

Schools challenge

These will vary according to which journey you decide to take, and your commitment in school to taking on the Schools' climate change challenge.

Indoor space

With access to computers/ internet

7.3A *Wood you believe....?* poster

Digital/paper image/s – everyone needs to be able to see/read it

Flipchart paper & marker pens

For new designs – enough for each group

Eco Schools

www.ecoschoolsscotland.org.uk
and www.ecoschools.org.uk

Learning and Teaching Scotland

Use Search facility for Schools' Global Footprint
www.ltscotland.org.uk

Woodland Trust

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

Community Woodlands Association

www.communitywoods.org/group-project/26

This activity seeks to expand the focus of the poster

Wood you believe?...

The poster highlights what individuals and families can do to promote behaviours that will help reduce the impact of carbon dioxide emissions, and climate change generally – the idea is to extend these/other actions to your school, and your wider community.

Preparatory activity

The *Wood you believe....?* poster can be used as an initial focus for discussion – are they achievable, can/do/will they do these things at home? Before asking “what about schools?” – do they have a role to play. We hope they will decide yes, and you can take up the challenge from there!



Activity 3

This activity can be as small or as open-ended a commitment as you like. If you want to keep it small and easily achievable – ask the learners, in small groups, to discuss and decide half a dozen good habits that would reduce the school's carbon footprint and develop these ideas into a poster. Have a gallery for the posters and ask the class to vote. The poster voted the most effective can be reproduced and placed in every classroom, the staff room and school noticeboard to help remind people of simple steps they can take to make a difference.

If you are seriously taking on the challenge of reducing your school's carbon footprint on the planet, then there are all kinds of aspects you can look at – it will be a long-term project, and only small steps need to be taken at the start. This challenge presents the school managers, staff and pupils with an opportunity to make commitments that clearly demonstrate the values and ethos of the school, with regard to its environmental and global responsibilities. It should be a straightforward step to take for a school that has repeatedly achieved Eco Schools Green Flag status. Below are a few ideas to help you decide the journey you may choose to take.

Eco Schools awards

Eco Schools is an international programme encouraging schools to develop an environmentally friendly school ethos. In Scotland, the Eco Schools Scotland programme is well advanced throughout most Primary Schools. The focus on climate change provides an opportunity to make links across to what is happening in your school, and to focus on a new unit – there are several possibilities – energy, transport, health and well-being, or biodiversity. The guide and resources supporting each of these units are available online. In England and Wales there are similar opportunities, and the resources available are open to everyone.

Schools' global footprint

The Worldwide Fund for Nature Scotland originally developed and trialled this programme, and the calculator. Today, the Footprint Calculator and supporting materials and activities are now integrated into the Eco Schools programme, and are all available on the Learning and Teaching Scotland website. The footprint provides a sound framework and context for learning against which the learners can see themselves making a difference. You can measure how much energy is being used at the start, and the difference made by adopting new practices in school e.g. switching lights and computers off.

Adopt a woodland

Even if you haven't anywhere, or any more space, to plant in your school grounds – there may be other places with easy access from the school. In your local area, see if there is a community woodland already, or a farmer and/or an estate that has an area of woodland your school could adopt and manage, or at least use as an outdoor learning resource. There are plenty of sources of help in learning about woodland management, as well as a variety of voluntary organisations who may be able to provide practical help/advice – Ranger Services, British Trust for Conservation Volunteers.

Use more wood

If you have been thinking about constructing an outdoor classroom, how about thinking about using sustainable timber for your design – community woodlands in Scotland have been busy promoting wooden buildings. Take a look at the Community Woodlands Association website for some ideas.

The Forests for the Future programme has promoted wood fuel as a renewable fuel, which reduces carbon emissions. Orchard Community Primary School which features in the video clip for Unit 4, is an excellent example of an educational facility that takes its carbon footprint and sustainable energy seriously. In 2004, the school needed to replace its coal fired boiler. The school looked at the options – gas, electricity or wood, and examined the ethical and environmental consequences of the possible choices. The head teacher explains their decision:

"We felt as an educational source we should be helping children to understand the importance of keeping their future environment as clean as possible. Our keen interest has resulted in off-shoot projects that the children have loved getting involved with. So not only has our wood fuel boiler eliminated smelly and dirty fumes and given us more space, but it's made us proactive in the campaign against pollution"....and by connection, helps offset the consequences for climate change.

Extract from *Forest Life Spring 2009*

Since then Orchard Primary School has worked with Forestry Commission England in promoting sustainable energy, and produced the sketch for an educational film on wood fuel.

Remember whatever you do, to reflect on what a difference your collective efforts have made. Celebrate this achievement, as well as keeping up the effort – for everyone to benefit from the forests of the future!

7.3A

Wood you believe...?

poster

For effective use in the classroom, you may want to enlarge these materials before printing or copying.



Wood you believe?

If we look after our woodlands, they'll look after us.

Use more wood!

Try to buy things made of wood rather than other materials like plastic. Make sure that these are from forests that have been well looked after by looking for logos like the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) logo.



Time for a barbie?

In Britain nearly all of our charcoal is imported, much of which comes from forests that are not well managed. Look out for certified locally produced charcoal instead!

Volunteer!

Can you help to look after your local woodland?

Paper chain

Recycled paper is best overall as it means that waste paper doesn't go to landfill, and less chemicals are needed to make it.



Trees are cool

Plant more trees at home or at school. These can provide shade and cool the air around you, as well as helping to reduce flooding.



Wood: fuel that grows on trees!

Could you use wood as a fuel in your school or at home? This could save money and keep you lovely and cosy at the same time.



Christmas tree time

As long as your tree comes from a woodland that has been well looked after, real Christmas trees are a climate-friendly alternative to fake trees.



Get out there

and enjoy your woodlands!



