

Norfolk Environmental
Education Service

Norfolk Schools' Environment Awards 2002-03

**Celebrating
environmental and
sustainable
development projects
in Norfolk schools**

Norfolk County Council is once again holding Schools Environment Awards to recognise projects that not only bring direct environmental benefits, but help young people understand that there are ways of reducing the impact of human activity on a fragile world. There are six categories and an overall winner, and you could win up to £750 for your school.



"Northgate High School tries hard to be environmentally aware and our pupils strive to minimise our impact on the environment. Winning this award has given the students a boost. It's great that their efforts have been recognised by the County. Currently we are working towards our third Eco-Schools Award."
**Mrs Bridget Fielden,
Northgate High School,
Dereham, overall winner 2001.**

Judging is not until September 2003, so you have plenty of time to prepare, but you must register your school's interest by the end of December 2002. The competition is open to all County Council-maintained schools, large or small. Last time the overall winner was Northgate High School, Dereham, but awards went to two First Schools, two Primaries and a Middle School.



Norfolk County Council

The Norfolk Schools' Environment Awards are kindly supported by
WREN, NEWS, French Kier Anglia, AWG, Ben Burgess Garden Equipment,
EcoTech, ESPO, NCS, NPS and Bernard Matthews plc.

Award Categories ...and things to think about

Grounds and Biodiversity

What are you doing in your school grounds? Have you grown vegetables? Are you creating and maintaining an area for wildlife that you can study? A sensory garden? Have you developed the curricular use of your grounds? Have you developed opportunities for active play? Or have you simply improved an eyesore?

Waste

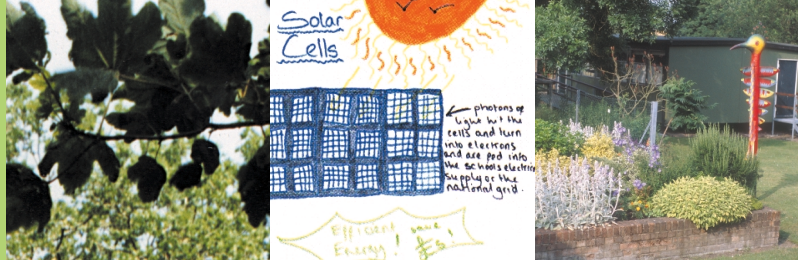
Have you looked at how much waste your school generates? What do you do with it? Thought about what you could do to create less? Have you worked with Schools' Waste Action Club (SWAC)?

Transport

How do your children journey to school? Do you have a walking or cycling 'bus'? Do you promote car share? Or have a school travel plan?

Water

Have you carried out a water audit? How could you use less water and save money? Have you looked at how water is vital to all life (plants, animals and humans), and (perhaps) linked this to climate and rainfall?



Energy/Buildings

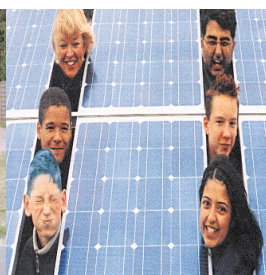
How much energy do you use? Could you find ways to reduce your bills? Done any projects on renewable energy? Have you looked at sustainable construction? At traditional building techniques or innovative design solutions? Have you discovered what's 'Right Up Your Street' (web pages on esinet showing how to use your local built environment as a teaching resource.)

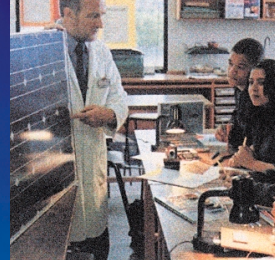
Global Perspectives/School Councils/Community Connections

Have you harnessed pupils' enthusiasm for environmental projects through the school council and/ or the citizenship curriculum? Have you learnt about how other people in the world live? Grow their food? What buildings they live in? Their climate? How does their way of life compare with yours? Do you have any links with schools in other countries? Or does any of your project work connect with the local community?

Remember: You don't have to start a new project!

Why not get a prize and credit for work you are already doing? Project still developing? No problem - you can submit that too, just make sure you can show that progress is being made.





PICTURE: RICHARD OSBOURNE

What your school will get out of it

- Prize money to further your project work, and a certificate recognising your contribution
- Support and advice from a network of environmental education partners throughout your project. Please call the Professional Development Centre and ask for Gill Seaton or Sue Falch-Lovesey, Manager, Environmental Education Service (tel: 01603 433276), or look up the awards website.

Your work could also be used or count towards

- Healthy Norfolk Schools Award
- Eco-Schools Awards
- The Great Yarmouth Environmental Awards 2003
- The North Norfolk Environment Awards 2003

Your project could

- Enhance the curriculum
- Use an environmental theme to encourage creativity and thinking skills
- Promote school democracy, active citizenship and pupil participation
- Help develop links with your local community, and
- Strengthen relationships between pupils, governors and local businesses

What winning schools have done

Northgate High, Dereham (the last overall winners) found the Awards gave them the incentive to make their waste reduction and recycling schemes even more efficient. They spent their prize money on buying plants for classrooms and for the introduction of a 'Green Classroom' Award where each classroom will be assessed for its environmental impact.

Other winning schools have

- Created an outdoor classroom - planned with help from the school council
- Created innovative playground markings and murals
- Renovated an overgrown pond and incorporated a boardwalk to make it accessible
- Grown tree seedlings in pots from acorns and chestnuts
- Sown a wildflower area
- Established a woodpile and other micro habitats to be colonised by minibeasts
- Invested in garden tools for pupils and grown ups, and set up a gardening club
- Created features in the school grounds, for example by planting a native mixed hedge, a meadow or a herb border



There's more about winners' work on the website:
<http://staff.esinet.norfolk.gov.uk/en vawards/default.htm>

How to enter the 2002-3 Norfolk Schools' Environment Awards

1 Call Gill Seaton on 01603 433276 for a registration sheet and entry form, or download them from the website:
<http://staff.esinet.norfolk.gov.uk/envaward/default.htm>

2 Register your school's interest by the end of December 2002

3 Please submit your full application form by Friday 11 July 2003 with any supporting work you feel appropriate: photos, video footage, students work.

Both the registration sheet and your entry should be sent to:

**The Professional Development Centre,
Woodside Road,
NORWICH, NR7 9QL
marked for the attention of
Sue Falch-Lovesey,
Manager,
Environmental Education Service**

Projects will be visited in the first two weeks of September 2003, and an award ceremony will be held in December 2003 at either the school chosen as the overall winner, or at EcoTech.

Prizes and sponsors



Overall winner £500



Best Waste project £250



**Best Grounds/Biodiversity project £125
and a trip to Ecotech with free transport**



**Best Global Perspective/
Community project £250**



Best Transport project £250



Best Water project £250



Best Energy/Buildings project £250



Sponsorship in kind



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