

Fair Hill Primary School

Number of pupils: 300

Age range: 4 – 11 years

Location: Kinallen, Dromara, Dromore Co Down

Joined Eco-Schools: 2005

Number of Green Flags: 6

Fair Hill were originally spurred on to tackle the Energy Topic when their energy efficiency rating dropped to an E. They appointed Energy monitors in every class and kept track of their results. They were delighted when their energy efficiency rating went up to a C. They had recently installed solar panels and were excited to see the effect it would have on their energy readings. Unfortunately their solar panels were vandalised within a couple of months of being installed. The ECO committee were very disappointed, but set to work to see what they could do. After three long years of writing to MLA'S and the EA they were fixed in May 2017 and once again a new generation of Energy monitors are recording the daily output from the panels and monitoring CO2 reduction. While they were waiting for the panels to be replaced they realised that a new extractor fan in the recently enlarged canteen was sucking heat out of the main school, freezing the canteen staff and putting their energy efficiency up to 142. Again they wrote to the School Meals department and met with the canteen staff, architects and installation company. The result was, that the fans output was changed and the energy rating of the school went down to 112. Becoming an Ambassador Eco-School and working on these issues has helped previously shy pupils become more self-assured and improve their communication with peers and adults.

Topic actions: Energy

The Eco-Committee along with other pupils organise energy reduction in school on a day to day basis. The best classes are highlighted on the Eco-noticeboard and certificates given out in assembly once a month.

Notices to switch off and save are all around the school. The school has taken part in annual power down days and competitions run by Eco-Schools. P5 study a renewable energy topic as part of their classwork.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

Gathered data by energy light patrols is used for graphs and comparisons made. Working on the topic has improved pupils confidence and communication skills. The pupils have also been able to problem solve through looking at areas of concern and suggesting solutions/explanations.

Sharing Good Practice actions:

2015 Eco-Schools 20th Anniversary Event – Display stand showcasing their topic work.

Eco-Schools National Operators Meeting (NOM) – the school provided a notice board showcasing their good work on energy for the international visitors to enjoy.

Fair Hill have completed a [case study](#) available on the Eco-Schools website. More information on their Eco-Schools work can be found on the school [website](#).

Mentoring School:

Through Shared Education a link was formed with St Colman's Primary School Annaclone. Together the schools planned some Eco lessons and worked together on a Big Spring Clean event at Tyrella Beach. Fair Hill hope to help them as they work towards their first Green Flag Award.



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Above: Fair Hill receiving their Ambassador Eco-School award during the Eco-Schools 20th Anniversary Event.



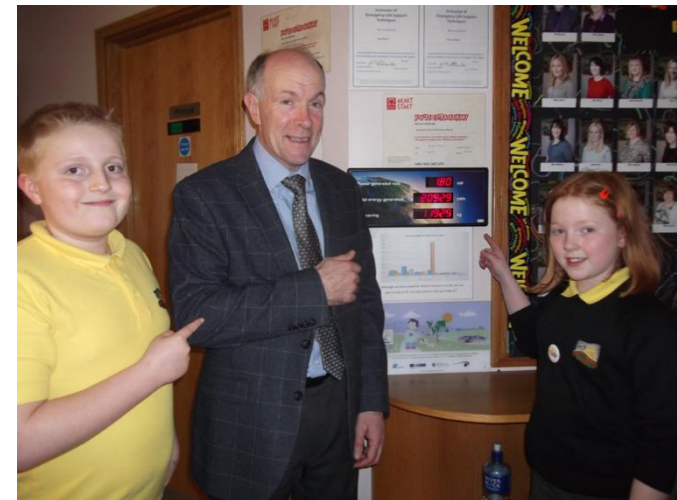
Above: Switch off Lights Awards presented in assembly.



Above: Fair Hill's energy display stand at the Eco-Schools 20th Anniversary Event.



Above: energy topic work on display at school. KS 4/5 look at renewable energy as a class topic. .



Above: A big thank-you to Mr Robert McCreery the Energy and Environmental Officer EA Southern for all his help with our Solar Panels.