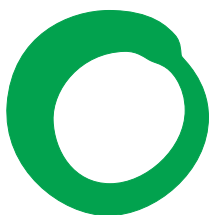


Shout about climate solutions...



...we've got something to say

February 2008



**Friends of
the Earth**

Welcome...

... to the *Shout about climate solutions* magazine.



This look back to Friends of the Earth's climate solutions week (November 2007) 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 wanting to do something positive for the environment. With 1,600 schools and youth groups signed up for our free education pack to take part in the week, it has been a huge success.

With the introduction of a UK Climate Change Law imminent, activities during this year's Shout about week centred on what governments can do, and the role individuals and organisations can play in bringing about change. Young people came up with their own ideas for saving the planet, and proved that when it comes to climate change, they really do have something to say.

Read on to find out more...

Contents

- 3** "Shouts" from around the country / **See what everyone got up to.**
- 4** **Bright ideas for a bright future / The day Shout about came to Parliament – young people present their own climate change laws to Environment Minister, Joan Ruddock.**
- 6** **School of change / Energy surveys, eco-squads and more – find out what one school in Suffolk got up to during the Shout about week.**
- 7** **More "shouts" / Hydro-electric turbines in Cornwall and carbon footprints in Northern Ireland.**
- 8** **Read on online / A taste of what Friends of the Earth's Learning website has to offer.**

Editor's comment

Shout about week was full of activity, the young people bursting with great ideas and determination and the teachers completely inspiring – no wonder it's my favourite time of year.

Visiting the schools and seeing first hand how the next generation are leading change in their school, community and beyond fills me with a real sense of optimism for the future. I've heard young people say that they don't feel they are listened to when it comes to important issues like climate change, that they have ideas and opinions and want to be heard. Shout about aims to make sure they are heard by decision-makers. With each year their voice is growing stronger.

My thanks to everyone who took part in the week, to all the teachers and young people. We hope you will shout with us in 2008 – for more information contact our Information Service Team on 020 7490 1555 or go to www.foe.co.uk/learning

Vicki Felgate, Youth and Education Co-ordinator



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

If penguins could talk

Setting: A small classroom in Didcot Girls' School, Oxfordshire.

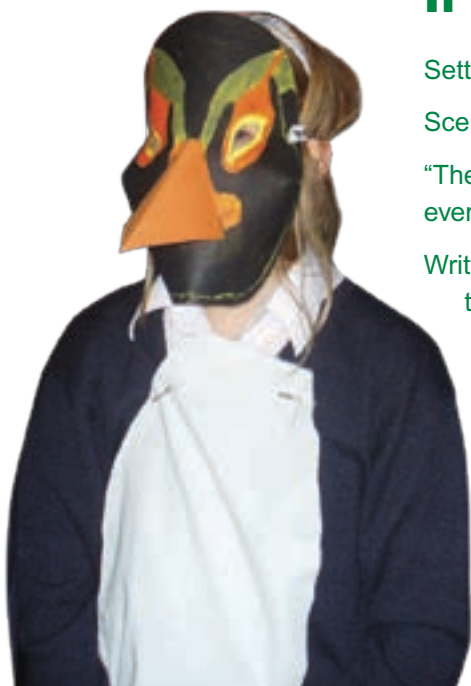
Scene: Two (human-sized) penguins swelter unhappily at the South Pole.

"The whole world is changing. The climate is different. People and animals everywhere will be affected."

Written and performed by members of the School Environment Group, the play titled *What about the penguins?* showed how classroom temperatures and polar temperatures are linked.

It was the Environment Group's way of asking teachers and other students to open blinds instead of turning on lights, to turn down radiators rather than switching on fans, and to switch off computers at the end of lessons.

"I hope we made a difference," said Jemma, Year 8. They certainly did – the teachers were so impressed that they asked the group to perform the play not just once, but three times during the Shout about week.



Lynn Nickerson/Didcot Girls' School

A non-flying visit

Aviation and climate change was the focus for St Mary's School in Colchester when Friends of the Earth local group member Irene Willis flew in (on her bike) to talk to the pupils.

Louise, 13, said although she had "always wanted to fly abroad" now she "may think twice about it". Irene agreed that "you don't need to get on a plane to have a wonderful holiday in a beautiful place – it's right here in England." And the advice to students who feel passionate about climate change was clear: "Tell the politicians – those who run the country."

The school ran a "collapsed timetable" day with all lessons relating to climate change. "The kids had a most amazing day," said Sarah Wilding, Head of Geography. "This will stay in their minds for a long time."



She had them enraptured.

Anwen Mullen, Vice Principal of St Mary's School on Irene's visit.



Joanna Gray/Friends of the Earth

A model town: created by Year 10 students, "Greenville" is a vision of sustainability with solar panels, wind turbines and the latest in housing insulation.

A week is a long time...

... in Stretford Grammar School, Manchester, and the newly formed Eco Group made very good use of the fact during Shout about week.

They talked to the whole school about climate change and solutions during daily assemblies; wrote a letter to their local MP to find out what the Government is doing about climate change; and organised a visit from a local conservation expert.



We want to spread the message about global warming and the simple changes people can make to stop it.

Dan, Year 9.

Bright ideas for a bright future



During Shout about week, young people proved that when it comes to climate change, they really do have some bright ideas, and they want to be heard.

“We’re the ones that will be here when things get bad; we should be part of deciding what we do about it now,” says April, 13.

With the Climate Change Law being debated in Parliament, young people across the UK came up with their own planet-saving laws as part of this year’s Shout about week. And pupils from four schools got to tell decision-makers exactly what they thought, right inside the House of Commons.

“

We had a brilliant day in London; the best part was telling MPs about our Climate Change Law.

Pupils from Malbank School.

“

...if we don't push the boundaries of our knowledge, and if people like you aren't asking these questions and refusing to take no for an answer, then we're never going to get there.

Gregory Barker, Shadow Minister for the Environment responds to the students' ideas.

”

We definitely have some future climate campaigners among them now.

Tim Aldridge, teacher at Mulberry School for Girls.

Lawful thinking

“Schools should be able to generate their electricity from renewable sources, with cash incentives for those that succeed in reducing emissions”, was one suggestion from All Saints School in Dorset. Mulberry School for Girls in London believes companies should be made to do more: “...car manufacturers should be required to build their cars to much more efficient and environmentally friendly standards”.

Aviation was top of the agenda for Mountfitchet Mathematics and Computing College in Stansted; “...aeroplanes are one of the worst polluters; our law aims to reduce their impact by introducing tax on aviation fuel”.

And to keep the whole country’s eye on targets, Malbank School in Cheshire would have “...a large ‘carbon thermometer’ next to Big Ben to show how much we have reduced our emissions”.



Question time

“Given that emissions are still increasing, is the [Government’s] target to cut emissions by 30 per cent by 2030 realistic?” was the question asked by Year 10 students from All Saints School when they met Environment Minister, Joan Ruddock at the House of Commons.

And it didn’t stop there. With questions about school travel plans, putting climate change on the curriculum, and whether it’s possible to have a low-carbon Olympics, the students put the Minister to the test.

“Excellent questions,” said Joan Ruddock. “You clearly know a lot. You have ideas and solutions and actually we can work together on this.”

“Their questions were very impressive,” said Friends of the Earth’s Parliamentary Campaigner, Martyn Williams. “Today, they did my job for me.”

We’re watching you

The students know a lot about making a difference. James, from All Saints School, tells us: “In just one year our school has cut emissions by more than 5 per cent.” Asking the Government to “commit to low carbon solutions for all Government buildings”, “make all newly built houses energy efficient” and “create a cheaper, better public transport system” came very naturally to the students – and with a gentle reminder: “In a few years time, we will be ready to vote, and we are watching you.”



Young friends of the Earth – the students visit our office in London to meet campaigners.



They never ceased to amaze me with their innovative ideas to reduce carbon emissions. They were a great group to work with.

Tania Sayer from South Cheshire Friends of the Earth about the pupils from Malbank School.

Students presented their proposed climate change laws to:

Under Secretary of State for the Environment, Joan Ruddock; Shadow Minister for the Environment, Greg Barker; Minister of State for Schools and Learners, Jim Knight; and John Hemming MP.

School of change

Beyton Middle School is answering the call – climate change is in the air, and everyone's doing something about it.

From weather patterns and renewable energy to food miles and travel plans; with assemblies, debates, competitions and surveys, Beyton School was alive with activity during Shout about week.

Judith Roberts, Head of Geography, explains why the school got involved: "Our pupils really want to know what climate change is and what they can do about it; they are all really keen to make a difference."



Let's debate: pupils share their ideas for Government action.



Keeping it in the family...

...was a theme for this year's activity week at Beyton. All 700 students completed a home energy survey, and came away with loads of ideas to reduce their emissions. "I sit on the sofa with a duvet now instead of turning the heating up," said Megan, 13. Meanwhile 12 year-old Ryan is making the most of pester power: "I get my Dad to switch the computer off standby before he goes to bed."



We think an activity week such as this is crucial not only to keep everyone talking about global warming but because most children already care about our planet and want to do something.

Liz Harcombe, teacher, Beyton Middle School

Just wait until 2008

With plans for a huge pledge tree, letters to MPs asking them to take action on climate change and fundraising for renewable energy, the eco-squad is keeping the energy buzzing at Beyton.

Watch out, eco-squad about

Corridors and classrooms are patrolled by the students at the end of each day. Jack, who joined the school eco-squad a year ago, says: "We make sure all lights are off, windows closed and computers are shut down."

It's not just the students who need reminding, says Sarah, 13: "We've created posters that say 'Turn the lights off when you leave the classroom' – the teachers forget."

Thanks to the watchful eyes of the eco-squad, the school cut its carbon dioxide emissions by an impressive 81 tonnes in the past year (that's the equivalent of seven average households' total emissions for a year), and have been named Ipswich Town's Energy Saver of the Year.

Water-power to the people



There was water, water everywhere for pupils from Newquay Tretherras Secondary School in Cornwall during Shout about week. And with the water – after some simple engineering – came clean, green electricity. How? By building mini water-driven turbines, powerful enough to run LED lights.

The students spent two days at Carnyorth Environmental Education Centre learning about solutions to climate change as part of Friends of the Earth's Shout about week.

"I was amazed to find that you can make electricity just using old, recycled materials," said Stephanie. With the help of instructor David Knight, the students transformed a pile of wire, magnets, plastic spoons, corks and old plastic bottles into working hydroelectric turbines. After testing them under the tap, the kids took them down to a nearby stream to really put the turbines through their paces.

"Thankfully no one fell in, despite testing the turbines to their limits – and in three out of four cases, beyond," said David Knight.

Proof, if needed, that young people using renewable technologies have the power to help change the world – just add water.



I think we succeeded in our ambitions of sending the children away, not only with renewable energy totally demystified and a head full of questions, but far more importantly inspired, and empowered.

Ali Law, Manager of Cornwall County Council's Carnyorth Environmental Education Centre



Action in Northern Ireland

Throughout November, year nine students at Enniskillen Collegiate in Northern Ireland had a series of lessons about climate change and its solutions... and then leapt into action.

They calculated their carbon footprint, made a short film, created impressive presentations about climate change to educate others, wrote a class charter of steps to combat energy use at school, and worked with local organisation, Action Renewables, to draw up proposals for increasing renewable energy locally.

Friends of the Earth Campaigner, Niall Bakewell gave a talk to the students about solutions to climate change. He was impressed by their level of knowledge and

enthusiasm: "They showed a great understanding of what the problem is, that it's out there in the world and that they can do something about it."

"These are the decision makers of tomorrow, so it's very important that we inform them about solutions to climate change," says Peter Richardson, Head of Geography at Enniskillen Collegiate. "Climate change, which is rarely out of the headlines, is something very important and relevant to young people."

Read on, online...

The Friends of the Earth Learning website is bursting with information and ideas for young people and educators wanting to get active on environmental issues:

- tips for greening school and home
- facts about Friends of the Earth campaigns
- interviews with celebrities
- inspiring case studies of sustainability in action
- and much more.

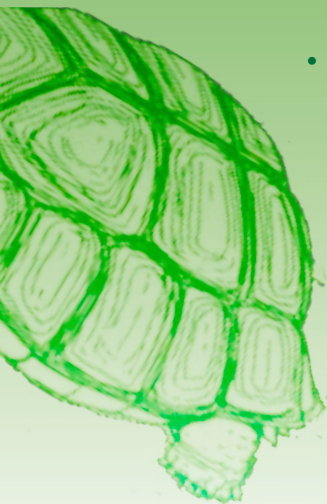
For educators...

Free, downloadable National Curriculum-based teaching resources including fully illustrated, colour information booklets with accompanying lesson plans for Key Stage 3; fun, informative posters for Key Stages 1 & 2 with lesson plans.

Friends of the Earth's Youth and Education Programme provides ways for young people to explore sustainable development, citizenship and environmental topics, 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 young people...



- Who spent their birthday with **giant tortoises** on the Galapagos Islands?
 - How much **waste** is produced during the manufacture of a computer?
 - Who has a **carbon-neutral** home?
- What effect is **global warming** having on Mount Everest?

Visit www.foe.co.uk/learning for the answers, plus loads more fascinating facts and stories about the environment.

Friends of the Earth makes life better for people by inspiring solutions to environmental problems

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

Friends of the Earth Trust company number 1533942, registered charity number 281681

Printed on paper made from 100 per cent post-consumer waste. February 2008

Useful links

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 2008 – 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, measure your carbon footprint or take an online campaign action.

Heads up

www.headsup.org.uk

Hosts an online debating space for young people to share their views on political issues and events.

Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/

Find out what the Government is doing on climate change, track the progress of the Climate Change Law or navigate to the "climate challenge" website for how to get involved.

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 or make use of CAT's information service and online resources.

The Globe Programme

www.globe.org.uk

Measure your local environment, share findings and compare data with other schools around the world. Includes activity and lesson ideas for exploring sustainable development.