

Using the Schools' Global Footprint Resource

Case study

Bankhead Academy and associated primary schools: Bucksburn, Kingswells, Newhills and Stoneywood Primary Schools and Marlpool Special School

Local Authority **Aberdeen City**

Coordinator **Roseleen Shanley, Bankhead Academy**

Working with **Aberdeen Environmental Education Centre**

Pupils involved **P1-S6**

Bankhead Academy and five of its associated primaries came together for an "Eco Week" - a week of cross-curricular activities, some of which were provided through the local community or outside agencies - all based on the Schools' Global Footprint resource. Fun, hands-on activities were provided to enable pupils to engage in cooperative learning and to build up a greater understanding of why we need to change our lifestyles to live more sustainably. The Eco Week provides a good example of how cross-curricular aspects of *A Curriculum for Excellence* can be introduced to both primary and secondary schools following a common theme.



Bankhead pupils measured the school's own footprint, including energy and waste



Organising a Footprint Eco Week

1 Planning the Eco Week

In early 2007, teachers from each school, WWF and Aberdeen Environmental Education Centre came together to decide on a set of organising questions for all activities. These were:

- 1 What is a global footprint?
- 2 How do we measure our footprint?
- 3 Why are global footprints important?
- 4 How can we reduce our global footprint?

Teachers used two half days to compile a programme spanning all year groups and schools.

Planning in primaries was easier as class structure suited cross-curricular activities. To help planning in the secondary school, the idea was introduced at a staff meeting. Activities for teachers to pick from were displayed on a poster in the staffroom. Teachers could also schedule in their own additional ones.

Teachers helped pupils to submit bids to enterprise companies, trusts and other organisations, successfully raising funds for the week.

2 Eco Week activities

A whole host of activities took place during the week in the

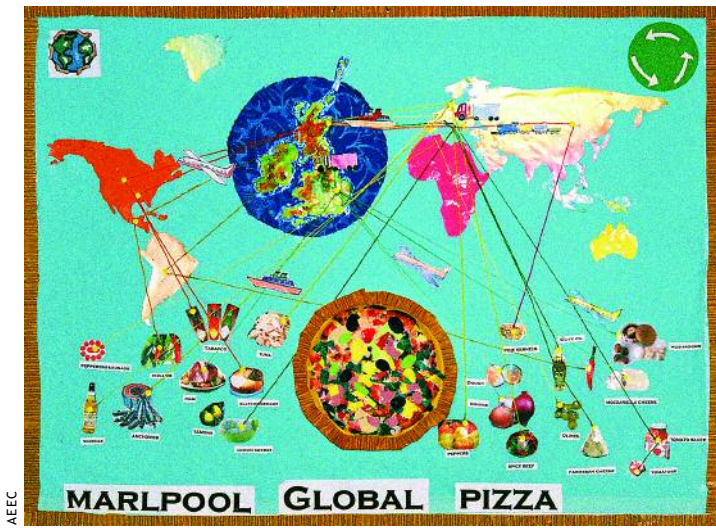
different schools. P6 pupils were given the opportunity to undertake some activities at Bankhead Academy (e.g. recycling workshops and the Waste Aware Bus) - this was useful to help them prepare for their transition to secondary school.

Bankhead Academy set out to calculate its own global footprint and provide pupils with experiences to raise awareness of the impacts their lifestyles have on the environment.

As well as measuring the separate footprints of the school's waste, energy, water usage, transport and food, the

Top tips for organising an Eco Week

- Start organising funding and external agencies well in advance
- Make sure there is strong commitment to teamwork across schools
- Involve parents and community members
- Enlist the help of local organisations
- Prepare pupils for the week with curriculum-linked activities
- Apply for awards to celebrate results



pupils investigated how the school's footprint could be reduced - e.g. by using alternative energy sources, collecting rainwater, raising awareness about litter, looking at eco-friendly travel to school and making soup without processed ingredients. They even designed a new eco school.

Bucksburn, Newhills and Stonywood Schools concentrated on outdoor activities in the playground and local green spaces. They made footprint pledges and used art and photography to consider how wildlife and people use the same space. They went pond dipping, looked for mini beasts and studied trees and the soil.

Kingswells School centred its activities on redesigning

the school courtyard garden - taking into account species diversity, colour, and the ability of the garden to attract wildlife.

Marlpool Special School spent its week doing a "global pizza" project. After considering where the ingredients for pizzas come from (which included a trip to a farm to see how milk and cheese are produced), and how pizzas are packaged and transported, they put together posters showing how a simple pizza has a global footprint. They even made six types of their own "global pizza".

Bankhead Academy has received four awards for its footprint reduction work

3 Celebrating success

A special reception was hosted at Bankhead Academy for everyone who took part. Pupils had a chance to share their Eco Week activities and meet pupils from other

TRAINING AND RESOURCES

- > All schools attended an introductory session on global footprinting with WWF Scotland's Education Officer.
- > The Schools' Global Footprint teaching materials were provided at the training session and can be downloaded from the website www.LTScotland.org.uk/schoolsglobalfootprint
- > The footprint calculator is available at the same web address.
- > The Eco Week was supported by Aberdeen Environmental Education Centre, with help from local people, environmental agencies and generous financial support from local businesses.

schools. They proudly received global footprint certificates to mark their achievements.

4 Evaluating the week

Teachers got together soon after the event to share experiences and look at what could have gone better in preparation for the next Eco Week.

"Pupils could take actions which had a recognisable effect and were becoming part of an informed group that was going to make a difference."

"I valued the opportunity to work with my secondary colleagues and other primaries."
Feedback from teachers

"The school continues to benefit from the Eco Week - it has received four awards for its work to reduce the water and energy footprints of the school, and three pupils will be attending the United Nations Youth Forum in Stavanger this year to present our results."
Roseleen Shanley,
Principal Teacher of RMPS,
Bankhead Academy

May 2008

Download resources from www.LTScotland.org.uk/schoolsglobalfootprint

Schools' Global Footprint Resource

Resources and training are available to help schools to examine, measure and take action to reduce their impact on the environment locally and globally as part of the Eco Schools programme.

For more information visit www.LTScotland.org.uk/schoolsglobalfootprint

Eco Schools Scotland
Islay House
Livilands Lane
Stirling FK8 2BG
t: 01786 468234
www.ecoschoolsscotland.org

Local Footprints Project

The purpose of the Local Footprints Project is to help local authorities and schools make an effective contribution to reducing Scotland's global footprint through the use of footprint analysis to inform policy and practice, to raise awareness, and to change behaviour.

Local Footprints Project
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Local Footprints is a joint project between WWF Scotland and the Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN), with funding and support from Eco Schools Scotland, the Improvement Service, the Scottish Government and ScottishPower.