



EMAS

SPRING
2008

www.emasinschools.org.uk



Energy Saving

During the building of a new set of classrooms at Catherine Junior School, funds allocated for the reduction of energy usage were used to install light sensors and renew the school's solar thermal panel.

Children from the EMAS club said: "At Catherine Junior School we have been learning how to protect our environment.

We are all producing too much CO₂ [Carbon Dioxide] and the world can't cope.

At our school we are trying to help by saving electricity, gas and water. This summer we had solar panels fitted to our roof so we can make our own hot water, this means that our boiler uses less gas."



The solar thermal panel uses the sun's rays to heat water before it enters the boiler. So, it takes less time and energy for the boiler to heat the water!

Consequently, it will reduce fuel bills as well as providing the children with a valuable learning resource.

This will help the school meet EMAS targets of reducing energy usage by 1.43% *per annum*, as well as helping the nation as a whole meet government

targets of reducing CO₂ emissions by 60% by 2050.

If you would like information on how to get renewable energy installations at your school or how to engage your students with climate change related issues then contact your EMAS Education Officer.

A word from your team...

As some of you may be aware, the EMAS audits are upon us once again.

A number of schools have recently been through the audit process and have done extremely well.

Although it may be a daunting prospect, the audits offer the opportunity to review your schools progress so far, and ensure that you are doing everything you can to reduce your environmental impacts and protect our natural resources.

If you are selected for the next round of audits, your EMAS Officer will let you know in advance, and will offer plenty of help and support to guide you through the process.

EMAS in schools - Inspiring Schools
To Take Positive Environmental Actions



The Wonder of Woodlands

Woodlands are an inspiring place for everybody to learn about what the great outdoors has to offer, and to look at a different approach to interactive learning.

Woodlands are special places that can encourage and inspire children, families, adults, and communities in gaining memorable, positive experiences in the natural environment.

Visiting your local woodland has many benefits for emotional and physical well being. It also helps develop

respect, ownership and an understanding of our local and global environment.

Woodlands are a valuable educational resource for schools that can link into many parts of the curriculum.

Taking groups of children to woodland areas whilst delivering curriculum-based activities will encourage a child's confidence and sense of freedom.

It will also introduce them to different environments outside the school grounds and close to where they live.

With many woodlands being located in and around Leicester, they can be easy to reach by foot, cycle or public transport.

Together with the National Forest we have been able to offer a number of free trips to local woods.

Look out for this again next year!

Find out where your nearest woodland is by visiting:

www.woodland-trust.org.uk

www.forestry.gov.uk

www.nationalforest.org

Did you know?

The UK is one of the least wooded countries in Europe. Less than 12% is woodland compared with 46% of European countries.
(www.treeforall.org.uk)

About 700,000 hectares of new woodland have been created in the UK over the last 30 years.
(www.defra.gov.uk).

Schools' news

Willow Weaving

Gavin Cassidy, EMAS Coordinator at Moat Community College, received funding from VAL. The college has stormed ahead with developing their wildlife sensory area! Along with much support from pupils from years 7 to 11 and specialist willow weaver, Tom Hare, a fabulous willow dome and tunnel has been created. Congratulations to pupils in the EMAS club for their hard work in creating a pond, pathway and having brilliant ideas for how to further develop our wildlife habitats.



Grow Your Own Grub

Lots of EMAS schools are taking part in the City Councils 'Grow your Grub' competition. Children have been working hard designing a menu for a three course meal using ingredients they will grow themselves at school. They have all received an apple tree and pack of seeds to get them started. We look forward to tasting the results!

Ken Chamberlain Award

Marriott primary school have been successful in receiving funds from the Ken Chamberlain Trust to help with the development of an outdoor classroom in the school grounds. This educational resource will include a sensory garden, wildlife area and raised vegetable beds, along with a small copse area showing a range of canopies to attract a variety of wildlife.

Whole School Environment Week

In January Overdale Juniors had a whole week learning about the environment. Each year group's lessons for the week were based on a theme: Rubbish and Recycling, Renewable Energy, Climate Change and Food Miles. Activities included songs, films, making recycled paper and model wind turbines. Parents were invited to a showing of 'An Inconvenient Truth' with some positive solutions to climate change provided by Overdale's EMAS coordinator, a Green Party councillor and Groundwork's EMAS Officer.



Dates for your Diary

Free environmental training - Further details and dates TBC.

Between 10th & 20th June - Annual EMAS Celebration Event - Primary and secondary events to inspire and engage environmental enthusiasts. Further details TBC.

Useful Resources

Do you want to find out more about the wildlife around your school?

The RSPB's 'Wildsquare' project is a good place to start.

Visit: www.rspb.org.uk/wildsquare/index.asp to sign up, and you will receive resources and activity ideas to help you record and study the changes on your 'patch' throughout the year.

Find out which plant species are local by entering your schools postcode on the Natural History Museum website.

Visit: www.nhm.ac.uk/fff

Native plants will encourage local wildlife, and will be better suited to local conditions, so will need less maintenance than exotic species. Garden-worthy plants are also indicated.

Your Questions Answered....

Which paper is most environmentally friendly?

Help your school to buy recycled or, at least FSC (Forestry Stewardship Council) paper.

Nearly 80% of the world's old growth forests have been logged or severely degraded. 40% of the world's industrial logging goes into making paper. Producing recycled paper uses up to 70% less energy and far less water than virgin paper.

Paper produced in the UK or Europe is best, reducing pollution from transport and reducing pressure to clear forests to use land for tree plantations.

Beware of confusing claims: some say 'Recyclable' which just means it can be recycled not that it is made of recycled paper, some claim to be sustainable when they are actually produced on plantations in Brazil.

Recycled paper is now similarly priced to non-recycled - sometimes cheaper. Old problems with jamming do not occur now with recycled paper performing just as well as virgin paper.

Recycled exercise books for rough work, white Evolve and coloured REPEAT paper are available through ESPO. Look for the green 'recycled' symbol in the catalogue.

Top Tips - Potato Planning

Choose an early cropping potato seed. e.g. Desiree, Maris Piper, Anya.

- Place the seed potatoes in an open cardboard container (egg box is ideal).
- Make sure the potatoes are eyes (buds) up.
- Put in a cool, frost free place with moderate light.
- Leave for 4-6 weeks to "chit".
- When the buds are about 5cm long - plant them!

