



# Energy Sparks

## Newsletter 2 – October 2017

Well done to Pensford Primary School who have started their Energy Sparks journey and set up a new Eco-team at the school, earning themselves 20 Energy Sparks points!

Some schools are starting to take advantage of a visit from the Energy Sparks team to introduce Energy Sparks to their Energy/Eco/Green team. A possible format for a meeting comprises:

- An Energy Walk around your school with the Energy team members to look at where energy is being used and where it is being wasted.
- Introduction to the Energy Sparks site for the members of the Energy team using your own devices (ipads etc)
- Look at some of the Charts showing energy use for your school and discuss what information the charts are telling us about energy use.
- Discussion around Energy Sparks Activities the pupils would like to start with and an Energy Action plan going forward

Please contact us at [hello@energysparks.uk](mailto:hello@energysparks.uk) if you would like to book a visit. If you don't currently have an Eco-team or similar, the activities can be carried out with the pupils of a particular class who will be leading your energy saving activities. Alternatively, you might like to set up an Energy or Eco-team to lead on sustainability issues at your school. Remember this can be recorded as an Energy Sparks activity, and earn you points.

### Energy Sparks Awards

Energy Sparks schools earn awards when you record your activities on the Energy Sparks website. As schools earn awards they are revealed on their dedicated awards web page. Awards that are still to be earned are shown to help you plan your next activities.

Some Awards are designed to encourage pupils to get started on the project, for example the Evidence award is granted when Schools add a link to a web page, photo or video when recording their Energy Sparks activities.



Other Awards reward repeat activities under the different activity categories, such as the Teamwork award for recording 5 different types of activity in the "Whole-school activities" category.

The Reporter awards reward long term effort across all categories, with different awards for recording 20, 50 and 100 activities.



### Two more Energy Sparks Activities to try at your school

**Pupil energy monitors are appointed in all classes**

[http://www.energysparks.uk/activity\\_types/12](http://www.energysparks.uk/activity_types/12)

Consider appointing an Energy monitor in each classroom with some or all of the following responsibilities, which should be carried out regularly. Consider monitoring daily when you first start, and then move to weekly monitoring to ensure any improvements are maintained:

1. Spot checks to see if lights and electrical items are left on at lunch time
2. Spot checks to see if lights and IT are left on after school
3. Spot checks of classroom temperatures

4. Monitoring whether outside doors and windows are closed during cold weather
5. Spot checks of the classroom's thermostat settings
6. Monitoring whether staff and pupils are wearing warmer clothes inside the school building during winter

All these monitoring activities fit in with other Energy Sparks activities, so visit the Energy Sparks website to find out more tips for carrying out the activities successfully.

### **The school introduces a system to reward classes for energy efficiency** [http://www.energysparks.uk/activity\\_types/37](http://www.energysparks.uk/activity_types/37)

Use your Energy Team to monitor the performance of each class at saving energy. Come up with an appropriate system to record performance in each class. Carry out regular spot checks to assess if your classroom monitors are doing their job well.

Some schools have used a token system where good performance is rewarded by a green token in a pot in the classroom and poor performance is recorded by a red token in a different pot. The class with the most green tokens at the end of an agreed period of time gets an award. Some schools have rewarded the best performing class with an Energy Saver of the Month trophy, but choose the prize that works best for your school.

### **Reminder about free LESS CO2 workshops for schools**

As mentioned in the first newsletter, Energy Sparks is exploring the possibility of working with LESS CO2 run by the Ashden Trust. LESS CO2 is a schools energy reduction programme, which links schools within an area together into a geographically close 'cluster'. Each cluster brings together teachers and school managers for a year-long energy saving programme that includes four FREE half-day afternoon workshops covering energy saving and incorporating energy-related sustainability issues into the curriculum. The sessions are typically led by teachers or representatives from schools that have won an Ashden School Award, which champion some of the most exciting sustainable energy pioneers on the planet.

With enough interest within Bath and NE Somerset, Ashden will be able to run a workshop series locally. Alternatively, there is also the option to join the existing cluster in Bristol. If you would be interested in participating in this FREE workshop series, please register your interest at <http://www.lessco2.org.uk/register> by 13<sup>th</sup> October and let the Energy Sparks team know at [hello@energysparks.uk](mailto:hello@energysparks.uk)

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