



## **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY PANEL - 16TH JANUARY 2014**

**SUBJECT: EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND GLOBAL  
CITIZENSHIP – UPDATE ON KEY PROJECTS**

**REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide the members of the Sustainable Development Advisory Panel with an update on some of the key Education for Sustainable Development & Global Citizenship (ESDGC) projects.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The ESD Officer continues to provide ESDGC support to a variety of educational settings including schools, early years and the youth sector, as well as raising awareness of key sustainable issues that affect the settings, and implementing projects designed to support the settings and improve their sustainability.
- 2.2 This report summarises a few of the key projects undertaken or currently ongoing as part of the ESDGC support. It does not detail all the ESDGC work undertaken.
- 2.3 Some of the key projects for 2013/14 include:
- The Eco Early Years Award has been developed to support pre school settings working on sustainable development and global citizenship, to ensure they embed it into their short and long term plans and achieve recognition for their achievements.
  - The ESDGC Governor Toolkit was developed as a partnership project with Bridgend CBC to support new and existing governors working with their schools on ESDGC.
  - The Global Games Resource has been developed to support schools incorporating global citizenship into the curriculum through interactive learning and play.
  - 67% of schools in the Caerphilly county borough have achieved the Eco School Green Flag award.

### **3. LINKS TO STRATEGY**

- 3.1 The work of the education for sustainable development officer supports the following strategies and priorities:
- "Living Better, Using Less", Sustainable Development Strategy 2008
  - Education for Sustainable Development & Global Citizenship Strategy, 2009
  - Rural Development Plan
  - Carbon Reduction Strategy
  - Waste Management Strategy

- Corporate Travel Plan
- Single Integrated Plan, 2013 – 2017

#### **4. THE REPORT**

4.1 The ESDGC update report highlights some of the key projects undertaken by the ESD Officer to support schools, early years settings and the youth forum and youth groups on ESDGC. It should be noted that this report does not seek to identify all ESDGC projects undertaken to provide support to educational settings across the authority, but identifies some of the key projects ongoing for 2013/14.

4.2 The success of the ESDGC projects highlights that the ESDGC work continues to go from strength to strength within the authority, demonstrating the benefit of employing a dedicated ESD Officer.

#### **4.3 Eco Early Years Award Scheme:**

4.3.1 The Eco Early Years Award Scheme has been developed to support early years/ pre school settings working on environmental and sustainable projects as part of the settings development plan or as part of the settings Healthy Early Years Award Scheme Phase 3.

4.3.2 The award scheme was developed in partnership with the Caerphilly Healthy Early Years Team and the Healthy Schools Team following a request from early years settings to participate in a sustainable award scheme to help them embed ESDGC into their work programmes and make their settings more sustainable. Unfortunately early years settings cannot participate in the Eco Schools programme as Eco Schools Wales do not have the capacity to include early years settings alongside schools, so a specific award scheme had to be developed.

4.3.3 The Eco Early Years Award Scheme has been designed to link to the Healthy Early Years Scheme Phase 3, Environment section, and to compliment the Eco Schools programme so there is continuity of ESDGC progress from pre school to school. It has also been designed to suit a variety of early years/ pre school settings including child minders, nurseries, flying start, clych mytherin, after school clubs, wraps and playgroups.

4.3.4 The award scheme has three levels, a bronze award, silver award and gold award. For settings working on the Healthy Early Years Award Scheme Phase 3, on completion of the environment section, they would also achieve the Eco Early Years Bronze award. It is anticipated that each award level would take about 12 months to achieve although this will depend on the individual setting.

4.3.5 The Eco Early Years Award was launched in October 2013 and is currently being run with eight settings (all working towards the Healthy Early Years Award Phase 3), following this trial the scheme will be finalised and rolled out to additional settings.

#### **4.4 ESDGC Governors Toolkit:**

4.4.1 The ESDGC Governor Toolkit has been developed as a partnership project with Bridgend County Borough Council's ESD Officer, Governors Wales and Governor Support Units and governors from various authorities throughout Wales.

4.4.2 Following various ESDGC training sessions and an ESDGC conference for school governors, it was highlighted that a resource was needed to support school governors and raise awareness of ESDGC at governing body level. A cross county working group was developed, which met several times to develop the toolkit.

- 4.4.3 The toolkit has been developed to provide guidance to school governors (new and existing) to enable them to support their schools on ESDGC. It has been designed to enable governors to think and learn about ESDGC themes in the context of their own school and to help them understand the ESDGC issues in their school, as well as providing guidance on where ESDGC is incorporated into the Estyn Inspection process. It provides 10 simple starting points and activities to encourage governors to support their schools on ESDGC and it raises awareness of the various award schemes and initiatives and how they link together.
- 4.4.4 The ESDGC Governor Toolkit was launched in early 2013 at the ADEW (Association of Directors of Education in Wales) Governor Support Meeting and has been shared with the CCBC and BCBC Governor Support Units to circulate to all school governors. It is available to download from the Sustainable Caerphilly Website and from the Governors Wales Website (available bilingually), and is currently being rolled out throughout Wales via the All Wales ESDGC Officers Network.
- 4.4.5 The development of the ESDGC Governor Toolkit will ensure that all governors are supported on ESDGC and are aware of the key issues without the requirement for ongoing training sessions. The toolkit has been designed to ensure certain sections can be updated as and when required.

#### **4.5 ESDGC Youth Award Scheme:**

- 4.5.1 The ESDGC Youth Award Scheme, the first of its kind in Wales, was developed as a partnership project with Bridgend County Borough Council in 2012. It was developed to raise awareness and understanding of ESDGC and provide guidance to incorporate ESDGC into the youth work curriculum. It uses features from other sustainable award schemes and will support youth groups delivering ESDGC action as part of the Estyn inspection process.
- 4.5.2 Several youth groups based in the Caerphilly county borough and Bridgend county borough asked to participate in the Eco Schools award programme to receive recognition for their Eco achievements. Unfortunately this was not possible, as Eco Schools Wales didn't have the capacity to include youth groups due to the time commitment required. It was also evident that the Eco Schools programme wasn't really suitable for youth groups.
- 4.5.3 Following this request, the ESD Officers from both authorities worked in partnership with their Youth Service teams to develop an award scheme suitable for youth groups. The aim was to develop the award scheme, trial it with a small number of groups over a specific time period and then roll out the scheme to all youth groups. As youth groups only run between October and June it was decided to trial the scheme over a 2 year period to ensure the youth groups had at least 12 to 18 months to work through the award scheme.
- 4.5.4 There are three levels to the award scheme, the bronze leaf, the silver twig and the gold tree. Following its launch in February 2012, five youth clubs in the Caerphilly county borough have been working towards the ESDGC Youth Award Scheme. To date one youth club has achieved the silver twig award and is working towards the gold tree award. The other four groups have assessments planned for the spring term to determine which award level they have achieved.
- 4.5.5 To support the youth groups working on the ESDGC Youth Award Scheme, the ESD Officer has run ESDGC training sessions for youth workers and visited the youth groups to offer advice and guidance on specific initiatives. The ESDGC Youth Award has resulted in ESDGC commitment from senior staff, interest to participate in the scheme from other youth groups and the request to develop an ESDGC Youth Award 'Work Programme Resource' detailing work plans and lesson ideas for the individual topic areas.

## **4.6 Eco Schools**

- 4.6.1 61 schools (67%) in the Caerphilly county borough have achieved the Eco School Green Flag award to date. Out of these 61 schools, 19 have achieved their 2<sup>nd</sup> Green Flag, 18 have achieved their 3<sup>rd</sup> Green Flag and 10 have achieved the prestigious Platinum Award (4<sup>th</sup> Green flag). Out of the remaining schools in the county borough, 22 hold the Eco School silver award and 7 hold the bronze award.
- 4.6.2 To celebrate the eco achievements of the 61 schools with the Eco School Green Flag award, an Eco School Celebration Event is being held on April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2014 at Bedwas High School, the first secondary school in the county borough to achieve the Eco School Platinum award. The celebration event will include school presentations, a World of Ogs workshop and a world record attempt for the greatest number of Ogs developed in one day.
- 4.6.3 The World of Ogs workshop gives the children an opportunity to design and create their own imaginary character by reusing a variety of garments. During the workshop the children will learn how different materials can be reused and the importance of looking after the environment. The Og character is then used to help the children address environmental issues, both local and global, linked to the curriculum through an Og diary, storytelling and creative writing.
- 4.6.4 Eco School training sessions are being run during 2013/14 to support the schools at the bronze and silver award level to help them work towards the Eco School Green Flag award. Training sessions are also being run to support schools renewing their Green Flag award and work towards the Platinum award. The training sessions have resulted in a reduction in the number of individual Eco School support visits required by schools.

## **4.7 Global Games Resource:**

- 4.7.1 The Global Games Resource has been developed to support schools incorporating global citizenship into the curriculum. It has been designed to encourage global learning, to promote games from around the world and to encourage pupils to learn and play new games. It also supports schools working on the Eco Schools programme and Healthy Schools Scheme.
- 4.7.2 The resource is aimed at Primary Schools and Secondary Schools (year 7 and 8). There are 22 games in the resource, detailed by continent and then by country. Each section includes information on the location, population, climate, environmental issues, wildlife, natural resources, cultures and traditions.
- 4.7.3 Some of the games are suitable for the children to play in the playground or out of school while others are more suitable for the classroom or for teacher led outdoor play. Before or after playing the games the teacher/ leader should cover some of the information with the children and consider discussing the game within its cultural context. Children's games provide a creative and fun way to view different cultures as traditions and traits are usually reflected through the games children play.
- 4.7.4 A Global Games Resource workshop was held with the Junior Forum to ensure the games selected were appropriate for the targeted age range and interesting/ fun to play. The resource will be launched in January 2014 at a local primary school and distributed to schools in the Caerphilly county borough.

## **4.8 Caerphilly Solar Schools Phase 2**

- 4.8.1 £71,000 has been secured to install solar photovoltaic systems on the remaining schools in the Heads of the Valley area, as part of phase 2 of the project. Seven out of the ten remaining schools in the Heads of the Valley area and the Aberbargoed Education Centre will receive solar photovoltaic installations, following asbestos surveys and structural surveys.

4.8.2 The seven schools to receive an installation as part of phase 2 are:

- Aberbargoed Primary School
- Deri Primary School
- St Gwladys Bargoed School
- Phillipstown Primary School
- Gilfach Fargoed Primary School
- Park Primary School
- Ysgol Gynradd Gilfach Fargoed

4.8.3 The system size for each school is 4Kw except for Gilfach Fargoed Primary School and Ysgol Gynradd Gilfach Fargoed, who will receive a 1.5Kw system due to the roof space available. The installations include a solar display unit (to be placed in a prominent place) so the children can monitor the energy generated and the CO<sub>2</sub> saved.

4.8.4 Gibson's Specialist Contract Services have been contracted by United Welsh Housing to undertake the work, which should be complete by March 2014. As part of the work they will provide a presentation to the school children explaining how the solar photovoltaic system operates and provide educational tools for the teachers to use in class.

4.8.5 To date asbestos and structural surveys have been undertaken on 6 of the 7 schools and solar PV systems have been installed on Aberbargoed Primary School, Phillipstown Primary School and Deri Primary School. The remaining installations will be undertaken after the Christmas break.

#### **4.9 ESDGC Mapping – Literacy & Numeracy**

4.9.1 With schools focussing on the Numeracy and Literacy Framework, it is important to identify how these areas can be taught using ESDGC.

4.9.2 The All Wales ESDGC Officers Network is working together to produce a set of documents for different year groups with suggested activities for each of the elements in the Literacy and Numeracy documents. We are currently focussing on year 2, 6 and 9, which should be complete by March 2014.

4.9.3 The documents will help schools embed the requirements of the new Literacy and Numeracy Framework within their curriculum planning and include ESDGC as a theme for classroom teaching.

#### **5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no equality implications associated with this report.

#### **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

#### **7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are no personnel implications.

#### **8. CONSULTATIONS**

8.1 There are no consultation responses, which have not been incorporated in the report.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 It is recommended that members of SDAP note the achievements of some of the key ESDGC projects.

## **10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10.1 For the reasons set out in the report.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

- 11.1 There are no statutory powers associated with this report.

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