

Oxfam making Climate Change waves

On the 19th October Oxfam North West hosted its first Active Global Citizenship conference. It focused on the theme of the human impact of climate change on the world's poorest people. 114 students and teachers from 23 schools and colleges across the North West met in Manchester for an exciting day of learning and action.

With world leaders about to meet in Copenhagen to discuss the future of our planet it was a fantastic opportunity for students to make their voices heard on this important issue.

The day began with an inspirational presentation from Elvis Sukali, an Oxfam Project Officer from Malawi, who has worked with people already feeling the negative impacts of climate change. One of the year 10 students, Scott Bolton, said, 'It was great to hear first hand the effects of climate change on countries like Malawi.'

Students learnt about the need to achieve a fair deal at Copenhagen, explored how to stage a successful campaign, then developed action plans to take back to their schools. They were bursting with exciting campaign ideas, such as holding a blue themed day in their school, blue being Oxfam's designated colour for climate change campaigning,



Elvis Sukali, an Oxfam Project Officer from Malawi speaks about his experience of working with the victims of climate change

or putting on a musical event - an Oxjam - to raise funds.

Highlights included a visit from a life-sized polar bear, discussions around the need to save humans and the chance to send a personal message to Gordon Brown by postcard. At the end students fed back their ideas and put questions to Rebecca Gowland, head of Oxfam's 'Here and Now' climate change campaign, and Dr. Alice Bows, a climate scientist and prominent Oxfam Campaigner.



Students role play characters from Malawi affected by climate change

Teachers benefited from a workshop on how to support their students in taking action and ways of incorporating active global citizenship into their teaching. Charlie Taylor, Deputy Head of Turton High School, said, "The day was an excellent opportunity for students to extend their knowledge of the effects of climate change. It fits in well with our school aims as an "Eco-School".

The conference closed with a massive Mexican wave with students holding speech bubbles containing messages on climate change, messages which will be compiled to form a Youth Charter for the voices of young people in the NW. This will be handed to 10 Downing Street.

It was inspiring to see so many young people motivated to act on climate change and Oxfam North West is already looking forward to next year's conference. But schools don't need to

wait another year to get involved! For more information on Oxfam's youth and schools work visit

www.oxfam.org.uk/education

or contact your regional youth and schools campaigner for the North West Jo-Anne Witcombe at jwitcombe@oxfam.org.uk.

Editor's notes: With the Climate Change conference in Copenhagen looming MEEN has put this issue together to help Manchester schools begin the process of reducing their Carbon Footprints. 28% of Manchester City Council's footprint is created by schools and we hope there are plenty of ideas and inspirations in this issue to help you on your way. If you need support or have stories to share please contact MEEN at coordinator@meen.org.uk.

Thanks to Liz Fitzpatrick, Jo-Anne Whitcombe and Kate Hall.

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Manchester supports Sustainable Schools

In an effort to help Manchester schools become more sustainable Manchester City Council has set up the Sustainable Schools Working Group. The aim of the working group is to ensure that the services the City offers to schools are modelling sustainable practices.

Led by the Executive member for the Environment, Cllr Richard Cowell and the Executive member for Education, Cllr Sheila Newman, the group is attended by officers from across the Council whose services impact on the 8 Doorways of becoming a Sustainable School.

With representation from Children and Young People's Services, Environmental Campaigns, Catering Services, the BSF team, Healthy Schools and Energy Management, to name a few, the group is discussing and sharing their ideas, their problems and their best practice.

Working with NW Sustainable Schools, the group has already completed a baseline survey of their services, called the S3+. This is the Local Authority equivalent of the S3 which schools can complete in order to monitor their progress

in becoming a Sustainable School. The group meets bi-monthly and is developing an action plan, including specific projects, to improve its performance.

The working group would welcome input from young people, so if there is an Eco Committee who would like to share their ideas about how to make schools more sustainable and be able to discuss this with Council officers, please contact Raichael Lock on 0161 273 8881 or email coordinator@meen.org.uk.

Is your school becoming a Sustainable School?

MEEN is looking for Manchester schools to nominate themselves for best practice case studies around the 8 Doorways of becoming a Sustainable School.

We would welcome nominations from all Manchester schools around the themes of 'Food and drink', 'Travel and Traffic', 'Buildings and grounds', 'Purchasing and waste', 'Energy and water',

'Global dimension', 'Local well-being' and 'Inclusion and participation'.

If you think your school has something to shout about then please complete the nomination form inserted in this copy of Beehive or contact 0161 273 8881 for further details.

A Few Small Steps (AFSS)

AfSL's schools project, A Few Small Steps, is launching across the NW this autumn. Schools signing up to the 'Sustainability Mentoring' programme will be provided with a twelve-month support package helping staff and students to reduce energy consumption and waste, increase recycling rates and improve their school's food culture. Delivered by experienced Education Officers and trained volunteers we provide a learning experience and action programme for the whole school.

Delivering classroom workshops, assemblies, staff training, student planning meetings and technical monitoring and support, our team offers exciting and memorable experiences for the whole school to effect lasting change. To find out more contact Josh Steiner at schools@afsl.org.uk or visit www.afsl.org.uk

Eco Challenge Funding for High Schools

50% of Manchester City secondary schools are already involved in this BIG Lottery funded project but that means that 50% are not! This is the final year of the project run by environmental education charity Field Studies Council and they are encouraging schools not to miss out on this opportunity.

Eco Challenge provides funding for a short residential course and three follow up sessions in the school grounds or local community space.

It helps KS3 students to improve personal and social skills; increase awareness, knowledge and understanding of the natural environment and sustainability and increase pride in local green spaces.

Make sure your students don't miss out find out more at www.fsc-eco-challenge.org or contact Jen Maywhort on 015395 38123 or email jen.ch@field-studies-council.org.

Countdown to Copenhagen with ActionAid

The first agreement period of the Kyoto Protocol comes to an end in 2012. With the need for a new binding international agreement to make deep cuts in carbon emissions the race is on to stop runaway climate change.

The outcome of the climate talks could help determine the future of life on earth. Climate change is already having an impact on the world's most vulnerable people who are experiencing more and more extreme weather events. Unless climate change is tackled by cutting greenhouse gas emissions it will pose a serious threat to human civilisation.

In order to communicate these issues and to give young people a voice ActionAid have produced a resource called 'CountDown to Copenhagen'. It includes a creative action so your students can send messages to world leaders before Copenhagen; a DVD with film clips, images and case studies; lesson ideas; stickers and posters and instructions for your own climate summit.

Taking learners through a three-step process, Ready, Steady, Go! it gives opportunities to learn what is at stake through understanding specific problems from around the world.



Chelimo's search for food in a land of dust



One story is of Bobita, aged 12, she says, "After our home and our crops near the Tista river in Bangladesh were destroyed by a flood my family had to leave. Now we live in a bamboo and tin shed near a dam. Before we lost our land and our crops my father was a farmer, but he has been ill and now he begs to earn money. I have a job as a maidservant."

Such personal stories give the bigger picture a human context for the plight of many people already suffering from Climate change.

- Did you know Bangladesh is the country most at risk of flooding? Climate change is causing the glaciers in the Himalayas to melt which is causing the rivers to swell. These rivers then water log and destroy the land primarily used for growing food.
- In Kenya a prolonged drought over several years has led to 10 million hungry people searching for food. Many of these people are now heading towards the cities where they face life in slums.
- In Tanzania the rains used to fall at regular times of the year but now the rains often fail. When it does rain it is either at the wrong time or there is not enough of it. The soil is now turning to dust and food cannot grow in these conditions.

Scientists say global greenhouse gas emission levels must move downwards within the next one

hundred months if we are to have any chance of staying below a 2oC global rise in temperature. Beyond a 2oC rise we risk moving into the realms of runaway climate change and if we maintain our current output of greenhouse gases it is predicted to be a four degree rise, with some predictions rising to six.



Floods have destroyed bobita's home and crops

It will be the children and young people of today and the future from all over the world who will see the impact of the decisions taken at Copenhagen. It is important that students' voices are heard and their messages are taken to Copenhagen through Ed Miliband to help get a good deal.

So why not hold your own mini-Copenhagen and work out how to get a good deal.

Signing up costs nothing and you'll receive a copy of the CountDown to Copenhagen starter pack. Help your students get to grips with the climate change debate and understand why the meeting in Copenhagen is the key moment in the fight to stop runaway climate change. To sign up for your pack visit:

www.actionaid.org.uk/teachclimate

A Climate for change

Climate Change is one of the biggest threats humanity has had to face and now is the time to raise awareness and put pressure on our global leaders to come up with sensible, and by necessity radical, solutions at the Copenhagen Climate Change Summit in December. If we do nothing we face at least a 4C rise in global temperature, which will make human existence very difficult for the next generation.

It is important we all act and we all have our say: there have already been opportunities for young people to have their voice heard on this issue – the Oxfam conference in Manchester (front page) being one example, and here is another which took place at Manchester Cathedral.

Arks Apostles Action



On the 8th October schools from across Greater Manchester were invited to share their knowledge and expertise of sustainable development issues with the Archbishop of York and the staff and congregation of the Manchester Diocese at Manchester Cathedral.

Under a green rainbow the Archbishop commissioned Green Apostles from within the church, recognised the great work that young people are already doing and encouraged everyone to do more to care for creation.

Eco Committees from Armitage Primary, in Manchester, Holy Trinity Primary in Dobcross, Canon Burrows Primary from Tameside, and St Michael's and St James' from Trafford, worked with Lydia Meryll

from MEEN on creating a sustainability audit of the Cathedral. On the day they delivered presentations giving their advice and recommendations as to how to make the Cathedral more sustainable, information that was well received by Dean Rogers who took up their challenge.

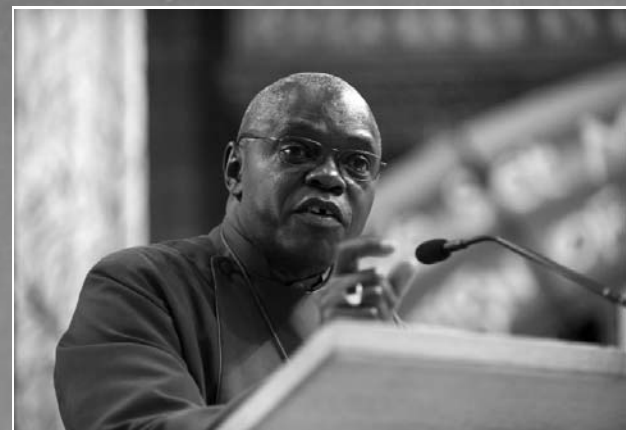
Woodheys Primary from Trafford shared their experience of being an Eco School, while Trinity High School performed a beautiful dance and St Luke's from Salford delivered a moving recital as a part of a special service.

Following the event one teacher commented that: 'Our children were absolutely thrilled with the response to their presentation and with the whole experience at the Cathedral. They are still brimming with excitement and their parents have caught their enthusiasm too!'

Led by John Hughes, the vicar from St John's Church in Trafford, the day brought a range of people together to consider how they can help mitigate Climate Change. Inspired by guest speaker Mark Dowd from Operation Noah, the

first Christian campaign focused exclusively on Climate Change, Mark highlighted the importance of the Copenhagen summit, the role that churches can play and, through a blend of stories and facts, impressed upon the audience the need to move towards a Carbon neutral society.

He also added that to really make an impact and ensure that Gordon Brown secures a deal at Copenhagen to cut power station emissions they are sending hundreds of thousands of origami ARKS to Downing St, and he asked that, 'you convince your friends, teachers, neighbours and local churches to embrace the challenge and join the ARK Campaign.' (For more information go to: www.operationnoah.org/)



What can we do to help mitigate Climate Change?

Join 10:10

If your school wants to take some action join 10:10 today. This would commit your school to cut emissions by 10% in 2010. You will be joining Manchester City Council, MEEN and many thousands of individuals, schools, hospitals, businesses and organisations all actively helping to combat climate change by making simple changes to their lifestyles, homes and workplaces. More importantly, your school's voice will help to put pressure on politicians to cut Britain's emissions as quickly as the science demands. For details visit <http://www.1010uk.org/>

Free trees for Manchester schools

If your school would like some free native trees to plant, whether for Tree o'Clock or any other occasion, MEEN is coordinating their delivery from the Red Rose Forest, and could offer you support for their planting and after-care. If you would like to order some saplings please call the MEEN office on 0161 273 8881.

Exciting Climate Change CPD Opportunities

Manchester Development Education Project has partnered with the Science Learning Centre North West and Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) to develop a new course of workshops on climate change.

The course provides teachers with knowledge and skills to teach climate change by using practical activities related to climate science

Get support from the Carbon Trust

The Carbon Trust is helping schools to combat climate change by helping them cut the energy they use. The scheme could save schools and further education (FE) colleges up to £20 million on the collective energy bill each year – unlocking vital cash for extra resources for students and staff. Alongside the cash saving, the campaign is set to cut the carbon footprint of these schools and FE colleges by up to 200,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions every year – equivalent to the entire annual emissions of the City of Durham. They believe up to 20 per cent can be cut from an energy bill by adopting the easy, no and low cost energy-saving steps.

For organisations with an annual energy bill of more than £50,000, the Carbon Trust is also offering a free site survey with tailored advice. Schools and FE colleges can benefit from free advice and support from the Carbon Trust via its advice line (0800 917 3030) and website (www.carbontrust.co.uk/schools). Advice ranges from simple changes such as turning off lighting and heating and introducing student awareness projects, through to installing energy-saving equipment, including timers and insulation. The Carbon Trust will also provide free design advice as part of the government's Building Schools for the Future programme.

Tree o'Clock

As a part of 10:10 or just as an environmentally friendly activity your school could plant some trees. In a record breaking attempt the BBC Breathing Places challenge is trying to plant 1 million trees at Tree o'Clock and break the world tree planting record for the most trees planted in one hour! Your school may want to plant trees or hedges this wintertime so why not

plant them at Tree o'Clock? It is being held on Saturday 5 December 2009, 11am - 12 noon, which doesn't sound very school friendly unless you turn it into a community event. After all this is a multi partner multi-location effort so if you wish to register your event go to: www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces/treeclock/pledgeform.shtml

Funding & Resources

Carbon Detective Kit

The Carbon Detectives' Kit has been designed to help pupils (key stages 2 and 3) understand some of the key issues related to climate change. The kit enables pupils to explore what can be done at an individual and school level to prevent the predicted significant impacts of rising temperatures.

<http://carbondetectives.org.uk/content/home/index.html>

Power Down – Climate Change action tool kit for schools

Action Aid

PowerDown is a set of primary and secondary resources that explore the causes and impacts of climate change. Use the lesson ideas, images and videos to get your pupils learning about climate change, investigating energy use and taking action to be part of the solution.

<http://powerdown.actionaid.org.uk/>

A week of activities about climate change for 9 – 11 yr olds.

Oxfam

These materials provide an overview of the causes and consequences of climate change, and help teachers to explore its impact on everyone, especially people in the developing world. The activities also help pupils to understand their own contribution to climate change, and that of their school. Includes ideas for active citizenship projects designed to reduce your school and personal use of fossil fuels.

www.oxfam.org.uk/education/resources/climate_chaos/



Shout About Climate Solutions – Free Activity Pack Friends Of The Earth

Shout about is Friends of the Earth's annual activity project for 11-13 yr olds who want to get active on environmental issues. The resource appeals across the curriculum: each topic can be studied as a series of lessons and/or youth

club activities, or as part of a themed day or week.

The information and activities explore how young people can ignite change in their homes, schools and communities. The booklets take students on a step-by-step journey that starts with the role of the individual (booklet 01), moves on to the part of schools can play in bringing change (booklet 02) and culminates in a community vision project that will bring democracy and green issues to life (booklet 03).

<http://foe.co.uk/learning/educators/resource/index.html>



Schools Sector Overview

Publication ID: CTV019

Carbon Trust

Schools face a constant battle to

use funds efficiently and provide good educational standards and, energy saving could result in more funds being available for curricular resources or facilities.

This overview for schools outlines low and no-cost measures with quick paybacks allowing managers and staff to assess the potential for energy saving and to raise awareness amongst staff and students without compromising teaching condition

<http://carbontrust.co.uk>



A Whole School Approach – Management Guide

Publication ID: CTV037

Carbon Trust

A companion guide to the Schools sector overview, this publication looks at how the whole school, from pupils to teachers to support staff can get involved in reducing its carbon footprint. It provides advice on creating an energy policy, monitoring energy use, creating and maintaining awareness, how energy fits into the curriculum and signposts to other

useful resources.

<http://carbontrust.co.uk>

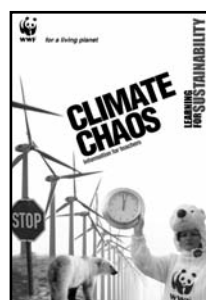
Focus on Energy

WWF

Focus on Energy aims to build children's understanding of energy issues and to help them explore solutions: solutions which will be as much individual actions and attitudes as 'technical fixes'. The pack aimed at ages 7 – 11 explores the following issues, energy sources and energy flow, how we use energy, impacts of energy use, alternative approaches for a sustainable future.

The pack contains, 12x A4 colour photocards, A2 colour poster with board game on the reverse, and Teachers' guide with photocopiable resource sheets.

www.wwf.org.uk



Climate Chaos Information Pack

WWF

WWF produces information packs for schools on popular topics. The

current information pack focuses on climate change. Visit the website for further information and details of how to download the pack.

http://assets.wwf.org.uk/downloads/climate_chaos_info_pack.pdf

The Age of Stupid or the age of smart?

ActionAid

Set in 2055 in The Age of Stupid tells a cautionary tale in what is then a devastated world, Pete Postlethwaite sits in a tower looking back through archive footage from 2008 and wonders, "Why didn't we stop climate change when we had the chance?"

ActionAid, together with film director Franny Armstrong, have developed a resource pack suitable for Key stage 3 upwards to stimulate debate and create an alternative ending. For more information visit:

www.actionaid.org.uk/teachclimate or 01460 23 8000

Education For Sustainable Development Training Days

Centre for Alternative Technology, Machynlleth
Day courses are £70 inc. lunch and refreshments, residential courses are £350 (concessionary rates £240/ £180).

2nd Nov - ESD(GC) for Science

3rd Nov - ESD(GC) for Arts and Languages teachers

4th Nov - ESD(GC) for D&T teachers

9th Nov - ESD(GC) for PSE teachers

These courses are suitable for teachers from across the UK. Staff from the Centre can also visit schools or colleges to provide staff training and CPD sessions.

Contact Anita Schwartz education@cat.org.uk, where you can also subscribe to email/eflyer updates, or by phone on 01654 705983.

Working With Secondary Schools Through The National Curriculum

3rd November 2009

London

This event will provide an introduction to the National Curriculum at Key Stages 3 and 4, including opportunities and requirements related to environmental education and Sustainable Development Education. It will explore case studies of successful partnerships between organisations and Secondary schools linked to the National Curriculum, and will introduce examples of resources developed to meet the needs of Secondary schools and the National Curriculum at KS 3 and 4. The event is aimed at local authority officers, community and environmental workers wishing to work more effectively with Secondary Schools.**

Eco-Schools And The Carbon Reduction Commitment Conference

5th November 2009

Glaziers Hall, London.

The 2009 Eco-Schools Conference will be focusing on the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC). The conference will support Local Authorities and teachers at Eco-Schools understand the impact of the legislation and how by working together, they can achieve their energy reduction targets. For more details and a booking form go to: <http://www.eco-schools.org.uk/>

Forest Schools Taster Day

13th November 2009, 9.30am – 3.30pm

Bolton

Forest School is a unique outdoor learning experience that improves children's self esteem, confidence and abilities. Want to learn more? Come along to a taster day at Johnson Fold primary in Bolton. Places are only £25 per person and must be booked in advance. To book, or for more info please contact Liz on ewebley@lancswt.org.uk or 01772 751121

Manchester ESD Forum

1st December 2009, 1 – 4.30pm

Bridge 5 Mill, 22a Beswick St, Ancoats, M4 7HR

A quarterly forum for practitioners of ESD from across Manchester to share good practice, keep up to date on local, regional and national initiatives, network and form partnerships. Contact MEEN for further information on 0161 273 8881 or email office@meen.org.uk

Working With Schools And Communities On Climate And Energy

3rd December 2009

Stoke St. Michael

There is ever increasing concern about Climate Change - its potential impacts and what we can do about it. There is also growing

interest in actions to promote energy efficiency, affordable warmth and the use of renewable energy. This event will explore approaches to teaching and learning about these issues and how schools might work together with the community, voluntary sector, local authorities and business to explore these challenges and opportunities in the wider context of sustainable development. The event will be of interest to teachers, local authority and voluntary sector officers either engaged or interested in working with schools and the community on these issues.**

exciting climate change cpd opportunities

February 2010

<http://www.teachclimatechange.org.uk/news/climate-change-cpd-opportunities/>

Manchester Development Education Project has partnered with the Science Learning Centre North West and Manchester Metropolitan University to develop and accredit a new course of workshops on climate change. This course will equip teachers with the knowledge and skills to effectively teach about climate change in schools and colleges. Explore the evidence, analyse different viewpoints, make links between science and society and introduce methodology suitable to investigating complex controversial issues with pupils.

The next delivery of this course starts February 2010 and different material covered on each day. To register or for more information contact Jane Davies on janeed66@hotmail.com.

** £110 + VAT for voluntary organisations; £165 + VAT for local authorities, statutory & other non-voluntary organisations. For further details, to book a place or to request a full programme of events, please contact ETN on 0121 359 2113 or Email ETN@btcv.org.uk.

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

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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

TOTAL

I enclose a cheque payable to 'MEEN' for £_____