

## Bradford Ecoversity – Bradford Sustainable Schools Network

### Newsletter No.2

March 2009

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#### WELCOME

*This is the second newsletter for the Bradford sustainable schools network. The network has been launched to create a resource shared between the University of Bradford and schools and colleges in the Bradford District interested in sustainable development. The first newsletter was published in November 2008 and we have had some good feedback on the newsletter and the event we ran.*

*We are ready to publish our 'Bradford Sustainable School - emerging practice' series and invite you to the launch event on March 25th at the University. We are pleased to have received a number of photographs from Bradford students who took part in our competition to help design a cover for the emerging practice back cover.*

*We are also putting the final touches to the development of a new sustainability centre – a £4.5M new building on campus which will provide a visitor resource for Bradford schools. We will be discussing this building at the launch event and hope that you can help us with your views about the type of activities and features that the building can include to offer a valuable learning environment for children of all ages.*

**Professor Geoff Layer PVC Learning and Teaching**

## EDITORIAL

Our second newsletter comes at a time when there is a growing level of interest in sustainability both in schools and Higher Education. Our Higher Education Funding Council has just issued its review of Sustainable Development in the HE sector. Some aspects of our future funding will be tied to our progress on carbon reduction which has caught senior managers' attention. Our own Ecoversity project is building momentum. An update on recent activities and projects can be found on our website:

<http://www.Bradford.ac.uk/ecoversity>.

Since the last newsletter, we have produced case studies on good practice on sustainable development within Bradford schools. It was very interesting to find and write up such an impressive amount of work. We suspect there is more good practice out there but one of the challenges- and the aim of the network- is to put people in touch with others, share information and learn from our own schools in the District. The network aims to find out what barriers there are to progress or getting started and whether collectively we can remove or work our way around those barriers.

## ITEMS

### SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS – EMERGING GOOD PRACTICE

The Ecoversity Project has been visiting a number of Bradford schools to find out what is happening across the district on sustainable development. What we have found is that schools are engaging with sustainable development on all sorts of levels. A folder of case studies highlighting some of this excellent work, featuring 13 schools has been produced.

In the interviews we conducted, we discovered that many schools in the district were engaged in the Eco-schools Award and were at different stages in the process. Beckfoot School is aspiring for Green Flag status and the eco-schools journey has led to the implementation of a wide range of sustainable activities such as recycling, student led energy surveys, developing an alternative learning centre and designing an eco-friendly bag. Other schools such as Hanson have run an Eco-Fair with stalls selling goods made by students such as solar powered toys, copper jewelry and clocks made from recycled materials. Heaton Primary has the wonderful resource of a forested area next to their school building and so all the students can benefit from an alternative education programme called Forest Schools. Feversham is leading the way on sustainable travel with their fleet of 7 yellow buses, whilst Haworth Primary now grow much of their own food within the school grounds in partnership with Food for Life (a soil association initiative).

We hope to add case studies to the folder on an ongoing basis, so if you feel your school could be featured please get in touch with the Ecoversity office (details on this newsletter).

### SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS BRADFORD – RESULTS OF SURVEY

In 2008 the Ecoversity project undertook a survey of the 208 Bradford schools to find out existing levels of awareness, involvement and engagement with the sustainable schools agenda. 108 schools responded to the survey.

The most commonly cited activities that fitted into one of the 8 sustainable schools doorways were Food and Drink (95% of active schools); inclusion and participation (91%);

purchasing and waste (89%); local well being (84%) and buildings and grounds (84%). Energy and water was the least most active activity area (95%).

The areas where schools wanted more external support are energy and water (45% of all responding schools); buildings and grounds (47%); purchasing and waste (29%) and global dimensions (28%).

40% of all responding schools stated they included sustainability as a separate heading in their school improvements plans and a further 11% under another heading.

Only 17% have an energy policy, 11% a water policy and only 5% have a green procurement policy. 36% have a waste and recycling policy. 95% have a policy on inclusion and participation and 89% are part of extended schools. 46% of extended schools engage local people through some forms of environmental activities. 70% of schools include global dimensions within the citizenship agenda and of these 62% are involved in fundraising for global projects.

22% of responding schools are involved in eco schools and only 4% formally in sustainable schools.

The main barriers to progress with the agenda in schools are staff time (84%); need for expertise (64%); limited resource (54%) and lack of information (50%).

The conclusions from the survey show a significant number of Bradford schools are engaging with aspects of the sustainable schools agenda, although few are doing so in a comprehensive way. As expected, staff time and resources are critical to progress. The overall picture is one of growing levels of activity but some schools not yet engaged with sustainable schools at all - although they are participants in healthy and extended schools programmes. Energy, water, waste and school grounds appear particularly important topics which require support.

## **SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS - KIRKLEES EXPERIENCE**

Ecoversity hosts one event per term for teachers and support staff to help inspire and stimulate sustainability actions in schools. The first of this series was presented by Dick Palfrey, School Improvement Officer - History, Geography & Environmental Education, for Kirklees Learning Service, based in Huddersfield.

Dick has been involved in encouraging, supporting and initiating environmentally sustainable projects with almost 200 schools in Kirklees for eight years. He welcomed the opportunity to share and exchange Local Authority experiences with Bradford Schools.

Dick talked about a range of environmentally sustainable projects in Kirklees both in and out of the curriculum. He used a 'mystery' card-sort to look at how Polar bears, the tropical Maldives and we are connected to get people thinking about sustainability. Other topics he talked about included Eco-Schools, Fair Trade schools and an Environmental Youth Forum.

There was also a question time opportunity comparing Bradford schools' environmental issues with those in Kirklees.

Dick is willing to advise and offer further support (within reason!) to help promote and support sustainable schools work in Bradford.

## **BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE – Phase 3 – What can it deliver for Bradford?**

The Building Schools for the Future programme is well underway in Bradford.

One of the original ambitions of the programme was to build sustainable development into new schools and for schools to be zero carbon by 2016.

Evidence from phase 1 and 2 suggests that experience is falling well short of this aspiration and that there are few examples of good practice to learn or draw from.

A rare example is Kingsmead school, in Cheshire, [www.kingsmead.cheshire.sch.uk](http://www.kingsmead.cheshire.sch.uk) which has tried to incorporate a number of features including a timber structure, an uninterrupted view to green space and uses natural ventilation and daylight. Technologies include the use of photovoltaics, solar hot water panels and rainwater harvesting for flushing toilets. A SUDS system has been implemented (Sustainable Urban Water Drainage System) and a bio-mass boiler installed. The architects behind Kingsmead were White Design – [www.white-design.co.uk](http://www.white-design.co.uk).

Bradford has been one of the pathfinders for Building Schools for the future and 3 new schools are now open:- Buttershaw Business and Enterprise College, Tong High School and Titus Salt School. **Phase 2** involves Grange Technology College, Beckfoot School, Hanson and Greenhead School. In addition, three new primary special schools will be co-located on the sites of mainstream schools: Delius with Bradford Moor and Lapage; Cellow at Heaton and Phoenix with new-build Guardhouse. Work is set to start in 2009 and the new schools are due to open in 2010/2011. All the designs for the proposed Phase 2 schools are now complete.

**Phase 3** is now at the consultation stage and will involve more schools in the Bradford District. If there is interest we would be able to organize an event specifically on BSF in Bradford to see whether more action on Sustainable Development can be designed into this major investment programme. If you think this is something that would be valuable please let us know.

For more information on the Bradford BSF projects please contact the **BSF Team**:  
01274 437777.

## **THE ECOVERSIY SUSTAINABILITY CENTRE**

The University is finalising the funding for a new £5 Million centre committed to research and learning about sustainable development. The building will have a facility to support Bradford school visits, This building will be described at the launch event on March 25<sup>th</sup>.

## **CARBON MANAGEMENT IN BRADFORD SCHOOLS**

Did you know that schools generate 60% of the carbon emissions produced by Bradford Council? This means measures need to be taken as soon as possible to reduce this figure, if the council is to avoid financial penalties. In April 2010 Bradford Council will be asked to pay £2,100,000 into the Exchequer and in October 2010 an assessment on the success of carbon emission reduction will be undertaken to decide how much of that amount the council and its schools will lose or get back.

There is, therefore, a massive incentive for local authorities and schools to take action now and get mechanisms in place in the lead up to this push on carbon reduction.

Our next network event will be on Carbon and Energy Management in schools. This event will focus on what and how a school can take action to reduce bills, and sources of support.

## **USEFUL CONTACTS**

John Bibby – Bradford Metropolitan District Council (for information on carbon audits)  
[john.bibby@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:john.bibby@bradford.gov.uk) (01274 432111)

The Sustainable Schools Framework (for information on the S1 auditing tool for schools)  
[www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools)

## **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 schools activities then please get in touch with Sheri-Leigh Miles who is working with Chris Wilson, Centre Manager for the Student volunteering bureau to develop this programme of work. [s.miles@bradford.ac.uk](mailto:s.miles@bradford.ac.uk) or 01274 236913.

Example projects so far include: helping schools to get started with their Eco-Schools Award, researching into the use of solar power for a school memorial fountain, installation of a bird box camera, supporting schools who are competing in the N G Bailey Robot Rumble (created out of scrap materials), and helping to add a sustainable buildings angle to science lessons.

## **Whos' who and what's what in Bradford - useful organisations to support school activities**

There are many organisations in Bradford and nationally that can help with the sustainable schools agenda. In this edition of the newsletter we are featuring three. If you are a support organization and would like to be featured in the next edition please let us know.

Bradford Environmental Education Service (BEES)

[www.bees-ymca.org](http://www.bees-ymca.org)

01274 513102

[bees@bradford.ymca.org.uk](mailto:bees@bradford.ymca.org.uk)

Bradford Environmental Action Trust (BEAT)

[www.beat.org.uk](http://www.beat.org.uk)

01274 718420

[admin@beat.org.uk](mailto:admin@beat.org.uk)

Bradford Community Environmental Project (BCEP)

[www.bcep.org.uk](http://www.bcep.org.uk)

01274 223353

info@bcep.org.uk

### **Bradford Environmental Education Service (BEES)**

This is the environmental department of City of Bradford YMCA and they manage environmental sites, provide service to schools and run various projects for schools and the community. Listed below are some of the ways you could engage with BEES

- BEES run after school clubs which focus on environmental issues, wildlife and nature.
- BEES can run activities at events such as bird / bat box making, creating pop up herons and apple juicing.
- BEES can run environmental education sessions at the Urban Nature Reserve (based on the University Campus, Laisteridge Lane) and at the Bowling Community Orchard (BD4).
- BEES manage a number of sites on behalf of the council, but can also take on new projects to create wildlife habitats and support groups to develop a sustainable management plan for areas.
- BEES train up conservation volunteers that can help schools with environmental projects (such as construction of growing areas).

### **Bradford Environmental Action Trust (BEAT)**

BEAT is an awareness raising charity that works through a number of projects to highlight environmental issues. Here are some of the projects which schools can engage with, to connect pupils into the environment:-

- BEAT co-ordinate - Forest of Bradford, which is an initiative to increase woodland coverage throughout the district (Bradford is one of the areas with the poorest tree coverage in the country). Planting days can be organised with schools to raise awareness of this important issue and engage young people in a very practical activity.
- BEAT have set up Why Waste - a project where companies can register their waste products, so they can be recycled on future projects by schools or community groups.
- BEAT can offer funding advice for environmental ideas.

### **Bradford Community Environment Project (BCEP)**

BCEP was set up to engage communities with their environment and over the years has developed a number of programmes in response to local needs. Here are a number of ways schools can engage with what BCEP have to offer.

- BCEP run APE (Adventurous Play Experience). The scheme uses scrap material to facilitate play, self expression and outdoor pursuits. Sessions can be delivered in schools with young people up to the age of 18.

- B CEP run BOCS (Bradford Organics Composting Service) which offers a food waste recycling service, produces compost for landscaping and is developing green electricity and low level heat production.
- B CEP run Cycle Champions, who can deliver training sessions in school to encourage more people to cycle to school and get parents in their communities on their bikes.
- B CEP run Grow Organic which can deliver sessions on their own allotments or in the school grounds on healthy eating through organic growing.
- B CEP run Habitat Heroes with BEES, which is a schools programme to link the school grounds to the natural heritage of the area they inhabit.
- B CEP run Scrap Magic an arts and crafts provision store for people working with children on creative projects.
- B CEP run WASPS (Wild and Safe Play Spaces). This project explores local spaces through activities such as den building, small camp fires, treasure hunts, arts and crafts and mud and water play.

## EVENTS:



**Education Bradford**

### Launch Event

## Sustainable Schools Network – Emerging Practice in Bradford Schools

**Date:** 25 March 2009

**Time:** 5-7pm

**Location:** Room D2 Richmond Building, University of Bradford  
(a buffet will be provided in D3 Foyer area)

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**You are invited to a twilight event at the University of Bradford to launch a Guide to Emerging Sustainable Practice in Bradford Schools.**

The Ecoversity project in partnership with Bradford Metropolitan District Council and Education Bradford, has produced the guide which features 13 sustainable schools case studies. The aim is to facilitate dialogue between schools around the sustainable schools framework, share ideas and best practice. The guide is a working document, which can be added to by featuring other schools as the sustainable schools agenda grows.

**Come along and learn about the exciting developments happening across the district and share your own experiences with others.**

Places are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment by calling or emailing Rachel Pearson (Ecoversity Office – University of Bradford):

01274 236929

[r.a.j.pearson@bradford.ac.uk](mailto:r.a.j.pearson@bradford.ac.uk)

**During this event there will be a short presentation and discussion on the new sustainability centre which will offer educational activities and visits for schools to learn about Sustainable Development and citizenship.**

## Other events:

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

### Putting the Global back into Sustainable Schools

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2009

@ Cartwright Hall Art Gallery, Bradford 9

10.30am to 4pm

Do you want to:-

- ✘ know how to become a Sustainable School,
- ✘ explore the links between the Global Dimension & Sustainable Schools,
- ✘ discover our impact on the planet using the global foot printing activity,
- ✘ try out numerous curriculum linked activities?

This is a repeat of this very popular course which is for KS 1–4 PSHCE, Citizenship & Geography co-ordinators, teachers, teaching assistants, and students. All participants will receive free resources.

### How to Register:

A non refundable registration fee of £20.00 will be charged. The course is funded by the Yorkshire and Humber Global Schools Association.

Return your contact details with £20 registration fee (payable to Craven DEC) to:

Judy Rogers, YDMT, Old Post Office, Main Street, Clapham, LA2 8DP

01729 830 372

E-mail [JMR10@bigfoot.com](mailto:JMR10@bigfoot.com)

### FREE Eco Projects for Schools – ‘Turn Your Fat Into Fuel’.

The School of Engineering, Design and Technology at the University of Bradford are continuing to offer a limited number of \*FREE\* Eco themed projects to schools throughout 2009 in conjunction with the Royal Academy of Engineering. These projects entitled "Turn Your Fat to Fuel" will include workshops where students learn how to make biodiesel from cooking fat and then soap as a bi-product.

Please see programme outline downloads/flyers/eco\_workshop\_programme.doc at:

[www.eng.brad.ac.uk](http://www.eng.brad.ac.uk) (and click on 'events for schools') or contact Joanne Crowther [j.crowther@bradford.ac.uk](mailto:j.crowther@bradford.ac.uk) for further details and to discuss a visit to your school.

## NEXT ISSUE

May 2009