



You're Hired!

Young People from five secondary schools put themselves forward for an 'Apprentice' style grilling at an event at Shire Hall last week.

The students took part in an imagined scenario where they tried to convince a panel that they were the right candidates for the county council, which was recruiting managers to tackle energy efficiency issues. The students gave a 3-minute presentation about global issues and why they were the best team for the job. They took questions from the Panel and other teams before the audience voted to decide who would be Hired or Fired by holding up red or green voting cards.

The debate was organised as part of the Young Energy People! (YEP!) Project, which aims to increase secondary school students' knowledge about sustainable energy and open their eyes to sustainable energy related careers. The schools have been working with the Severn Wye Energy Agency to raise awareness of energy issues and how they can transfer their skills to a workplace and the wider environment.

The students impressed the Panel with their knowledge of the subject and had carried out a great deal of preparation and research into the issues. They handled tough questioning from fellow students and demonstrated their understanding and depth of knowledge about sustainability.

Julie Parsons from Cleeve School, said: "The students worked hard to prepare and research for the debate. They got a real taste of how decisions could be made in the council chambers and felt privileged to be allowed to use the facilities. They continued to talk about the event all the way home!"

Simon Ditchfield from Farmors School, said: "The students who took part are learning lots of useful skills that extend beyond the YEP! project such as public speaking, interview skills, team working and research skills. For Farmor's school the intention is that in the near future the YEP! project becomes part of a multi agency approach to environmental issues that affect our school and the wider community."

CLlr Julie Girling, Lead Cabinet member for Environment, said: "Young people have a big influence over their school environment and are very knowledgeable about sustainability issues. Hopefully, they gained more skills and a better understanding of how these issues affect not only their schools but the wider community, including businesses."



The Debate!

The debate took place in the Council Chamber at Shire Hall in Gloucester and was introduced by Peter Bungard, Chief Executive of Gloucestershire County Council.

Catrin Maby, Director of Severn Wye Energy Agency, said: "Living costs and getting a job are two of the biggest issues for young people when they leave school, while energy costs and carbon emissions are increasingly important in the workplace – Young Energy People! makes the link between these issues, and highlights the practical things we can all do about climate change".

The schools taking part were Rednock School in Dursley, Cleeve School, Tewkesbury School, Stroud High School for Girls and Farmors School in Fairford.