

April Newsletter

School Eco Champions

We were very lucky as the Eco-Council to have a visit from Mark Maguire, Energy Engineer, to talk about the different ways we can reduce the energy that we use in school. The following is what we learnt at our latest meeting:

There are many ways to save energy including recycling, using public transport, not using the car for short journeys, etc.

I'm here today to talk about energy within your school (and your home) and how it can be used more efficiently. This will (amongst other things) save money.

Firstly, what uses energy?

- Things that heat
- Things that cool
- Things that light

Can you give examples of each.

What do you think uses the most energy?

- *Heating Boilers*
- *Air conditioning*
- *Large kitchen appliances (ovens)*
- *Old style lighting (when the whole school is added up)*

The important question - What wastes energy?

- *Over heating*
- *Over cooling (if air conditioning)*
- *Over lighting*
- *Opening windows if heating / cooling is on*
- *Gaps in door / window frames*
- *Draughts*
- *Closing blinds and turning lights on*

Why are we too hot?

- *Have you been running round or had PE*
 - *This is temporary, don't be tempted to open a window if the heating is on*
- *Are you sitting next to a radiator*
 - *Can you move?*
- *Is the sun coming through the window*
 - *Again, can you move, swap places?*
- *Are you dressed appropriately?*

Why are you cold?

- *Is it a cold day?*
- *Are you dressed appropriately?*
- *Have you just been outside?*
- *Is it raining? Are you wet?*
- *Is the heating on? Working correctly?*
- *Is there any air conditioning?*
- *Are windows open?*
- *Is there a draught?*

What saves energy?

- *Using sun to light / heat – it's free (open blinds where possible)*
- *Keeping doors closed*
- *Insulation*
- *Dressing appropriately*
- *Turning off lights when not required*

Lighting

We need light to be able to see what we are doing. Sometimes the light should be brighter than others. For example, if we are concentrating and 'close working' we may need more light – when walking down a corridor it may not need to be as bright.

Natural light (sunlight) is the best – and it's free!!!

Where possible make use of the natural light:

- *Open blinds*
- *Turn off lights that may not be needed (do all the lights need to be on?)*
 - *Is it brighter near the window?*
- *Uncover skylights*
- *Use a free app to check*

Is there a reason we shouldn't we turn lights off?

- *Often, they are on because no one has considered turning them off*
- *Sometimes, it's just the way it's always been – the site manager turns on all the lights when they start and turns them off when they leave*
- *It may be a dark corridor / room with no windows*

If, for example, the hall is used at a cut through – do all the lights need to be on

Turn off lights when the room is not being used (playtime, PE, etc)

Are the lights old / yellow? Can more modern lights with energy saving features be used?

Are white boards left on?

- *What energy saving ideas can you think of?*

Water – often not considered as a cost. We pay to get the clean water and we also pay to have it taken away (sewage).

What do we do that uses water?

- *Drink it*
- *Wash*
- *Use the toilet*

Remember these are things we **must** do!

Can you think of a time where we use water, but we can control how much we use?

- *Water play*
- *Watering the plants*
- *Clean our teeth (maybe not in school)*

What wastes water?

- *Leaking taps*

- *Taps that don't turn off (or take a long time)*
- *Faulty toilets*
- *Faulty urinals*
- *The dreaded underground leak*
- *Wasting hot water is also a waste of energy*
- *If you see something – tell someone*

Things to do

- *Take room temperatures (between 18°C and 21°C is considered normal)*
 - *Sometimes we move from a room that is too warm to another room and feel cold even though the temperature is correct.*
- *Use a light meter (free app)*
- *Take regular meter reads*
 - *Get a 'base load' (this is how much the school uses when it is closed – why uses energy when the school is closed?)*
 - *Can the base load be reduced?*
 - *Remember somethings can't be turned off (can you give examples?)*
 - *Compare to previous week*
 - *Why have we used more / less*
- *Have class 'light monitors' that turn off lights when everyone leaves (play, PE, lunch)*
- *Set up a reporting procedure (who do you tell if you see a faulty tap, toilet, etc?)*

Our next Eco-Council meeting is taking place on Tuesday 23rd May. We will be celebrating National Gardening Week and taking part in a litter pick.