

Schools and the South West Lent Carbon Fast 2014

The South West Dioceses are inviting church schools to be part of their joint Lent Carbon Fast 2014. We recognise that with membership of EcoSchools and other environmental initiatives, many schools are ahead of their local church and others - but for such schools Lent can be an opportunity to consider next steps and celebrate what you have already achieved by letting your church and local community know what you have done.

The Lent Carbon Fast challenge is a call to all, to think about our carbon usage and respond in a way which bears witness to the Christian belief in our responsibility to care for God's creation and the environment.

Right across the region's dioceses, individuals as well as churches, schools, youth groups are invited to reduce their carbon footprint by 40% during the 40 days of Lent, starting on 5 March. It's an opportunity to be creative, and a lot can be achieved by planning ahead. Bishop Ed Condry, the Bishop of Ramsbury in the Diocese of Salisbury, is giving up his car for Lent and turning to a bike, even for late evening meetings.

The Bishop of Crediton says: *"Climate Change is not good for the planet's biodiversity, nor for at risk people and places, nor for future generations. Part of the Church's task is to protect and preserve God's Creation and to pass on a positive inheritance to future generations."*

How can we take part and try to achieve the 40% target?

You can sign up at the website <http://www.thecarbonfast.org> . Below, the Dioceses have put together a menu of activities and resources for schools to use. They will also be made available on the website. Schools are invited to take on one activity a week in the weeks of Lent which are in term time.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

This is a menu of possible ideas , we recognise that across the South West church-linked schools vary in size, age of pupils and location, so not all are suitable for every age group or school

WALK TO SCHOOL – One Day Per Week (this could be done each week)

- You have probably done walk to school days already, with all sorts of different experiences. This Lent you might consider having a Slow Fast day; a morning as part of the Carbon Fast when children and young people are encouraged to walk to school while taking time to appreciate Creation, sharing reflections later on in assembly or class.

TRANSPORT

- Start a Lift Share Scheme – it may continue after Lent and reduce school gate traffic
- Ask Teachers/Staff and People attending meetings to find lower carbon ways to travel – public transport, bike etc.

ASSEMBLY

- Assembly linking Lent and Climate Change and Carbon Fast.
- Many activities available e.g.
http://www.cafod.org.uk/content/download/723/6250/file/Primary_Environment_Climate-Change-Game-for-assembly.pdf
- Explore how other faiths respond to the environment and understand the world we live in. There are resources in the faith section of www.eco-faith.org

CLASS ACTIVITY /CRAFT or PRACTICAL

Some of these could provide alternatives that fit to current lesson planning, otherwise please choose the short activities or make them voluntary outside the classroom.

1. Design a Dog or Snake draft excluder to go along the length of a door
2. Build instruments to measure weather
3. Class discussions around the impact of Climate Change.
4. After some initial discussion on Climate Change and effects of greenhouse gases, invite groups of pupils to give the weather forecast for today and for 2030 and 2050 if we don't change how we live. [EU just agreed a target of 40% reduction in greenhouse emissions by 2030 – so the Lent experience will show us how we might need to live]
5. Calculate - Foodmiles in your meals for a day or a week– what wouldn't we eat if we mostly ate things from the UK / 30 miles from school/only in season. This could include collecting food labels and bags from supermarket fruit and veg which show country of origin.
6. How much carbon could we save as a class or as schools across the South West if we switched off our mobile phones for a day. Most phones only need a few hours charge but we leave them on overnight.
http://www.slate.com/articles/health_and_science/the_green_lantern/2009/10/you_charged_me_all_night_long.html
7. How much food do we waste – energy is used to grow, produce, transport, keep cool – wasting food wastes energy. See Love Food Hate Waste website. What happens to food waste from school dinners? Home?
8. **LENT CARBON FAST POSTER COMPETITION – A Poster to get churches in your area active on the Environment. There are categories for each of the Key Stages 1 to 4. Prize of £100 of Environment related books/resources for school library and £10 book token for the pupil. Please send jpeg of the entries to info@thecarbonfast.org by the end of Lent.**

ECOSCHOOLS

Lots of schools have signed up to the ecoschools scheme. If you have not joined – consider starting the process during Lent. If you are already an ecoschool, this might be a good time to check on whether there is anything you could do to take that further; perhaps making a commitment to move from the bronze award to silver. You could also have a celebration of what you have achieved. There is also an ecocongregation scheme for churches but very few have joined that. Could pupils petition their local parish to consider the scheme?

WHOLE SCHOOL AND ENERGY

1. Standby Switch Off – appoint various pupils to check things are switched off overnight
2. Stop the tap – don't leave running taps. Water uses energy to clean, pump it and dispose of it.
3. All Teaching and Activity to be done without white boards or computers for one day.

GOVERNORS AND HEAD TEACHERS

1. Switch to Green Energy – The Dioceses work with Ecotricity based in Stroud.
2. How green is your procurement? How much do you use of local suppliers ?
3. Do you grow food on the schools premises? Is this Lent a time to think about it- tomato /potato grow bags if ? It can link in with learning opportunities as well as looking at food blessings, customs and the practicalities of preparing food to eat.
4. Notify parents of public transport (where available) when they are due to attend school events
5. Look at your insulation /borrow an infra-red camera to see energy leakage, which could help your longer term energy saving.
6. Look at energy used by all IT in school – e.g. Did you know that screen savers don't save energy ? See guidance - http://www.energyineducation.ie/Energy_In_Education/Information_for_Schools/Resources_and_links/IT_Factsheet.pdf

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES–Not Exhaustive List!

Care for creation:

Primary

<http://www.salisbury.anglican.org/schools/re-resources/wiltshire/teaching-units-ks1-2/rules-for-living-stewardship>

Secondary

<http://www.salisbury.anglican.org/schools/re-resources/dorset/teaching-units-ks3/what-do-christians-believe-about-creation-and-the-environment>

Some more ideas here:

<http://www.greenschoolsireland.org/themes/global-citizenship.199.html>

<http://ew.ecocongregation.org/resources/module4>

<http://www.climatechoices.org.uk/pages/activities0.htm>

<http://www.cooltheworld.com/lessonsprimary.php>

Climate change

If you can find a copy of any of the Love Life Live Lent books they have lots of great ideas that are suitable for actions we can take (not just climate change but quite a few are) <http://www.churchofengland.org/media-centre/news/2013/01/love-life-live-lent-%E2%80%93-interactive-launch-in-parliament-for-new-lent-resource.aspx>

Online resources with lesson plans etc

A week of lessons from Oxfam for 9-11's:

<http://www.oxfam.org.uk/education/resources/climate-chaos>

A climate change day of workshops for KS3/4:

<http://www.oxfam.org.uk/education/resources/climate-change-learning-day>

<http://www.cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-schools/Climate-Environment> they also have secondary pages

http://www.actionaid.org.uk/sites/default/files/doc_lib/schools_powerdown_primary.pdf

DIOCESAN ENVIRONMENT CONTACTS:

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