



Case Study – High Down Junior School, North Somerset

Plan it Cool helps school communities reduce unnecessary energy consumption and raise awareness about renewable energy. Plan it Cool was developed and facilitated by the Centre for Sustainable Energy and Global Action Plan with funding from DEFRA.

An awareness of environmental issues forms part of the ethos of High Down School. Concern for the environment is shown through the schools involvement with the 'Earthkeepers' Programme' in Year 5 in which the maintenance and awareness of the environment is stressed. Staff expertise in this area is also shared with other schools.

Achievements in Two Terms

- Raised awareness of energy-saving opportunities around the school
- Replaced inefficient light bulbs with efficient light bulbs
- Installed 1kWh solar panel array

Action Team

- Year 6 class
- Campaign focused on switching off unwanted lights and computers, along with closing doors when the heating is switched on
- Awareness-raising activities included:
 - signs and posters around school
 - assembly
 - energy-saving wall display



Caretaker shows action team the school meters

Curriculum Activities

- Maths – Year 5 completed home energy surveys
- Links with Citizenship, Science, Geography

Developing Links

- Caretaker helped collect meter readings and supervise an energy walk round
- Parents were involved with home energy surveys
- Links with participating secondary school were developed further
- Local authority energy officer helped with the replacement of lighting



PV array installed with grant from Energy Saving Trust

Lessons Learnt

- Worked well because of support from the head teacher
- The action team should include representatives from across the school

Development

- Link with Earthkeepers' Programme during the summer term
- Help with school's drive towards Eco School status

"Plan it Cool provided a starting point and a method for looking at our school's energy issues."
– Lead teacher