every student in the UK to visit this website within one year”, said Richard. The message of the movement is loud and clear: “Together this generation will tackle climate change.”

Check out the website: www.youthagainstclimatechange.org

Competition...and the winner is...

The Unlikely Eco-hero

When asked to find an inspirational climate pioneer in their local area, Year 7 and 8 students from Gairloch High School in Scotland didn't have to go far. Their fly-on-the-wall documentary shows how the everyday actions of Allan Wade, the school caretaker, are helping the whole school to save energy.

With excellent editing, carefully overlaid music and good narrative, the film follows Alan switching off lights all over the school; making sure computers are turned off at the end of the day; and showing a team of eco-wardens how to monitor and save energy.

“We need more people to act like Allan Wade and then together we might save the world”, said the students.

The school wins a 1,000 watt wind turbine, donated by Windsave, for their winning Shout about climate solutions competition entry.

To watch the clip visit www.foe.co.uk/learning



Gairloch High School

“

It is important to keep this project going and by promoting eco friendly projects on a regular basis I hope our members will become environmentally aware adults.

Philippa Richards, Youth Club leader, South Newington

“

The brilliant thing about our students as well is that they go home and talk to their parents about it... they are great little role models.

Tim Aldridge, Mulberry school for Girls, London

”

The girls have really enjoyed it. You can come back tomorrow, I'm sure we can find some more work for you!

Adam Norton, Tiffin Girls School, on the visit from local group members in Kingston

A new route to learning

Ever wondered where you can find Friends of the Earth's free education resources?

Want to know what eco projects your school could do?

Looking for some simple actions you can take?

Or wondering how to fit a key environmental issue into the National Curriculum?

For answers to all these questions and much more, check out www.foe.co.uk/learning/

Friends of the Earth has re-launched the Learning website and it's better than ever. We have pages where young people can explore the issues, see what action to take and find out what their favourite stars think. Plus there's a dedicated area for educators with case studies from schools and a brand-new set of lesson plans for Key stages 3 and 4. Definitely worth a click.

Friends of the Earth's Youth and Education Programme provides ways for young people to explore sustainable development, citizenship and environmental issues, either via teachers and youth workers or individually by themselves.

Why not read our other education publications? For details telephone **020 7490 1555** or visit www.foe.co.uk/learning/

For a range of books covering topics from ethical living to climate change, real food and waste, visit the Friends of the Earth shop at www.foe.co.uk/shop

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

Be part of the solution

Whether you have already taken action on climate change or are starting from scratch, the links below offer lots of ideas and inspiration for that next step. Don't forget you can also sign up to take part in Shout about 2007 – visit www.foe.co.uk/learning/ or call 0207 490 1555.

Friends of the Earth
www.foe.co.uk

Find answers to all your climate questions, learn more about solutions or take an online campaign action.

Teachernet

www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/sd/
Developed by the Department for Education and Skills, the website provides information about sustainable development in the National Curriculum, and includes case studies illustrating solutions in schools.

Science Museum

www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/antenna/climatechange/
Includes an interactive game to show how our daily living affects the planet, and some great information about solutions and future technologies.

Energy Savings Trust

www.est.org.uk/
Information, practical advice and help with curriculum resources on energy efficiency. Find out about the Energy Certification for Schools programme.

Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT)

www.cat.org.uk/education/
Visit the best Eco-Centre in Europe and see sustainable living in action.

Youth against Climate Change

www.youthagainstclimatechange.org
Add details of your own projects or read about others. The site, set up by students, includes information and tips for action.

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