

Think global - act local global dimension to waste education

Schools' Exchange

If you have a partner school in another country join up with them via e-mail to discuss some issues of waste. Each school can create a display explaining the information they have received from their partner school.

Here are some possible questions about the 3Rs to start the exchange:

Reduce

Describe a typical school lunch and all waste packaging that it creates. Find out what your partners are eating for their lunch and what kind of wrapping is used. Compare. Can both schools suggest some ways to reduce your lunch packaging? Can you learn from each other?

Reuse

Choose an item of junk and suggest ideas of how it could be reused. Ask the partner school to do the same with a different material.

Recycle

If you recycle at your school explain which materials can be recycled. What does recycling mean? Try to explain who collects your school's recycling and where it goes? Does your partner school recycle any materials? How do they do it?

Make your voice heard! Write letters to Johannesburg

Write to: Rt. Hon Claire Short MP, Secretary for International Development, The House of Commons, London SW1 A4 or your local MP. Find your MP on <http://www.parliament.uk>

Set up a school council

One of the Agenda 21 issues is Integrated Decision Making. By setting up a school council the students are able to play an important role in the decision making process of the school and each class is equally represented.

Contact: Schools Council UK
Tel: 020 8349 2459

Web: www.schoolcouncils.org

Organise a mini Earth Summit in your school

① Planning session with staff

If possible invite the chair of governors to the initial meeting. The governors may be interested in attending the final presentations and be able to help implement actions.

Try to include all staff. Set aside one lesson to devote to education on the Earth Summit. Each class can thought shower ideas of how to improve their school environment by linking into Agenda 21 issues.

② Planning Session with students

Example:

Waste

Resources:

Typical school dustbin

Scrap paper pencils for drafting

White/black board for planning

Goals:

Think about what materials are thrown away in the school bin

Discuss each item and think of ways of reducing, reusing or recycling it

Thought Shower the best ideas from the class and create a short presentation for the rest of the school.

③ Choose one day to hold the Earth Summit

Invite parents and governors to it and let each class present their topic during an assembly. The rest of the students should have an opportunity to ask questions to the students and teacher of that class.

④ Type up the presentations and display on a notice board.

⑤ Follow up

Prioritise which actions can be implemented in the school and create an action plan. This responsibility can be met by the School Council or the Eco Club.

contents

1 Editorial

2-3 Citizenship

4-5 Earth Summit

6-7 Focus on regions

8 Teachers' Resource



Education has an important role in helping to achieve sustainable development. This edition of SWACnews looks at how schools are working with SWAC to take action towards sustainable waste management by linking into citizenship education and the forthcoming World Summit.

Lisa Cockerton,
Waste Watch Education Manager



SWACnews

SWAC is an environmental education programme linking practical waste management with the national curriculum

EDUCATION AND THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (WSSD)

26 August to 4 September 2002, Johannesburg, South Africa

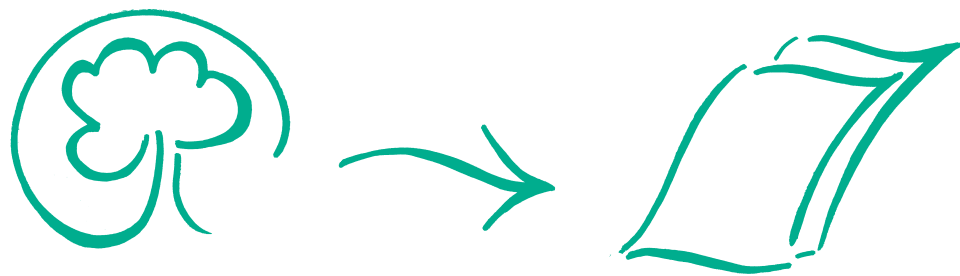
World leaders will be meeting in Johannesburg this Autumn for the second World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD). The first Summit was held in Rio de Janeiro back in 1992, and ten years on world leaders will assess the progress. Patterns of consumption and management of natural resources are two of the key issues to be discussed. Currently 20% of the world's population uses 80% of its resources, and at levels which can not be maintained into the future.

Since the Rio Summit in '92 household waste in the UK has risen by 18%. While rapid development of new technology makes a paperless office feasible, consumption of paper in the UK between 1992 and 2000 rose by 34%. By comparison the recycling rate only rose by 8.5% in the last ten years. This is unsustainable.

The key issue is to ensure that renewable resources are used in ways that cause minimum damage to the environment and lead to fairer levels of consumption across the world - now and in the future. That means a reduction in consumption levels for developed nations and an increase in reuse and recycling.

This is a global issue and it needs international co-operation and agreements to be initiated at the Johannesburg summit. We can all help to achieve more sustainable consumption and resource use. On page 8 we suggest activities your school can do to link to the world summit discussions and join the debate. Throughout the newsletter there are examples on how schools in SWAC areas are already making a difference.





THREE WORDS ...IS ALL IT TAKES

Key stage 2 students throughout North Yorkshire primary schools have recently been urged to design a poster to encourage more people to reduce, reuse and recycle. The competition ran last term with many schools taking part. There were 20 finalists who were all invited to receive their prizes at County Hall in May.

County councillors John Fort and Peter Sowray selected the winning poster by James Neale, from Boroughbridge Primary. He won a wind up radio and £250 for his school for his simple but important message: "Three words, reduce, reuse, recycle is all it takes." The message is being put on North Yorkshire County Council's website and will be reproduced and used on promotional material.

The competition was run by North Yorkshire County Council, and Schools Waste Action Club. 'It was good to see so many excellent posters that not only illustrated the problems and solutions of waste, but which reflected the children's understanding in a wider environmental context' commented Katie Harvey, SWAC Education Officer.



Award winning poster

CITIZENSHIP IN ACTION AT SPROWSTON HIGH SCHOOL

Citizenship has made Sprowston's school council far more dynamic. The council now has representatives from every key stage, governors, site and teaching staff. This new improved school council is leading an initiative to tackle the school's waste problems.

It all began with one wet day earlier this term - with everyone staying inside - all the schools litter was concentrated indoors and was an overwhelming and visible problem. The school council decided action must be taken. Their first step was to employ shock tactics by not clearing up litter around the school for 36 hours. Tutor sessions were used for a school brainstorm to come up with solutions. Each class submitted a list of ways to reduce the school's litter problem, with a prize for the winning class.



Ideas included:

- A reduction in prices in the school canteen to encourage more children to have more school dinners and fewer packed lunches
- Better locations for litter bins
- A waste awareness week
- An army of goats!

The school council will now be looking beyond litter to investigate wider waste issues and has planned a waste awareness week in Autumn. Year 8 will also be working on a waste project. It is hoped that these activities will create a more positive relationships with the surrounding community.

Reduce

Reuse

Recycle

POWER TO THE STUDENTS! HOW SWAC CAN HELP TEACHERS WITH CITIZENSHIP

A waste reduction project is a great way to involve your students in decision making and to allow them to take responsibility for organising a project within the school.

Schools Waste Action Club (SWAC) can help your students learn about the issues surrounding waste management. We can discuss some ideas on how to reduce, reuse, and recycle. We encourage kids to think of their own ideas and putting these into action. A waste audit provides a starting point to their work, with a repeat audit the following term showing the level of waste reduction achieved.

Students can work on projects to raise awareness within school or in their local community. With the support of staff and your local SWAC Education Officer they can work on ways to make a difference as individuals. Projects can range from organising a better scrap paper tray system, compost and paper collection, to setting up a waste free tuck shop at break time.

Schools now need to inform their students about many issues that have an effect on society and sustainable development of your school is one of them. It is estimated that an effective action plan can save up to £300 on waste disposal costs each year! There is also the additional benefit of using precious resources more efficiently. For more information on how you can make these savings and on how to join SWAC, call your local Education Officer.

Details can be found on page 6-7

A GOOD EXAMPLE: CITIZENSHIP AT MAYPLACE



Mayplace waste game

Mayplace School in Bexley celebrated School Grounds Week with SWAC this term. Students have already shown dedication to the school environment with a wormery to recycle fruit scraps and an award winning wildlife garden.

By teaming up for the giant waste game and turning scrap paper into beautiful recycled designs, students learnt how to work responsibly and effectively together to enhance their school community.

SUMMIT OF THE WASTE MOUNTAIN IN BEXLEY

All secondary schools in Bexley will be invited to take part in the SWAC Earth Summit this Autumn. Delegates from each school will conduct research based around waste issues in their chosen country and the key elements of Agenda 21. Students will participate in role-plays and discussion groups, culminating in the formulation of environmental action plans.

The SWAC Earth Summit will encourage students to interact with each other and develop local and international relations. By writing action plans for their school, students should see significant improvements to their school environment.

If you want to get involved, please contact Sarah Evans.

NEW SWAC LINCOLNSHIRE EDUCATION RESOURCE

In partnership with the Diocese and the Freiston Centre for Environmental Education, SWAC Lincolnshire has been involved in the production of an environmental education resource focusing on Rio +10 - The World Summit on Sustainable Development. This summit will be concerned with an agenda of environmental issues including waste minimisation.

Each day in school we throw things into the bin without thinking about. The new education resource provides ways to practically introduce the environment into the curriculum. With its theme "Reflections", this pack enables students and teachers to reflect on their everyday actions and make positive changes to look after our environment. Many teachers who attended a training day for the launch of the "Reflections" pack made a pledge to make a difference in their school. These pledges will be sent back to the school in six months time and we hope that significant changes will have been made.



NEW SWAC NOTTINGHAM LAUNCHED

SWAC Nottingham was launched on 28 May. Councillors, teachers and waste management staff were treated to an enthusiastic morning of talks and plays by three schools that are part of the SWAC project. The morning was well received and everyone enjoyed the friendly atmosphere. SWAC Nottinghamshire has started in January and over 40 schools have already expressed an interest and want to be part of it.



EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Arguably the most significant thing to come out of the summit was Agenda 21 – goals to help create a more sustainable future in the 21st century.

In December 2001 the UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan issued a report which assessed progress towards Agenda 21. It will form the basis of discussions at the Johannesburg Summit. The report found that progress towards the goals established at Rio has been slower than anticipated. One of the four areas identified, as particularly lacking action was "unsustainable patterns of consumption and production". The report promoted the need for practical actions and initiatives that focus on change in.

Education has an important role in helping to promote action to achieve sustainable development. Since the Rio Earth Summit in '92, much work has been done in the UK to implement Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). One of the aims of Curriculum 2000 is to secure student's commitment to sustainable development, and it is now compulsory in Geography, Science, Design & Technology and Citizenship. The themes being discussed at the

Earth Summit, and those identified within your Local Agenda 21 plan, can provide a focus for ESD:

- Making globalisation work
- Eradicating poverty and improving livelihoods
- Changing patterns of unsustainable consumption & production
- Promoting health
- Providing access to energy and increasing energy efficiency
- Improving management of ecosystems and biodiversity
- Improving management and use of freshwater
- Financial resources for sustainable development
- Sustainable development for Africa
- Strengthening International governance of sustainable development

"Our biggest challenge in this new century is to take an idea that seems abstract - sustainable development - and turn it into a reality for all the world's people."

Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations, March 2001

EARTH SUMMIT ON THE WEB

Guidance for schools on ESD has been produced by QCA and can be found at www.nc.uk.net/esd

The Council for Environmental Education (CEE) www.cee.org.uk and Development Education Association (DEA) can also provide useful contacts, and the www.wssd-education.org.uk website provides more information about

education and the World Summit.

For more information on the Johannesburg Summit, visit the official website www.johannesburgsummit.org and www.earthsummit2002.org

Rescue Mission Planet Earth – a children's version of Agenda 21, created by Peace Child in 1993. Young people from across

the world are now involved in writing Rescue Mission 2002. This will explain all the major UN Documents, conferences and ideas since the Rio Earth Summit, in a fun and interesting way. To find out more look on www.peacechild.org/rescue2002

BEXLEY

Sarah Evans
c/o LB Bexley
Waste Management Dept
Crayford Town Hall
Crayford Road
Crayford DA1 4ER
Tel: 020 8303 7777 Ext 3605
sarah@wastewatch.org.uk

● FREE visit for teachers on 9 July to a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and nature reserve! Sites provide excellent opportunities for curriculum based field studies. Attendees will receive a resource pack, lunch and travel to the event.

● Danson Show 6 - 7 July. Make your own recycled paper and learn how we deal with waste in Bexley! Admission is FREE!



CHESHIRE

Sally Starborg
Martin Allman
Local Education Advisory Service
The Kingsley Centre
Middle Lane
Kingsley, Frodsham
Cheshire WA6 6TZ
Tel: 01928 788746
sally@wastewatch.org.uk
martin@wastewatch.org.uk



Waste Watch
96 Tooley Street
London SE1 2TH
<http://wastewatch.org.uk>
Registered charity no. 1005417,
registered company limited by
guarantee no. 2649156, ENTRUST
registration no. 871023.

ESSEX

Vanessa Ollier and
Emma Clements
c/o Essex County Council
Waste and Capital Projects
Environmental Services Directorate,
County Hall
Chelmsford CM1 1QH
Tel: 01245 437169
vanessa@wastewatch.org.uk
emmac@wastewatch.org.uk

● FREE teacher training course in Chelmsford on 15 October on "How to justify teaching rubbish within the national curriculum". Waste Watch will provide supply cover for the first twenty places.

● Discover how your rubbish is sorted before being sent for recycling. Let SWAC organise a school visit to a local landfill site or MRF. Save yourself the effort of a pre-visit and preparation of risk assessments. We also pay £50 towards the cost of your transport!



Southend-on-Sea Borough Council



Norfolk's Harford Manor Special School recycle 3.5 Tonnes

LINCOLNSHIRE

Emma Appleton
The Freiston Environmental Education Centre
Haltoft End
Freiston
Boston
Lincolnshire PE22 0NX
Tel: 01205 761362
emmaa@wastewatch.org.uk

● Summit that focuses on waste minimisation. Secondary schools are invited to prepare a presentation of a particular aspect of waste minimisation. SWAC will provide support and resources for organising the presentation. Schools can attend workshops facilitated by local and national experts. The pupils will formally deliver and debate their presentations. The events will be recorded by a group of media students to create a website for the day.

LINCOLNSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY



The City of Lincoln Council, Boston Borough Council, North Kesteven District Council, South Kesteven District Council, West Lindsey District Council, East Lindsey District Council, and South Holland District Council

NORFOLK

Martina Schneider
c/o County Science and Technology Centre
Turner Road
Norwich
Norfolk NR2 4HB
Tel: 01603 620337
martina@wastewatch.org.uk

● SWAC has 180 bags of soil improver to give to schools in Norfolk, provided by Anglia in Bloom, Cleanaway, and Anglian Water Environmental Partnerships.

● Northgate High will hold an Environment Day on 5 July with SWAC activities for year 7.

● A new printer and toner recycling scheme is starting in the county! Cartridge World will pay schools directly, or give money raised to nominated charities. They collect from schools and provide collection boxes. For more information call: 07985 621822.
litterbin@flyingegg.co.uk or visit
www.flyingeggsschools.co.uk



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY



Norfolk County Council, Broadland District Council, Breckland District Council, Great Yarmouth Borough Council, Kings Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council, North Norfolk District Council, South Norfolk Council

NORTH YORKSHIRE

Katie Wright and
Kay Whitfield
10 South Parade
Northallerton
North Yorkshire DL7 8SE
Tel: 01609 761818
katie@wastewatch.org.uk &
kay@wastewatch.org.uk



Vorventure



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Paul Smith
c/o Nottinghamshire County Council
Environment Dept (Waste Management)
Trent Bridge House
Fox Road
Nottingham
Nottinghamshire NG2 6BJ
Tel: 0115 9772467
paul@wastewatch.org.uk



Ashfield District Council, Bassetlaw District Council, Broxtowe Borough Council, Gedling Borough Council, Mansfield District Council, Newark & Sherwood District Council, Rushcliffe Borough Council

what's new

Things happening - SWAC Cheshire

Sally Starborg, SWAC Primary Education Officer, has now received interest from 50 primary schools within the county and has started working with many of them to produce waste reduction action plans.

In June, Martin Allman started as the Secondary Education Officer. He will look at new ways SWAC can work with secondary schools. To begin with, Martin will focus on identifying links between

waste education and NVOs, Citizenship, business enterprise schemes and other secondary initiatives.

If you would like to help Martin develop secondary projects please contact him on 01928 788746.