



## Sunny Outlook at St Chad's

St Chad's Primary School was one of the first 100 schools nationwide to receive solar panels worth £20,000 as part of the Co-operative's 'Green Energy for Schools' scheme. Teacher, and Every Child Matters' manager, Mark Ratchford, was delighted to find out that St Chad's Primary was one of the 100 schools chosen after being nominated by a member of the Co-op.

"Not long after hearing we'd been chosen, we came into school one Monday to find that the panels had been installed over the weekend!" Mark was clearly impressed by the speed and efficiency of the scheme and the fact it created no disturbance for the school.

The panels will provide curriculum opportunities for the 230 pupils of the school. Year 4 will be studying them in science this year to monitor the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> saved, and a lot more integration into the curriculum is planned.

Liz Lee, Healthy Schools and Eco Schools coordinator, is thrilled with the solar panels. She explained that they have given a real boost to St Chad's Primary on it's way to achieving silver Eco Schools status, which they hope to achieve by Christmas.



The school is keen to become more sustainable and welcome the Co-op's additional supporting activities. Funding has been made available for an energy themed visit from Twisting Yarn theatre company in November. This will be for years 4, 5 and 6 and will consist of a performance called 'The Crow Scarers' for which pupils are making scarecrows out of recycled materials. The performance focuses on sustainability and will be followed by two workshops which will look at energy use in the past and in the future.

"I think the Co-op should give every school solar panels so they can all be like St Chad's" said Rebecca Barker, an enthusiastic member of the Eco Team. Fortunately, the Co-operative are investing a further £1million in providing solar panels for an additional 100 schools. Schools must be nominated by a member of the Co-op

by November 5th 2008 by completing an application form (found on-line at the address below). To be in with the best chance of success, the application should have the support of the school and of your local Co-op branch/store manager. It requires specific information from the school, including building plans and a digital photograph of the school roof. The headteacher, or delegated contact, of the nominated school will be informed of progress by the Co-op throughout the process.

To see how the solar panels have brightened up St Chad's on the Co-operative's 'Green Energy for Schools' short film and to find out more, visit:

[www.co-operative.coop/ourcampaigns/climatechange/greenenergyforschools/](http://www.co-operative.coop/ourcampaigns/climatechange/greenenergyforschools/)



**Editor's notes** With rising electricity, gas and water bills it seems schools really want to know how to save energy, and maybe the potential savings on CO<sub>2</sub> are a positive twist on a dire situation. This issue brings good news about solar energy, reminds us of the potential horror of the nuclear industry, inspires us to engage with young people and get to grips with water saving. Thanks to all the contributors: Louise Allen, Sandy Carter, Sarah Wilks, Nicola Thompson and Freda Eyden.

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## Sustainable Schools: How national recognition schemes can support your school's progress



The Department for Children, Schools and Families have recently published guidance on how national recognition schemes and awards link up and fall into the Sustainable Schools framework. This document is not a comprehensive list of all schemes and training beneficial to progressing as a sustainable school as it focuses only on the main schemes and awards. However, it does illustrate that many schemes crossover and can complement each other.

You can download a copy of the document at either

[www.eco-schools.org.uk/news/downloads/mapping\\_guidance.pdf](http://www.eco-schools.org.uk/news/downloads/mapping_guidance.pdf)

or

[www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools/support/support.cfm?id=54](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools/support/support.cfm?id=54)

## Calling all School Headteachers, Bursars and Business Managers in Greater Manchester...

**Did you know that from 1 October 2008, if your school has any buildings with a floor area of more than 1000 square meters, you will be required to display in a public place certificates containing information about the building's energy use?**

Called Display Energy Certificates, they are being introduced to raise public awareness of energy use and efficiency. The energy information on the certificate is based on records of gas, electricity and other meter readings. The Certificates also include an A to G energy rating for the building, similar to those that are required for fridges and many other new white goods. This rating provides an indication of how the building's energy use compares with benchmarks for similar buildings.

These Certificates can only be produced by accredited energy assessors, but you can assist in their production by collating meter readings, energy bills and other information on energy use, so that

your school's annual consumption can be established or verified. As part of the assessment, you will be given a report on how your school can be more energy efficient. To find out more about how to reduce your energy bills and how to make your school more energy efficient by involving the whole school community, come along to the Sustainable Schools Energy and Water Efficiency Workshop on 25th November at Bridge 5 Mill, in Manchester.

**Did you also know that United Utilities is changing the way they charge your school for its water use?**

In line with regulatory advice, United Utilities is moving to Site Area Charging (SAC) for all its business customers. This replaces the Surface Water Highways Drainage part of your water bill, which was assessed on the rateable value of the property. Premises built or structurally altered since 2007, or those with new occupants, are automatically on

the full SAC tariff. All other businesses are seeing the charge phased in over three years.

This change affects all United Utilities business customers, including your school, some for the better, and some for the worse, as the charge is based on the footprint of the building and any areas of hard standing. Areas such as playing fields, ponds, large flowerbeds etc do not count, as they do not drain to the sewer.

The SAC is only one part of the overall water bill, and although you may have realised an increase in this area, there are many ways your school can reduce the Volumetric section of the bill – that is the charge for the clean water used in the buildings – thus potentially reducing the overall bill. To find out more about this charging scheme and ways your school can be more water efficient, come along to the Sustainable Schools Energy and Water Efficiency Workshop on 25th November at Bridge 5 Mill in Manchester.

## Rodney House School and Links with Chernobyl Children's Project (UK)

"It is more than twenty years since the world's worst nuclear disaster, but the children of Belarus continue to suffer from the effects of the fallout."

Rodney House School has long standing links with Chernobyl Children's project and has been happy to welcome groups of visiting educational and medical professionals in order to exchange ideas and share expertise.

During the Easter holiday Dr. Diana Jellinek, chair of governors, Nicola Thomson, teacher, and Linda Lloyd, teaching assistant, had the opportunity to visit Belarus to see, first hand, the continuing effects of the nuclear disaster.

Linda Walker, the charity's co-ordinator, travelled with them and

arranged their very full six day itinerary. The group visited several schools and institutions catering for a very large number of children and adults with a diverse range of disabilities. The range included very young babies in the Abandoned Babies Home to elderly people in an adult institution. Many of the visits proved to be quite harrowing; there is still such a lot to be done although things are slowly moving in the right direction.

The highlight of the visit was the time spent at Rodni Kut, which is named after Rodney House. When translated 'Rodni Kut' means cosy corner and no place has been

more appropriately named. It is a home for four youngsters and Diana, Nicola and Linda will never forget the happy times they spent there, especially singing Jingle Bells in March! The staff from Rodney House returned to this country resolved to continue with their fund raising efforts.



Nicola Thompson with children in Belarus.

### The Chernobyl Explosion and Belarus



Over 20 years ago, on April 26th 1986, there was an explosion at Chernobyl nuclear power plant. As a result of the explosion, many tons of radioactive substances, such as plutonium, caesium 137, iodine and strontium 90, ended up covering Belarus (see map). Children and adults ingested these substances, and continue to ingest them as the land will remain contaminated for years. This has

led to an increase in many types of cancer, diabetes, heart disease, respiratory problems, digestive ailments and birth defects.

The country does not have enough money to provide the health care and supplies necessary, and many children end up in orphanages and children's homes as their parents cannot look after them.

### The Chernobyl Children's Project (UK)

The Chernobyl Children's Project (UK) supports the Belarussian children affected by the disaster both financially and physically. Much needed medical supplies, toys and bedding are among some of the items the Project delivers to schools, hospitals, orphanages and

family associations in the region. Volunteers organise and run holidays for the children in clean parts of the country, and the charity funds trips for around 350 children to visit the UK each year. These holidays help the children to recuperate, particularly when

radiation levels rise in the summer due to airborne dust.

To find out more visit [www.chernobyl-children.org.uk](http://www.chernobyl-children.org.uk) or contact Nicola at Rodney House on 0161 224 2774.

# Energy and Water

## Doorway 2 of the Sustainable Schools Strategy

### Switch to power saving!



What would you say if we told you that your school could easily save up to £1,000 a year with minimal effort? Interested? Then read on...

Back in 1999, worried (even then!) about rising energy costs, we engaged the help of an Energy Consultant to undertake an audit of our energy and water use. A matrix was produced which gave us goals to achieve in reducing gas, electricity and water consumption. We were encouraged to draw up, display and implement an Energy Policy, showing our commitment to raising awareness about energy and water issues, local and global, throughout our school community. We also devised lessons and practical measures to encourage better practice.

We were given lots of simple suggestions, such as 'hippos' in our water cisterns, low energy light bulbs and the introduction of sensors on the urinals. The pupils made lots of posters and signs to encourage energy efficiency. Over the next few years, we gradually installed double glazing, draught excluders and ensured that our loft areas were well insulated.

After three years, we had made enough savings to pay our consultant. Thereafter, the money saved went directly into our budget. We had also gained much more insight into our energy and water use. For example, our gas usage decreased by almost 30% thanks to boiler improvement and better housekeeping. In due course, we secured a

Government grant and installed solar panels, which generate electricity and provide us with credits on our bills.

Our pupil Energy Team read the meters every week and log the results; they organise competitions to encourage energy efficiency; they make sure that unwanted lights and appliances are switched off and that doors and windows are closed when no-one is in a room. They also produce their own 'Energy Express' newsletter each term with interviews, facts and tips to keep everyone motivated.

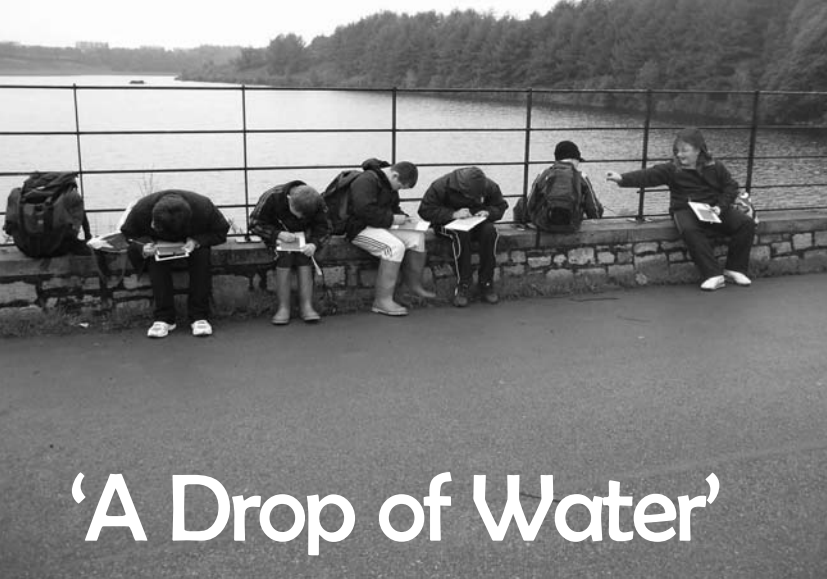
We hope you will agree that, in the present climate of spiralling energy costs, it really makes no sense to pay for dripping taps, unwanted lights or expensively heated air escaping via draughts. So, for this reason alone it is an excellent idea to begin closely monitoring your energy and water use. However, we have found that by doing so at Woodheys, the benefits have not merely been financial; our whole community has developed a sense of common purpose, we are proud of our achievements and we know that we are setting a much better example to our pupils, the citizens of the future.

Written by Freda Eyden, Environmental Projects Co-ordinator at Woodheys' Primary School. Woodheys Primary School is situated in Sale, Greater Manchester. The school were the 2007 winners of the UK Ashden Awards for Sustainable Energy in Schools. Their prize was presented by Al Gore.



The Ashden Awards celebrates and rewards groups working to tackle climate change and have a positive impact in their local community. The awards are open to both UK and international schools as well as other groups.

See [www.ashdenawards.org](http://www.ashdenawards.org) to download an application pack for next year's awards. The closing date for applications is 2nd December 2008. The site also includes "an excellent bank of resource materials about energy" as recommended by Freda of Woodheys' Primary.



## 'A Drop of Water'

Engaging children with water is one of the key aims of the Longdendale Environmental Centre near Glossop. Run in partnership with the Peak District National Park Authority and United Utilities the Centre offers free visits to schools.

Most of us take our access to clean water completely for granted. The Centre aims to change that by encouraging visitors to think about where our water comes from. For school visits, the Centre provides a first-hand learning experience, involving pupils in activities away from the classroom, mainly in an outdoor environment where many different learning styles are used. This 'learning outside the classroom' experience enhances pupils' motivation, understanding and enthusiasm.

One of the Centre's most popular days is the 'Drop of Water' programme. The programme encourages pupils to think about clean water as a resource by exploring the history and character of

the Longdendale Valley and its role in the development of Manchester's water supply. As well as helping pupils appreciate the importance of clean water, the day provides many with a memorable introduction to the special qualities of the Peak District National Park.

The day was developed to support the QCA unit 11, but also fits well with ECO Schools and Sustainable Schools programmes as it raises questions about the amount of water we use, the carbon cost of providing clean water and cleaning dirty water, and whether water should be privately owned. Pupils are also introduced to the idea that many people in the world do not have access to clean water. All good starting points for further work back at school.

The first half of the day is spent outside, walking around Bottoms reservoir. During the walk pupils take part in various interactive activities designed to get them thinking about the:

- rocks that made the valley suitable for collecting water
- mills that existed before the valley was flooded
- water-borne diseases that led to the building of the reservoirs
- role of John Bateman in developing the dams
- special qualities of the National Park.

Before lunch the children tell the story of the Longdendale Valley, taking part as both audience and performers, and using their senses to bring the story alive. One pupil described this as the best part of her visit because "you were listening and feeling, not watching and listening".

The afternoon is spent back at the Centre investigating the water cycle and carrying out a water filtering experiment.

This is a great day for any school planning work around the theme of water use and conservation, and could be supported by the two web sites below which have lots of information, ideas, worksheets and online games to play.

[www.thewaterfamily.co.uk](http://www.thewaterfamily.co.uk)

[www.thewaterschool.co.uk](http://www.thewaterschool.co.uk)

Please contact the Longdendale Environmental Centre on 01457 868127 for further information or to book a day.



“ You have changed the way I think about water. ”

Pupil on 'Drop of Water' programme

# Funding & Resources

## **Shout about climate solutions Activity Week and Free Resource Pack**

Designed to fit in the the National Curriculum for Key Stage 3, the pack includes an interactive whiteboard resource plus a range of lesson ideas to make it easy for your school to take part in 'shout about' activity week. Activity Week runs from 2nd to 6th March 2009. Details and resources can be found on-line from Friends of the Earth at [www.foe.co.uk/learning/educators](http://www.foe.co.uk/learning/educators)

## **Solar for Schools**

A great on-line resource to support schools applying for the Low Carbon Building Programme (LCBP) and Co-op Green Energy grants to install solar panels. Including lesson plans and teaching resources around energy, a fund raising pack to help schools raise 50% of the cost of the solar panels, information for parents, teachers, kids and schools, news on schools installing solar panels and an on-line application form to apply for the LCBP grant.

For more information and to download the teaching resources visit their website at [www.solar4schools.co.uk](http://www.solar4schools.co.uk)

## **Carbon Detectives Kit**

This on-line resource is designed to help your school set up an Energy Team and reduce your school's carbon footprint. Pupils can use the website and the carbon footprint calculator as part of their Energy Team role. There is also information on other areas such as purchasing, travel and waste which can help create a better understanding of what makes a sustainable school, and a staff training pack available for download.

[www.carbondetectives.org.uk](http://www.carbondetectives.org.uk)

## **Our World of Water**

ISBN-10: 1845079736 ISBN-13: 9781845079734

Publisher: Frances Lincoln Available from: Oxfam  
Price: £6.99

This book looks at water around the world through looking at the lives of 6 children from different countries and what water means to them. Includes photographs, real life stories, popular themes, curriculum links and addresses issues of climate change, pollution and sanitation. For primary schools.

## **Eco-Vision**

Available from: [www.earlyvision.co.uk](http://www.earlyvision.co.uk) Price: Single user license - £39.99 Site license - £99.99

'Saving Energy' is the first in a 4 part series of interactive CD-ROM based resources aimed at 3-7 year olds. Each resource contains assembly ideas, teachers' notes and interactive information sessions. On-line demo available and free, 21 day, trial offer. 'Saving Water', 'Recycling' and 'Going Green' will be available soon.

## **Funding Sources**

### **Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP) / BRE**

To apply for 50% of the cost of installing energy efficiency measures and technologies visit the website below. Grants are available through the Low Carbon Buildings Programme; Phase 2 which is managed by BRE's Community Sustainable Energy Programme.

For more information visit [www.lowcarbonbuildingsphase2.org.uk](http://www.lowcarbonbuildingsphase2.org.uk)

and for funding visit [www.communitysustainable.org.uk](http://www.communitysustainable.org.uk),  
call 08458 630025

or write to Community Sustainable Energy Programme, BRE, Building 17, Bucknalls Lane, Garston, Watford, Herts, WD25 9XX

### **Green Energy for Schools**

Also funded by the LCBP, the Co-operative and Solarcentury continue their Green Energy for Schools Scheme providing schools with solar panels worth £20,000. They are asking for Co-operative members to nominate schools to receive these solar panels. Nominations must be in by November 5th 2008 and application forms can be found online.

[www.co-operative.coop/ourcampaigns/climatechange/greenenergyforschools](http://www.co-operative.coop/ourcampaigns/climatechange/greenenergyforschools)

### **Switched on Communities Scheme**

This scheme is run by Eco Schools and supported by Currys. Applications for grants up to a maximum of £5,000 are considered for new or existing projects that create positive change and development within a school on the themes of energy and water.

For more information the Eco-Schools team in England can be contacted on 01942 612621 or e-mail [ecoschools@encams.org](mailto:ecoschools@encams.org) or visit [www.eco-schools.org.uk/grants](http://www.eco-schools.org.uk/grants)

## **Manchester Eco-Schools Forum and Green Fair**

November 6th 2008  
Manchester Town Hall

The theme of this year's event is Learning Outside the Classroom. Workshops will link in with this theme and will be relevant to early years, primary and secondary education. The Green Fair will showcase environmental organisations and recommend places to visit across Manchester and the North West. Visit:

[www.meen.org.uk/forums/index.php?topic=45.0](http://www.meen.org.uk/forums/index.php?topic=45.0) for more details.

## **From Fleece to Fabric – Professional Development Placement**

November 6th 2008

Cronkshore Fold Farm and  
Helmshore Textile Mill  
£25 including lunch & refreshments

This day begins at Cronkshore Fold Farm and concludes at Helmshore Textile Museum, and looks at the history of the farm and sheep farming, through to the history of the mill. Educational and teaching resources available and the placement supports History, Science, Art and Design and Geography Curriculum at KS 1-3.

For bookings and further information –  
[chirstine.james@lebp.co.uk](mailto:chirstine.james@lebp.co.uk)  
or 01254 584034/5

## **Introduction to Permaculture**

November 9th 2008

The Lost Plot, Southern Allotments,  
Chorlton

The session will run from 10am-5.30pm and will include an introduction to permaculture theory, a tour of a working permaculture site, educational activities and some hands-on good dirty fun!

To book and for further information – call 0845 634 4510 or visit [www.afsl.org.uk/node/943](http://www.afsl.org.uk/node/943)

## **Introductory Earth Education Workshop BW4**

November 12th 2008

Bishops Wood Centre,  
Worcestershire  
£125

This day will include indoor and outdoor activities that will help

you improve your relationship with the planet. There will also be sessions on the philosophies behind earth education, leadership, and earth education programmes.

For bookings and further information –  
[bishopswoodcourses@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:bishopswoodcourses@worcestershire.gov.uk) or 01299 250513

## **Forest Skills BW5**

November 18th 2008

Bishops Wood Centre,  
Worcestershire  
£125

This skills-based course is designed to provide practical know-how in the outdoors. Basic skills such as safe use of cutting tools, firecraft and shelter building will be taught in the context of providing a safe but stimulating outdoor classroom. This course is particularly suited to people such as Forest School Leaders.

For bookings and further information –  
[bishopswoodcourses@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:bishopswoodcourses@worcestershire.gov.uk) or 01299 250513

## **Sustainable Energy and Water Seminar**

Tuesday 25th November 2008,  
10am – 3.30pm

FREE  
Bridge 5 Mill, Ancoats, Manchester

Designed for bursars, administrators and other school staff who have responsibility for making savings on electricity and water use. All schools should be Sustainable Schools by 2020; energy efficiencies are the first step many schools will take this year and are a matter for the whole school community. There will be places for schools from each of the Greater Manchester Local Authorities.

Please book in advance by contacting North West Sustainable Schools on 0161 271 8881 or [sustainableschools@dep.org.uk](mailto:sustainableschools@dep.org.uk)

## **Education for Sustainable Development: Learning to Live With One Planet**

1st-3rd December 2008

Full - £625, Reduced - £570, Early - £520

Losehill Hall, Castleton, Peak District

This three-day course will provide opportunities for people to share and learn from their experiences in education and will examine the current and future directions of environmental education, particularly in relation to sustainable development.

For further information, or to make a booking, please contact Sue Field, tel: 01433 622472, email: [training.losehill@peakdistrict.gov.uk](mailto:training.losehill@peakdistrict.gov.uk), [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/training](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/training).

## **Science Super Learning Day (KS2)**

Friday December 5th 2008

Manchester Museum, Manchester  
£6.50 per pupil (minimum £650)

For teachers who want to bring large groups for a whole day.

Check out

[www.manchester.ac.uk/museum](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/museum) for more details.

For bookings and further information –  
[nora.callaghan@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:nora.callaghan@manchester.ac.uk)  
or 0161 275 2630

## **Forest School Leader Training (Level 3)**

Dates for Nov. '08 - Feb. '09 are available from the contacts below.

Bishops Wood Centre,  
Worcestershire  
£750

This will enable the practitioner to lead groups of children/young people on or off their own site. It includes sessions on pedagogy and its application to Forest School, fire and tool use, risk and site impact assessments, planning your own forest school, sustainability. Ages 21 and over.

Course includes 5 days initial training over one week or a half term, and 3 days practical assessment (PSA).

For bookings and further information –  
[bishopswoodcourses@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:bishopswoodcourses@worcestershire.gov.uk) or 01299 250513

# What is Manchester Environmental Education Network?

Manchester Environmental Education Network (MEEN) is a membership-based organisation aiming "To inspire and motivate learning about sustainability by building a network of people actively committed to Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in Manchester." The network was established by six partner organisations involved in the project, and currently employs a network coordinator and a Sustainable Schools Project coordinator.

## Membership of the network offers:

- \* free network directory (pay only for P&P) - while stocks last
- \* free termly newsletter
- \* support from network coordinator
- \* reduced entrance to MEEN events
- \* a voice in how MEEN is run and the activities of the network

## Project Partners:

### Development Education Project (DEP),

Laurel Cottage  
c/o MMU 799 Wilmslow Road  
Manchester M20 2RR  
Tel: 0161 921 8020

### Groundwork Manchester, Salford and Trafford,

Timber Wharf,  
42-50 Worsley Street  
Castlefield  
M15 4LD  
Tel: 0161 220 1000

### Manchester Environmental Resource Centre initiative (MERCi),

Bridge-5 Mill,  
22a Beswick Street, Ancoats,  
Manchester. M4 7HR  
Tel: 0161 273 1736

### Manchester Healthy Schools Partnership,

Mauldeth House,  
Mauldeth Road West, Chorlton.  
Manchester. M21 7RL  
Tel: 0161 882 2313

### Environmental Campaigns

### Manchester City Council

3rd Floor,  
Pink Bank Lane,  
Belle Vue,  
Manchester  
M12 5QN  
Tel: 0161 953 2760

### Mersey Basin Trust,

Bridge-5 Mill, 22a Beswick Street,  
Ancoats, Manchester. M4 7HR  
Tel: 0161 273 4207  
merseybasintrust@hotmail.com  
www.merseybasintrust.org.uk

### Network Coordinator:

Raichael Lock,  
coordinator@meen.org.uk

### Manchester Environmental Education Network (MEEN),

Bridge-5 Mill, 22a Beswick Street,  
Ancoats,  
Manchester. M4 7HR  
Tel: 0161 273 8881  
Fax: 0161 273 8156  
E-mail: office@meen.org.uk

### Funded by



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CITY COUNCIL

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## Membership of Manchester Environmental Education Network (MEEN)

Please fill in this form and return to the network coordinator at the above address, enclosing a cheque for the relevant amount.

Name School / Organisation Subject (where applicable)

Address

Tel Fax E-mail

Schools / Organisations - Manchester	£8	
Individuals - Manchester (waged / unwaged)		£5 / £2
Non-Manchester based membership	£12	
Please add P&P for directory		£2
<b>TOTAL</b>		

I enclose a cheque payable to 'MEEN' for £\_\_\_\_\_