

Young Energy People! - YEP!

January 2011

Newsletter No 6



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Welcome to the 6th edition of Severn Wye Energy Agency's Young Energy People project newsletter! This month we celebrate our 2010 successes, find out how some of our school energy management teams are progressing with their energy awareness campaigns, and take a look at what is to come in 2011.

Young Energy People Wins Regional Footprint Award!

Each year National Energy Action in conjunction with British Gas aims to congratulate excellence by organisations working to tackle fuel poverty and reduce carbon emissions. Severn Wye Energy Agency was one of nine regional organizations to win a £2000 award as a result of the successful implementation of the Young Energy People project.

"The award is a fantastic statement for the hard work of SWEA's Education team and the schools, teachers and students involved and we are delighted to use this opportunity to promote and extend the project into other regions of the UK. Thank you also to Gloucestershire County Council for their support so far!"

Rachel Close (Head of Education and Training, SWEA)



Campaning for Warm Homes

Sponsors of the NEA
and British Gas
Footprint Award
scheme 2010-11

Solar Gains for YEP! Schools

Congratulations to Winchcombe and Tewkesbury School who recently won solar PV panels worth up to £40,000 through the British Gas Generation Green Competition! The Generation Green programme is designed to empower teachers, schools and their local communities to tackle climate change through greener behaviour. As a result of the School Energy Management Teams' (SEMTs) efforts to reduce energy consumption and raise energy awareness throughout their local community British Gas awarded the schools with a free solar PV panel that will be installed later this academic year. Each school will now be able to generate its own free, green electricity, cutting as much as 20% of its annual electricity bill. In addition the schools will also receive a British Gas smart meter, offering real time information so the students can see the difference their solar panels are making.

This is a FANTASTIC result - well done to all involved!

For more information about The Generation Green Programme please visit: www.generationgreen.co.uk.



**CELEBRATION
ISSUE!!!**

We are on the Web!

www.swea.co.uk/proj_YEPIndex



CHOOSE GREEN.

- ✓ Could you turn off a radiator rather than open a window?
- ✓ Did you turn out the lights when you left the classroom?
- ✓ Could you use natural light rather than an electric one?
- ✓ Do you need your computer monitor to be on?
- ✓ Have you shut down your computer at the end of the day?
- ✓ Could you recycle your paper in the bin provided?
- ✓ Could you walk, cycle, car share or take a bus to and from school?

CHOSEN HILL SCHOOL Eco Code.

The Chosen Hill Eco Code (above) designed by the SEMT has been displayed throughout the school to encourage staff & students to adopt energy efficient behaviours.

In each issue we bring you up to date with what our School Energy Management Teams have been doing to raise the energy awareness in their school. This month we feature Chosen Hill School, Churchdown, The Crypt School, Gloucester and Sir William Romney's School, Tetbury.

Chosen Hill School - SEMT Success!

Since completing their action plan back in the summer term of 2010, Chosen Hill SEMT have gone from strength to strength with their campaign to raise energy awareness amongst staff and students.

With a **FANTASTIC 5.5%** reduction in electricity consumption in their main school building between January and October 2010 compared January to October 2009 it is clear that the team are having a positive impact. Below, Jack Mortimer, Project Manager for Chosen Hill SEMT, explains what his team have been doing to put them well on their way to achieving their goal of reducing the school's annual energy consumption by 5% in the first year.

And with plans to hold an energy awareness day in April 2011 we are in no doubt that for this team the only way is up!

EXTRACT FROM THE CHOSEN HILL YEP! NEWSLETTER

Chosen Hill School has made a big leap when it comes to raising the energy awareness of the school. We have started a new section of the YEP! Team called the "Energy Spies." This is where year seven students look out for teachers committing "energy crimes" e.g. leaving lights on or computer this has made the teachers more aware - consequently saving more energy. The team have also done two assemblies which were a fantastic success meaning we have recruited loads of energy spies. This is one of our highlights of the term "Well done team!!!" One of our main goals is to dramatically raise awareness in the school we have been very successful at this as we have achieved a great increase in green awareness using our ECO code. Nearer the start of the term we had meeting with staff and governors they have all agreed to help us, with teachers turning of appliances and the governors backing us and our decisions.

Article by Jack Mortimer (Project Manager, Chosen Hill SEMT)

Once a term the SEMT produce a YEP! newsletter to inform the school community of their latest activities and developments.



Diary of an Energy Spy

By George Holmes, Yr 7 student at The Crypt School.

'I first found out about the Yep! Project in an assembly. The students who were presenting told us about the organisation and told us what their aim was to do. They were asking for people to be "Energy Spies" - a job which involved volunteers going around the school out of lesson time and peering into the classrooms, looking for any lights that were on when they could be off and checking if any projectors and any other sources of energy and electricity.

I was interested about this organisation at once and wanted to volunteer for it. A few weeks after applying, I attended the meeting about what my job was. I received some cards (shown left) to put on teacher's desks if they were caught and given certain rooms for me to look in, in my case, D.T. At the end of every week, I have to inform the organiser of the group and let him know how many cards I had gave out in that past week. Gradually, they are added up and we then can see which teacher is wasting the most energy.

I am glad that I applied to do this as I always want to reduce use of energy and stop Global Warming. The organisation is great and is a very good opportunity to be part of'

Energy Spies on the lookout at the Crypt

At the Crypt School, the SEMT have been busy launching their version of the energy spies campaign to encourage departments to become more energy aware. Having developed a calling card system Year 7 energy spies carry out weekly energy checks and leave calling cards to explain to staff how they can improve their energy performance and avoid being caught out next time. The SEMT will analyze the first set of results this month using a tool developed by the IT team to see which departments are the most energy aware, and to name and shame the worst offenders!



Calling cards left by energy spies (above) give advice to staff on to make their room more energy efficient and avoid being caught out next time!

Progress Update: Sir William Romney's School

In September 2010 Sir William Romney's School replaced Brockworth Enterprise College to become the 15th school to take part in YEP! 2010. Despite the late start a team of 12 students in years 8, 9 and 10 were recruited by SWEA staff to form a strong school energy management team and have since been trained in energy management.

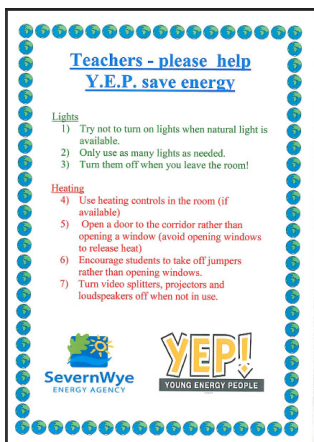
The team carried out a technical energy survey of the of the main school building which has highlighted a number of ways to improve the energy efficiency of the school. The SEMT noted that a number of improvements could be made at no cost and Jake Scarlett (Energy Team Manager), and Caleb Powell (Energy Advisor) wasted no time in delivering a presentation and producing a poster (shown on p.4) for school staff to explain how they can support the SEMT in their mission to reduce the schools carbon emissions through no cost measures. These include making more use of natural

light, turning projectors and whiteboards off standby when not in use, and where possible adjusting thermostatic radiator valves to control individual room temperatures rather than simply opening the windows.

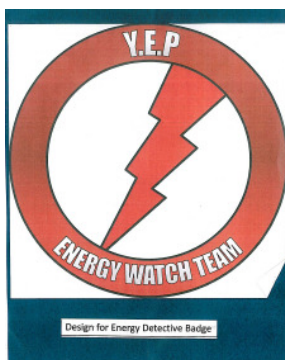
Over the next few weeks, the team will be working with SWEA staff to present their findings from the school energy survey to the Senior Leadership Team and School Governors in a bid to drum up support for developing and launching an energy awareness campaign.

We are on the Web!

www.swea.co.uk/proj_YEPIndex



Poster designer by Sir William Romney's SEMT to encourage staff to turn down and switch off.



Badge worn by the Year 7 Energy Detectives at Tewkesbury School as part of SEMTs campaign to reduce carbon emissions.

Tewkesbury School Awarded 10:10 Green School of the Year

Tewkesbury SEMT have double reason to celebrate having also being awarded Green Secondary School of the Year at the Gloucestershire 10:10 awards in 2010 as a result of their continuous efforts to reduce their schools carbon emissions by 10% during 2010. The team has two students dedicated to monitoring electricity and gas consumption within the school, a team of Year 7 students known as the 'Energy Detectives' who regularly 'spy' on each department within to encourage staff and students to think about their energy use and adopt more energy efficient behaviours such as turning off lights, projectors and PC monitors when leaving a room. In addition the SEMT successfully bid for home energy monitors to be placed in the school library for students to borrow to take home to make families more aware of their energy use and how it can be reduced.

"This is a well- deserved award and is testament to the hard work and dedication shown by staff and students in working to reduce the carbon footprint of the school."

Mark Stead (Project Manager Education, SWEA)

YEP in 2011

As we move into 2011 the next phase of the YEP! project is underway thanks to funding from Gloucestershire County Council. We would like to welcome the following schools who have committed to taking part in YEP! 2011:

- Balcarras School, Cheltenham
- High School For Girls, Gloucester
- Chipping Campden School, Chipping Campden
- Sir Thomas Rich's School, Gloucester
- Dene Magna School, Mitcheldean
- Cirencester Deer Park, Cirencester
- Barnwood Pak Arts College, Gloucester
- St Peter's Roman Catholic High School, Gloucester

Over the next few months, students from these schools will be recruited and trained by SWEA staff in energy management. They will, carry out a technical school energy survey and present their findings to Senior Leadership teams and School Governors. The students will also have the opportunity to take part in a number of inter-school sharing events providing them with opportunities to share their experiences and formulate an action plan to engage their school community in energy awareness.

Severn Wye Energy Agency would like to thank Gloucestershire County Council and all of the students and staff involved in YEP for their hard work and commitment to the project in working towards a low carbon future. We wish you all a very Happy New Year!

For further information about YEP! please visit our website or contact the SWEA Education Team on: 01452 835 060.