

Bradford Ecoversity – Bradford Sustainable Schools Network

Newsletter No.1

November 2008

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WELCOME

This is the first newsletter for the Bradford Sustainable Schools Network. The Network has been launched to create a resource shared between Bradford University, and schools and colleges in the Bradford District interested in Sustainable Development. This interest might be around sharing ideas and good practice on teaching sustainability in the curriculum, saving money through better environmental management, sorting out your recycling or finding out where to get funding! We recognise there is a lot of different activity around Sustainability in schools and colleges and our aim is to pass on good work so that others know about it and avoid duplication. The approach of the Network is to be inclusive and to be guided by the Network members. What will be useful? What will be interesting? Please let us know what you think about this newsletter.

Professor Geoff Layer, Pro-Vice Chancellor Learning and Teaching

EDITORIAL

The idea for a district wide Sustainable Development Network grew out of the development of the Bradford University Ecoversity Project. In order to promote and support Sustainable Development in a district like Bradford, we feel that all 208 schools, its colleges and University should be working together. The Bradford Ecoversity Project and Bradford MBC proposed the Network having been inspired by the Yorkshire & Humber Sustainable Schools Conference and Fair held at the Mega Centre in Sheffield

http://www.yorkshireandhumber.net/esd/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=73&Itemid=29.

The purpose of this Newsletter is to provide rapid, short bursts of relevant information about Sustainable Development within our schools, colleges and University and encourage the sharing of good practice, identify funding, improve the aspirations of young people and make Bradford a more sustainable district. In the short term the Network will be co-ordinated by the Bradford Ecoversity Programme. Over time the effectiveness of the Network will develop and new structures or approaches will emerge. For now the Network will only be as strong as its members. Please make suggestions or provide items for the Newsletter, proposals for events or requests for information. We will seek to keep the Newsletter to about 4 pages and circulate it by email in Word format.

Ecoversity – What is it?

Ecoversity is Bradford University's flagship programme to embed Sustainable Development in our institutional culture; including curriculum, wider student learning and our own Campus operations. More details on 'What is Ecoversity?' can be found in a briefing sheet on the main Ecoversity website www.bradford.ac.uk/ecoversity

University Support for Schools

One of the aims of the Network is to find ways in which the University can support Bradford Schools around Sustainable Development. We have a Student Volunteering Programme where students with an interest in Sustainability are looking to work with schools on specific projects. A pilot project last year revealed some of the issues that need to be addressed to make a successful schools' student project. If you are interested in talking about ways in which students might be able to support your school's activities then please get in touch with Sheri-Leigh Miles s.miles@bradford.ac.uk, telephone 01274 236913, who is working with Chris Wilson from the Student Volunteering Bureau (UCAN) to develop this programme of work.

Events:

Sustainable Schools: The Kirklees Experience, Dick Palfrey.

We propose to offer one event per term for teachers and support staff, which will hopefully inspire and stimulate sustainability actions in your school. The first event will be held at the University Campus but after this we would hope to run future events at schools in the District.

To launch us, Dick Palfrey from Kirklees has kindly offered to come to the University on 2 December 2008. Dick Palfrey is School Improvement Officer, History, Geography & Environmental Education, for Kirklees Learning Service, based in Huddersfield. He has been involved in encouraging, supporting and initiating environmentally sustainable projects for the almost 200 schools in Kirklees for 8 years, and welcomes this new opportunity to share and exchange Local Authority experiences across West Yorkshire.

Dick will talk about, and demonstrate, a range of environmentally sustainable projects in Kirklees, both in and out of the curriculum, including:

- A 'mystery' card-sort: how are Polar bears, the tropical Maldivian Islands and *you* connected?
- Eco-Schools
- Fair Trade schools, towns and constituencies
- Global Citizenship: developing diasporic links with Pakistan and Nigeria through the British Council
- Kirklees Sustainable Schools Award
- Kirklees Environment Youth Forum
- 'Transforming Your Space' Big Lottery Project
- Food growing in schools
- School grounds biodiversity
- Kirklees 'Creative Responses to Low Carbon Futures' events
- Piloting of a corporate Sustainable Development policy for Yorkshire & Humber
- Local Authority carbon budgets for EMAS
- Transition Towns
- Green Employee Network
- Global Warming enters children's literature

In addition to asking, and answering, questions comparing Bradford schools' environmental issues with those in Kirklees

Date: Tuesday Dec 2nd 4.30-6pm. Food and drinks served.

Location: Richmond Boardroom D2.

The event will run if there is sufficient interest (minimum 10)

If you wish to attend please reply to r.a.j.pearson@bradford.ac.uk and mark the email esdschools.

Other Events:

We are pleased to advertise any event that is open to Bradford schools in this Newsletter. Three events coming up which may be of interest are:

Forest Schools Open Day

Friday 28 November 2008

Heaton Children's Centre

To book a place call Jim Mawson, Forest Schools jim.mawson@heaton.bradford.sch.uk
01274 363083

Becoming a Fairtrade School

Friday 30 January 2009, 10am to 3.15pm

King James' School, Knaresborough

Free lunch and refreshments included

Becoming a Fairtrade School

Tuesday 10th February 2009, 10am to 3.15pm

St. John's Church Hall, Ben Rhydding, Ilkley

Free lunch and refreshments included

For more details or to book a place:

Reply to Liz Roodhouse, Craven DEC, 11 Barden Rd, Eastby, SKIPTON. BD23 6SL
01756 790737 or E-mail liz@cravendec.org.uk

Schemes to help Schools become Sustainable

There are already a number of national recognition schemes operating that provide a framework for different aspects of Sustainability. A full guide of all the national schemes has recently been mapped in a very useful document from the DCSF, which can be downloaded via the Ecoversity website. We are currently compiling a Bradford good practice guide to showcase what different Bradford schools are doing around the different schemes. There is a wide range of excellent practice already in the District.

The national schemes that seem to be most widely known and developed in Bradford, together with some local contact details are:

Sustainable Schools – the National Framework

The National Framework for Sustainable Schools was developed by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and introduces schools to the idea of 8 doorway themes through which they could develop Sustainable Development activity. They are:

1. **Food and Drink**
2. **Energy and Water**
3. **Travel and Traffic**
4. **Purchasing and Waste**
5. **Buildings and Grounds**
6. **Inclusion and Participation**
7. **Local Well-being**
8. **Global Dimension**

For more information on Sustainable Schools have a look at:

Teacher Net

www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools/

Eco-Schools

Run by the Foundation for Environmental Education, Eco-Schools runs across 46 countries Worldwide. The Scheme is free to join and is open to all schools. The ethos of Eco-Schools is to ensure that students are the driving force behind the scheme and it is these pupils that decide on the environmental themes that they want to tackle. In addition to providing a framework for working, functions such as monitoring and measuring are essential components of Eco-Schools. Pupils carry out an audit to measure the environmental performance of their school and the action plan for improvement is lead by the pupils through an Eco-committee. Schools work towards awards; Bronze, Silver and the

Green Flag Award. The first two are self-accredited and the last one is assessed externally by ENCAMS.

There are many schools in Bradford already working towards awards through the Eco-Schools scheme. There is a full list on the Eco-Schools website (web address below), but some of the schools with Silver Award status (or working towards it), include Beckfoot, Haworth Primary, Nab Wood and Westville House. We will run an event on Eco-Schools in the near future.

For more information contact:-

Eco-Schools

ENCAMS

Elizabeth House

The Pier

Wigan

WN3 4EX

www.eco-schools.org.uk

Forest Schools

Forest Schools are “An innovative, educational approach to outdoor play and learning” (Forest Schools website). Schools in Bradford can either use an organisation called Archimedes Training to deliver the scheme or a teacher can become a Forest Schools Level 3 Trainer themselves.

Heaton Children’s Service in Bradford is an integrated primary school, children’s centre and emotional and behavioural development centre. It has its own woodland on site and is a unique resource two miles from Bradford.

Bookable Forest Schools services are available. For more information contact:-

Jim Mawson

jim.mawson@heaton.bradford.sch.uk

01274 363083

To find out more contact:-

Archimedes Training

Wood Lane House Farm and Countryside Centre

Wood Lane

Stannington

Sheffield

S6 5HE

Tel: - 0114 2855534

Or you can email them from the Forest Schools website: www.forestschools.com

Extended Schools

An evaluation of the Extended Schools initiative was carried out in 2007 showing that nationally 1 in 3 schools are already providing access to extended services in partnership with voluntary, private and independent providers (Every Child Matters website).

Many schools in Bradford are already doing fantastic work in this area and Extended Schools has provided funding and a way for schools to link up in partnership like never before. There is therefore an opportunity to share best practice and ideas as to how a school's Extended School Action Plan can contribute to the Sustainable Schools Framework. Some examples of work that has occurred on the ground include:

- a) Linking of schools in the Heaton area to the Carbon Trust to carry out energy surveys. Contact for this project is Ken Jarvis (01274 433885)
- b) Setting up of gardening projects for parents
- c) Walking initiatives (linking people to their environments)
- d) Setting up of an Environment Club enabling people to access and explore woodland
- e) Establishing a holiday activity focusing on play within the environment of the Botanical Gardens in Bradford.
- f) The Wild and Adventurous Spaces for Play Project run in conjunction with **Bradford Community Environment Project. Contact Liz Melling (01274) 223236**

The key to ensuring that Sustainable Schools becomes part of the everyday activity of the school is to integrate it into strategies and networks that are already working, such as Extended Schools.

To contact Extended Schools in Bradford:

Gill Dooley

1 City Road

Bradford

BD8 8ER

01274 437348

Gill.dooley@bradford.gov.uk

Healthy Schools

Healthy Schools is a joint Government initiative between the Department of Health and the Department for Children, Schools and Families. The Scheme makes the core link between good health, behaviour and achievement through a series of themes:-

- a) Personal and Social Education
- b) Healthy Eating
- c) Physical Activity
- d) Emotional Wellbeing

Leeds is a Beacon Authority for Healthy Eating and can offer advice and assistance to others working towards this. Case studies of their work are available on the Healthy

Schools website (www.healthyschools.gov.uk). Best practice is also happening in Bradford where the Manningham Healthy Living Initiative is working with Bradford Community Environment Project around the Healthy Eating agenda. The project has received continuation funding from the Primary Care Trust and will run for 5-6 years. As all of the growing carried out by the Bradford Community Environment Project is organic, Sustainable Development issues around food are a key part of the project. This is an excellent example of where an existing network and initiative can integrate with the Sustainable Schools Framework.

To contact Bradford Community Environment Project:

Jane Robinson, Cathy Fowler, Gail Smith – (01274) 223236

info@bcep.org.uk

www.bcep.org.uk

For information on Healthy Schools in the region contact:

Ann Sunderland

Children and Learners Directorate

GOYH

Lateral

8 City Walk

Leeds

LS11 9AT

Tel: (0113) 3413000

Global Schools

The Global Schools Association is a free to join, membership organisation funded by the Department for International Development (DFID). Membership is free and the Yorkshire and Humber branch of the Association offers a Global Schools Award that schools can work towards, by integrating global issues in the curriculum and the day to day running of the school. They produce regular newsletters (which go out to all schools in the region), provide teachers with resources to enable integration of global issues in the curriculum, run workshops and run a variety of project based work.

In Bradford, Global Schools is being used to build relationships around the Community Cohesion Agenda. A consultant working for Global Schools is based in the Local Authority and is working with a number of schools on a programme called the Bradford Schools Linking Network. The Programme is being rolled out across the whole country, but Bradford was one of the first Local Authorities to run the scheme. The Global Schools Project is looking at how using the global agenda can help schools in Bradford link and bring about greater community cohesion. There are therefore strong links to the community, global and well-being agendas through the Sustainable Schools Framework.

To find out more about the Global Schools Association:

Ray Kirtley
International Resource Centre for Schools and Colleges
27 Salmon Grove
University of Hull
Hull
HU6 7RX
www.yhgsa.org.uk
r.kirtley@hull.ac.uk
01482 305150

To find out more about the Schools Linking Project contact:

Linda Cowie –Bradford Local Education Authority
01274 385470
Linda.cowie@schoolslinkingnetwork.org.uk

Gail Smith (employed by Leeds Development Education Centre through the Global Schools Association, Yorkshire and the Humber).
gailsmith100@hotmail.com

There may be other initiatives running in Bradford offered by other groups and service areas and if they are brought to our attention then we will highlight and share them with the Network. Our aim is to share and co-operate and avoid duplication. The Ecoversity website Schools' Section has a downloadable file of useful organisations.

Funding

There are a number of funding opportunities around Sustainability and the themes covered in this Newsletter. The list of potential funding sources is rather long so we have put it in a Word document on the Ecoversity website.

Your News?

If you would like to submit a news item, event or publicise your school's work around any of the themes in this Newsletter then please let us know, preferably by email ecoversity@bradford.ac.uk, marked Sustainable Schools, or contact Sheri-Leigh on 01274 236913 or Rachel 01274 236929

Date of next issue: February 2009