LOCAL footprints

footprint support for local authorities

www.localfootprints.org

Using the Schools' Global Footprint Resource

Case study
Markethill Primary School, Turriff

No. of pupils	550
Local Authority	Aberdeenshire
Teacher	Allison Bremner
Pupils involved	P7 – whole school

Markethill Primary School used the Schools' Global Footprint Resource to raise awareness and enthusiasm for sustainable development issues across the school. By collecting data and entering it into the online calculator over a one-week period, P7 pupils were able to measure their school's footprint and then take steps to reduce it. The activities linked with *A Curriculum for Excellence*, involving cross-curricular working and providing pupils and staff with real-life experiences. The work was also used to start off the school's Eco Schools programme.

MARKETHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Three steps to Markethill Primary's footprint reduction

1 Introducing the idea

Pupils gained understanding of the concept of footprinting using activities from the Schools' Global Footprint teachers' materials "Making Connections" unit. Pupils then worked in groups to develop presentations to introduce the concept of footprinting to each class in the school.

Pupils collected, sorted and weighed a week's waste

2 Measuring the school's footprint

The pupils decided to measure all six areas of their school's footprint – energy, waste, water, transport, food and buildings. Pupils collected data using the methods described below and then entered it onto the online calculator, giving them the overall calculation of their footprint.

Energy

As access to the school's electricity and gas meters was not possible, the pupils contacted the Council to get information from the utility bills on the amount of energy the school uses each year.

Waste

Working with other classes and school staff, pupils collected all the waste produced over the week and separated it into different types, including office and mixed paper, cardboard, cans, plastic, glass and foil. They even weighed the slops from the school canteen. The pupils weighed the waste by weighing themselves with and without bags of waste.

Water

As the water meter was located in the middle of the car park, the pupils asked the school janitor to take readings of the school's water use over the week, and this was multiplied up to estimate average use over a year.

Transport

The pupils put together a questionnaire to be sent to all pupils as well as staff to find out how far they travelled to school everyday, and by what means. Questionnaires were returned within two days and the pupils collated the huge amount of resulting information and entered it into the calculator.

Food

The school canteen provided

MARKETHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

P7 pupils presented their ideas to all the classes in the school

information about the amount and type of food that is consumed in school meals in a typical week. Pupils also looked at packed lunches and snacks eaten at break times. From this data they calculated how much the average pupil consumes over the 40 week school year.

Buildings

The buildings footprint is the area of the school. Using a trundle wheel and measuring tapes, pupils mapped the school and then calculated the overall area in square metres.

The school cut its water use by **96%**

3 Creating and implementing an action plan

After comparing the relative value of each component of the school's footprint, the pupils decided to reduce the footprint by tackling first water then energy and waste.

The action plan put in place to reduce water use produced staggering results. The data that the pupils had collected showed that they used a colossal 1,157,500 litres of water a week. So the P7 pupils organised a school-wide campaign, asking everyone to use less water by only having taps running when needed and not turning them on full blast. In addition, water-saving devices were installed in toilet cisterns. These simple measures resulted in a cut in water use to only 45,000 litres a week – an incredible 96% reduction.

The school now has a brand new waste bin area with recycling bins, where paper, card and some plastics can be recycled. And lastly there are now posters and stickers all round the school reminding people to conserve energy by switching off lights and computers that are not in use.

The next phase of the project is to collect new data about the school's resource use and waste production and recalculate its footprint.

Why use the resource?

Allison Bremner, teacher of class P7, was delighted with the ability of the resource to engage pupils in sustainability issues. "Working on Schools' Global Footprint has had multiple benefits, financially, educationally and environmentally. Engaging in decision-making on relevant real-life issues has improved the pupils' motivation and confidence, while the work supports *A Curriculum for Excellence*. There have been numerous opportunities to link to the curriculum (particularly English language, mathematics, ICT, expressive arts, science and social subjects) and to address cross-curricular themes such as citizenship, personal and social development, health and wellbeing, and sustainable development."

"The pupils are now very aware of how their actions can make an impact - at the round-up exercise I asked them what they thought of the project and one child said 'We made a difference, and it will last'"

Alison Bremner, P7 teacher

TRAINING AND RESOURCES

- After an introductory meeting with WWF Scotland Education Officer, Allison attended a training day to learn how to use the footprint calculator and other resources.
- She downloaded the footprint calculator from www.LTScotland.org.uk/schoolsglobalfootprint
- The Schools' Global Footprint teachers' materials were provided at the training day and can also be downloaded from the website.

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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.

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