

Welcome to SEI's Education Ezine no 3

Keeping cool by saving energy - summer 2008 !



SEI would like to wish you all a very happy summer break,

but before you finish up for the year here are some ideas

for projects and places to go over the summer

Got any comments or questions? Contact me at schools@sei.ie

Sections in this Ezine:

Primary Schools:

Solar power, places to visit and Energy Quiz

Secondary Schools:

Photo Competition 2008 Winners, Summer Energy Saving, websites to visit

Primary Schools

Solar Power



We have had plenty of sunny days recently and this is an opportunity to talk about a great renewable resource _ Solar Power.

We use the power of the sun in our homes and schools even if we don't have solar panels. Simply by allowing the sunlight to come in through our windows and skylights if we have them we are letting the sun heat up our homes for free.

On sunny days we can feel the strong heat from the sun. If you were building a home with lots of big windows they would let lots of light in and keep the house warm on sunny days. We can also use solar panels to capture some of the sun's energy. We see solar panels all the time, on the roofs of houses on tops of car parking meters in cities, and there are mini solar panels on some calculators.

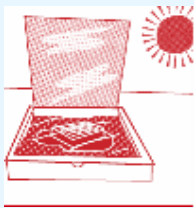
There are two types of solar power, Solar Thermal and Solar Photo Voltaic (PV).

Solar thermal is the more common type of solar power, it uses the heat from the sun and it heats up stored hot water to heat your home or hot water supply. Lots of people in Ireland use this type of solar power to heat water in their homes.

Solar PV uses light energy from daylight to make electricity to power electrical items. This type of solar panel will be found on your calculator or garden lights.

Solar power is a renewable source of energy - it can be used over and over and will never run out.

Solar Power Activity



Find out more about solar power by making your own Pizza-Box solar oven. Follow the steps to melt chocolate in your pizza box solar oven. (this activity is in our resource Energy File and available [here as a pdf](#))

Places to Visit

The [places to visit](#) part of our site has lots of ideas for summer visits. You might like to suggest some of these to your students to visit with their families over the summer to learn more about energy and have fun!

For example you can visit [Skerries Mill](#) to see wind and water power in action and [Sonairte](#) to learn about renewable energy such as solar power, [ENFO](#) has lots of information on environmental issues and interactive displays

Case Studies

Our [Case studies](#) section is growing - we have two new schools who have shared their work on energy with us. Click on the name of the school below to go to that case study online.

- [Mullahoran NS](#) in Co Cavan had a competition to come up with an energy logo.

- **St Mary's School**, Dungarvan, Co Waterford recently had a visit from Guzzler.

Please send any case studies showing what your class is doing to promote energy efficiency to schools@sei.ie.

Summer energy quiz for schools



Questions below: (all answers can be found on our website, I have included the links for each answer after each question, you might like to get students to find the answers themselves from the website.)

Primary School Energy Quiz:

1. Where we get our energy from - for our daily lives? [[answer can be found here](#)]
2. Do we need more energy for sleeping or swimming? [[answer can be found here](#)]
3. In Ireland most of the electricity we use is made from burning fossil fuels. Can you name any fossil fuels? [[answer can be found here](#)]
4. Will fossil fuels ever run out? [[answer can be found here](#)]
5. Will renewable energy ever run out? [[answer can be found here](#)]
6. Can you name three types of renewable energy? [[answer can be found here](#)]
7. Do we use more energy now than people did 100 years ago? [[answer can be found here](#)]
8. Name three appliances in your home that use electricity [[answer can be found here](#)]
9. Name three ways **you** can help save energy at home [[answer can be found here](#)]
10. Name three ways **you** can help save energy at school [[answer can be found here](#)]

Check-list for summer energy saving..

Why not make a check list with your class to make sure that lights and appliances are switched off so that they are not wasting energy over the summer

Secondary Schools

Life Through A Lens - 2008 Photo competition

Life through a Lens 2008 has been a great success. We had almost 600 entries in total, many thanks to everyone who entered.

The winning photograph was by Cassie Ann Wallace, Aged 13 from Strabane High School Co Tyrone.



All winners are now displayed on our website [click here to see them](#)
The winning photographs will be displayed at various locations over the coming weeks check the website for more details as the venues are confirmed.

Recommended site

Eco World is a new site developed by the Northern Ireland Consumer Council aimed at junior cycle secondary school students. The website aims to give young people the tools to become responsible consumers. Its a great fun interactive site which allows you to navigate different rooms in the house and play different games (like sorting rubbish). You can play it again and again to improve your scores. There are also information sheets for teachers. Website is <http://www.ecoworld.org.uk/>

Resources

We have developed a booklet Careers in Energy which is aimed at teachers and students who want to find out more about following a career in Energy related areas. Download the booklet [here](#)



Summer Energy Saving Tips

As the days get longer and sunnier we can rely on the sun more for natural daylight and heat.

- Make sure you open curtains to let the light in and turn off lights until it gets dark.
- Dry your washing outside -use the wind and sun instead of a tumble dryer.
- Heating _ do you really need it? Unfortunately with Irish weather we may need some heating over the summer, but ideally you should keep the heating off most of the time.
- Summer is also a great time to get more exercise and use the bike or walk instead of driving for short journeys.
- Getting outside as much as possible means you are using less electricity

Have a great summer, and check back with SEI in September 2008 when we expect to have some great new resources for schools.