



ISSUE 1

ECO-SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

16TH NOVEMBER 2011

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

IS THAT A RED LIGHT? 2

SWITCH IT OFF 2

MISS... IS THAT COMPUTER STILL ON 2

HEATING - IS IT RIGHT? 3

WHAT WE WANT 3

WHO WE ARE 4

NEXT TIME 4

RESULTS OF AUDIT

As you may know, the Eco-Schools Action Team have been performing an audit to assess the schools energy usage.

The results, I am afraid to say, are not good. We surveyed 37 rooms with four questions three times in two days, before school, at Lunch break and after school. Although we had a few problems getting into certain rooms, such as science labs, we managed to get quite a few results, 296, to look at. A quarter of these, 74 to be precise, were wasting energy in some way.

Fourteen rooms were very bad, with either all the lights on or the projector on with no one in the room. Another twenty-two rooms had some of the lights on or the computer on with no one in the room.

Although this does not use as much energy as the first example, this is still bad. There were twenty-one examples of a teacher having the projector or all the lights on when only they were in the room. It would have definitely been possible for them to turn the projector or some of the lights on as they are not using them. We were also looking at whether the blinds were down when the lights were on. There were 17 rooms where all the lights were on some (14x) or all (3x) of the blinds were shut. This is a big waste of energy as on the day we did this there was plenty of natural light, which was being shut out. Although this is not a good set of results, it gives us a place to start from and reduce by using methods explained on pages 2 and 3.



"What's the use of a fine house if you haven't got a tolerable planet to put it on?"

Henry David Thoreau

EDITORIAL

As the first Eco-Schools Newsletter goes out, I think about why we are doing this. Ultimately we want to save the world, but what can we, a mere fraction of the world do. It dawns on me that we won't make a dent in global energy consumption. But with proper education and awareness we can. If every one of you tells

someone outside to save energy, and then they tell someone else, it spirals into epic proportions. In many years time, when we are in the positions to make decisions. That is when we can make a difference, and it all started at Sutton Grammar School.

"We have forgotten how to be good guests, how to walk lightly on the earth as its other creatures do."

Barbara Ward

Callum Jack, 9Green, Editor

IS THAT A RED LIGHT?

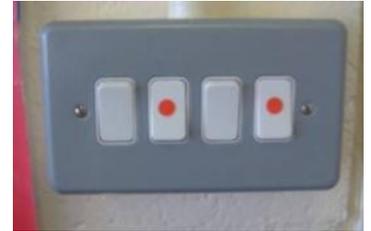
25% of schools energy usage comes from lighting. For this reason we are keen to reduce the amount of lighting use at Sutton Grammar.

We will do this in a number of ways. The first of these is labeling light switches with three colours: green, amber and red. This will show whether the light needs to be on or whether we could turn it off. Green lights would be allowed to be on at

all times, if there isn't enough natural light coming in through windows. Amber lights would be on sometimes depending on the circumstances, for example if the whiteboard was on, the light would not need to be on.

Red lights would be off whenever it can be helped. The light coming in through windows should be enough for students to learn comfortably, without

straining their eyes. Having labeled lights mean that both staff and pupils have easy reference to whether a light should be on or off. This means that it is easier to remember to turn lights off when we don't need them on, thus reducing our electricity usage.



An example of a labeled light switch.

SWITCH IT OFF

Once we have labeled the light switches the next step is to switch them off when they don't need to be used.

It is no good seeing a light on and doing nothing - someone has to switch it off. An easy way to do this is to nominate a lighting monitor. The job of this person is to check to see that there are no lights on unnecessarily. But what is unnecessary? If the blinds are down and the lights are on, then the blinds

can be opened to let natural light in and the artificial lights can be switched off. Once the class is over, is there anyone still in the room? If not, switch it off. Doing this alone can reduce the wastage of the school by up to 19%. On bright days, it doesn't make a difference if the lights are on and the blinds are up so switch them off and save power. Ask the teacher in the room to turn off amber switches if they

don't need to be on. Windows are often obstructed by items such as textbooks and bags, and this will reduce the quantity of light getting into the classroom. Moving these will of course increase the brightness and reduce the need for lights to be on. Lighting Monitors can always be changed around, so the burden of saving the environment is not on one persons shoulders.

"The burden of saving the environment is not on one person's shoulders."

MISS...IS THAT COMPUTER STILL ON?

A big burner of electricity in the school is IT equipment, however it is a relatively simple problem to solve

Too many teachers and staff leave computers on when they are not at them. This is where we need you, the pupils to nag, badger and pester the staff, in a nice way, into turning off

computers and projectors.

It is not just the staff however. Students can turn off computers too with our new traffic light coding scheme. Green computers may be turned off by anyone at any time (unless of course someone is using it), amber computers must be checked by a member of staff first, and red

computers mustn't be touched as they do something important. We need the whole school to work together to make sure that we don't slip back into leaving them on in a few weeks. In a typical school 22% of energy is used on electrical appliances and so this is an obvious step forward.



A computer and projector on in a room with no teacher or pupils.

HEATING - IS IT RIGHT?

Heating is important, however if we don't get it right the environment, and bill will suffer.

The optimum temperature for classrooms is 18°C and 15°C is recommended for corridors and gyms. This however is not always the case, in fact it is not uncommon for rooms to be overheated by 3°C, 4°C or even more. This can have drastic effects on the energy consumption of the school

as overheating by just one degree can increase energy consumption by 10%. The aim of the eco-school team is to first find out the temperature around the school so that we have a starting point. Once we have this we plan to map the results, not only so we can improve but so that you can see the results. You may not see this happen as the thermometers that we are going to use are not only

small but they may not be easily visible. Once we know where is too hot we can adjust the radiators and heating systems. This is where we need you to feed back to a member of the eco-schools team or if you don't know who they are, Mr. Pletts. If you are too hot or too cold in lessons or corridors we need to know. We want to save energy, but we don't want to make it uncomfortable.



Not too hot, not too cold, but just right.

WHAT WE WANT

We want to drastically reduce the energy consumption of the school.

We don't however want to bankrupt the school in the process so all of the projects we are starting are zero or low cost. This means that we should get results that immediately see the school rather than embarking on high cost projects that might bring us money and make a difference to the

environment soon.

We are aiming for the Eco-Schools Bronze award first and if we do well in this proceeding to Silver and finally Green Flag status. Not only does this mean that we get to boast about having these it means that we can help protect the world we live in and we also have a duty to preserve Earth for the future generations that will inhabit it.

"We also have a duty to preserve Earth for the future generations that will inhabit it."

"One touch of nature makes the whole world kin."

William Shakespeare



"Our modern industrial economy takes a mountain covered with trees, lakes, running streams and transforms it into a mountain of junk, garbage, slime pits, and debris."

Edward Abbey

Check out the Eco-Schools Website

www.eco-schools.org.uk

Modern technology
Owes ecology
An apology.

Alan M. Eddison



WORKING TOGETHER FOR GREENER SCHOOLS

NEXT TIME

In the next issue we will:

- Bring you the results of the temperature map of the school
- Bring you updates on all the projects.
- Let you know if we are improving on our energy consumption

**“It’s not that easy
being green.”**

Kermit the Frog

WHO WE ARE

We are the Eco-Schools Action Team, working towards the Silver Award.

To obtain the Silver Award we must:

- 1.The school has identified an Action Team which has met on at least four occasions. The Action Team includes a parent and/or governor representative.
- 2.The Action Team has completed a formal Environmental Review and has recorded the results.
- 3.The Action Team has produced a detailed Action Plan (including timescales and targets) and shared the plan with the rest of the school community.
- 4.The Action Team can demonstrate progress to-

wards achieving at least two elements of the Action Plan.

5.The school can identify progress towards one large-scale project and indicate involvement with two others. ‘Identify progress’ means that the school has an understanding of the project topic and recognises its importance to sustainable development within the school environment and the wider community.

6.The school has a prominent, designated notice-board, web pages or newsletter which details Eco-Schools activities.

7.The school has informed parents and the wider community about the work being undertaken by the school in relation to Eco-Schools.

8.The school can indicate that some environmental issues have been covered within curriculum work in most year groups.

9.The school has agreed, adopted and displayed an ‘Eco-Code’.

Our Action Team is made up of the following people:

- Mr Pletts—Eco-Schools Coordinator
- Mrs Hayman—Premises Manager
- Mrs Beach—Bursar
- Mrs Sutherland—Senior Leadership Representative
- Mr Shergold— Teacher Governor
- Students

