



# Energy Champions

## Close Contest in the Battle to become Energy Champions

Cleeve School were victorious in the Inter-school YEP! (Young Energy People!) Competition held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009 at the University of Gloucestershire. Teams from six secondary schools in Gloucestershire battled it out to become YEP! Champions in a challenging "game show" style competition covering global energy issues, alternative energy sources and energy efficiency.

Severn Vale School and Stroud High School took an early lead but were overtaken mid way through the competition. Cleeve School and Farmor's School were the leading schools at the end of round 6 and went head to head in the final "on the Buzzer" round. Cleeve School emerged as the winners with only one point separating the top two teams. Ben Curley, Y10 Team Member from Cleeve School said: "We were all extremely pleased that we won as we started off at the bottom of the score board. The final round was really exhilarating as it was so close"



Kaye Welfare, Assistant Director at SWEA said: "The event was a real success; it highlighted how important it is for schools including teachers and students to learn about and take responsibility for energy use within their community. I was really impressed by the high level of motivation and understanding of energy issues of all those involved with the project. I hope for many of them this may be the start of an interest or even a career in a field that can help shape our future energy."

Julie Parsons, YEP! Project Co-ordinator at Cleeve School said "It was incredibly impressive to see how much the students have learnt, and indeed myself, about sustainability issues. I was also incredibly proud of the Cleeve School students, their hard work this year has been rewarded with being able to take part in such a fantastic event - and winning! They returned to School as heroes yesterday, getting pats on the back from Teachers and the Senior Management Team."

The YEP! competition involved rounds such as "A Question of Source!" based on the BBC Question of Sport numberboard, an Energy & Environmental Jobs round based on the National Lottery Wonderwall game and a "Hot or Not?" observation round where students identify opportunities to make energy savings.

Duncan Jordan, Group Director for Environment at Gloucestershire County Council presented the prizes to the winning team. The school were awarded an S Cube which is an innovative sustainable energy teaching tool for the school and £20 of cinema vouchers for each team member. The competition was run by Severn Wye Energy Agency with the assistance of the RCE Severn Regional Centre for Sustainability and attended by students from the partner schools, Gloucestershire County Council and bodies such as the Interclimate Network.

Students from the six schools have been working on the YEP! Project since September 2008. The students have conducted energy surveys in their schools, written energy reports, implemented policies and launched campaigns to reduce the energy consumption of their school. Many of these students have also applied this understanding to local workplaces. Now the students are armed with a detailed understanding of energy issues and practical ideas for reducing energy consumption; their skills were put to the test in the project finale competition.

