



This case study looks at one local authority's efforts to promote its carbon reduction commitments with schools, pupils and teachers across the county through initiatives, which will raise awareness such as the free Energy Display Meter offer.

Key project information

Project: Energy and Water Management Plan in response to Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme.

Number of schools: 34 primary and six secondary schools

Local authority: West Sussex County Council

Carbon reduction across the school estate – the West Sussex approach

West Sussex County Council - introduction

West Sussex County Council has developed the Energy and Water Management Project (EWMP) in response to the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme. The project will deliver CO₂ savings across the council's built estate, including corporate buildings such as libraries and fire stations and schools through a number of initiatives. Schools make up 52 per cent of the council's total CO₂ emissions

West Sussex's schools are split into 24 localities and the council is initially targeting three of these areas made up of 34 primary schools and six secondary schools, before rolling out the project to all of the county's schools.

Carbon Reduction Team

Nicola Winser and Gemma Wilson are the council's Carbon Reduction Officers and regularly visit schools to encourage them to reduce their CO₂ emissions by installing energy saving measures such as more energy efficient lighting, draught proofing and insulation measures such as cavity wall insulation. All the time

they are asked one crucial question: What's in it for the pupils?

In response to this, the officers are working closely with schools to set up campaigns to change people's behaviour towards the environment and engage all users of the building, including pupils and teachers, in energy and water saving activities. It is important that any carbon reduction work is fed into the curriculum to give pupils the chance to get involved and understand the impact it can have. This is of particular importance in primary schools. If children foster behaviour change at the earliest possible opportunity it can make a huge difference.

National initiatives such as British Gas' Generation Green programme are making it easier for teachers to embed sustainability across the curriculum, particularly in subjects such as geography and science. Teachers can create lessons focussed on the environment. Similarly, the local authority has done a lot to encourage schools to sign up for a free Energy Display Meter, including local events.

Workshops

Need for vision: Pupils and teachers from 18 primary schools attended a workshop focusing on saving

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energy and water and learned how they could benefit from a free Energy Display Meter (EDM).

The first 'Engage Petal Day' was hosted by the county council's Carbon Reduction Team, which is piloting a project to reduce carbon dioxide emissions with 40 schools. After the pilot the project will be rolled out to all schools across West Sussex.



Generation Green workshop with Gemma Wilson (WSCC) and pupils from St Peter's Primary School, Ardingly

This work is linked to the 'Engage Programme', which was launched last year by the county council to help schools improve their sustainability across eight categories, known as 'petals', including energy and water. Pupils and staff who attended the Petal Day took part in a series of interactive workshops, which showed what is available to schools to help them reduce carbon emissions. 'Engage', 'Generation Green' and British Gas hosted workshops. Schools found out about the free EDMs for schools initiative and there were demonstrations of other resources available including online lesson activities.

This method has already reaped benefit as 14 schools in West Sussex have successfully completed an application for an EDM with installation expected to take place very soon.

The 'Make Your Own Energy & Water Charter' workshop asked pupils and teachers to think of ways to save energy and water in their school. These ideas were then used to produce an 'Energy and Water Charter' for primary schools taking part in the pilot. Schools were asked to put the charter up at school and provide the Carbon Reduction Team with evidence e.g. photos, stories, that they were following the actions set out in the charter. The schools making the most effort to save energy and water will then be entered into a competition to win one of three Solar

Energy Display Meters – key benefits to schools

Real time energy monitoring

Track and display school electricity usage in real time. Schools can see the impact of turning equipment on/off and immediately witness the results of any energy saving measures.

Compare energy usage results

Schools can make direct comparisons of energy usage to see if they are using more or less than the day, week or month before. They can observe trends and encourage smart energy usage.

Set targets for schools

Schools can use the customised settings to define their own energy usage targets. The display can show pupils if they are using less or more energy than targets.

Customisable settings

The perfect aid to teaching smart energy usage. Using specific settings, the meter can be used for both primary and secondary schools and can even be customised to meet the educational requirements of individual classes.

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Photovoltaic (electricity generation) Demonstration Kit which they can use in the classroom to learn how these systems work. British Gas, Generation Green and British Gas also hosted workshops.

Communication channels

The council has used a number of communication channels to promote their work including publications, the Engauge Online website and the West Sussex Grid for Learning website.

Events such as the Engauge Petal Day workshop have been picked up in local media, including Spirit FM radio and were also publicised on the council's Twitter account.

Nicola Winser one of the Carbon Reduction Officers working with schools says: "The schools we have been working with are all very keen to save energy and water to reduce their CO2 footprint and save money on their energy bills. By promoting free resources such as the Energy Display Meters we are able to engage the whole school in making savings which will support the measures being installed through the Energy and Water Management Project."

By taking time to communicate directly with schools, West Sussex County Council has found that pupils and teachers alike are keen to make positive steps to reduce their carbon footprint. Pupils and teachers are becoming catalysts for behaviour change and are encouraging other groups such as parents and friends to think seriously about sustainability and climate change issues.

Key contact

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Further information

For more information on the free Energy Display Meter initiative, please visit:

www.energydisplaymeter.co.uk

For more information on the 'Engauge Programme', please visit: www.engaugeonline.co.uk/

For more information on West Sussex County Council, please visit: www.westsussex.gov.uk