

# Communications & Education

## *Eco Schools Programme – Myton School, Warwick ( A Specialist Science College)*

### *Overview*

**Objective:** To change from a school that just carries out projects into a true 'Eco-School' where every student knows and is proud of their environmental achievements, and wants to take the school forward in this way.

**Main Partners:** **Myton School**, Warwickshire County Council, Warwickshire Energy Efficiency Advice Centre (WEEAC), RSPB, Teachers TV, Severn Trent Water, The Tree Council, Collect 4 Schools, SITA, Garden Organic.

**Audience:** Students, Teachers, Governors and Parents.

**Rationale:** To reduce environmental impacts and increase environmental protection in schools and also to aid delivery of WCC County Strategies such as: Climate Change, Waste Minimisation, Green Travel & Transport and Sustainable Procurement Strategies.

**Web Link:** [www.mytonschool.co.uk/learningeco-schools](http://www.mytonschool.co.uk/learningeco-schools)

## **Myton School Projects**

### *Addressing wasted energy*

A whole school energy audit was carried out which included eight weeks data collection. As a result of this an energy report was produced for the school. Further actions from the report will be implemented in the coming school year.



In addition, photovoltaic (solar) panels are to be used in the next phase of the development on south facing roofs.

### *Reducing water use and waste*

Health Education lessons on water savings are carried out, and water saving devices have been installed into cisterns. There is also a programme to identify and rectify any leaks as and when they occur.

## *Improving recycling*

The school is hoping to purchase a baling machine to reduce transport, skip and landfill costs. The baler will crush plastic, paper and card for recycling. Compost bins were established two years ago and recycling is in place.

## *Improving the diet of pupils at school*

The school's catering department has received the healthy schools award for transforming school meals. They now provide balanced healthy meals for all students.

Drinking water and the use of a water bottle is encouraged throughout the school rather than students bringing in cans and bottles of soft drinks.



## *Raising awareness of sustainability*

This is covered through Curriculum work in Geography and Science, and by the establishment of an organic garden. Fundraising by the Eco Schools group has also enabled a greenhouse and a shed to be purchased.

Assemblies are regularly held at Myton about being an Eco School. These are then followed up in class by pupils planning games and projects based on sustainability and 'Green Living'.

## *Making the environment part of compulsory education*

The school has created a Personal Social Health Education (PSHE) activity for years 7,8,9 and 10. They will also be starting an Environmental GCSE next year.

## *Biodiversity and school grounds*

Funding has been received from the Tree Council. Two hundred and fifty trees including a new woodland of over 175 different native varieties has now been planted.

An RSPB 'Birdwatch' camera has been set up in the school grounds to watch and monitor wildlife.

## *Involving students in the wider community and world issues*

The school has carried out a 'Walk for Wildlife' which they will now carry out each year.

Funding has been raised and sent to a school in Africa, and in addition they have 'sponsored' a penguin in a reserve. A Conservation trip to Belize was also carried out as well as an environmental expedition to Uganda.

The school raised £5,000, £3,000 of which was sent to WWF and the remainder split between the African Children and penguin project.

### *Measure of success*

The success of the programme can be demonstrated at Myton by the appointment of an Environmental Co-ordinator (teacher) who is paid an additional salary increment for this position.

It can also be demonstrated by the full involvement and participation of staff and others at the school such as the Premises Manager, Governors and Senior Staff, and Head Teacher. Furthermore members of the local community close to the school are involved in some way or other. In addition the cable channel Teachers TV visited the school and filmed a teacher from Birmingham learning about Myton's achievements which was subsequently broadcast in May 2007.

The commitment of the Environmental Co-ordinator is an important element in the school's success, as is the intention of the school to make the environment a whole school priority in the near future. This will not only attract funding to continue similar projects but also displays a firm commitment to improve the school in terms of reducing running costs through energy & waste conservation. The future of Eco-Schools at Myton is very positive indeed.