

February 2009

Some information on lighting and updates on SEI workshops in this Ezine

- Launch of 2009 Secondary Schools Photography Competition
- Week of Wonder
- Trinity Comprehensive school - Climate change awareness week
- Lighting Tips for Schools and Homes
- Green Planet Awards

Life Through A Lens 2009- Secondary Schools Photography Competition is now open for entries



This year's theme is 'Energy - The Next Generation' we are looking for students to capture in a photograph how we might make changes to the way we use energy in the future to reduce the impacts of climate change.

Go to our [website](#) to see tips from the judges, online entry form and more. You can get a free copy of the information pack for students or for teachers by emailing schools@sei.ie. The closing date is 27th March 2009.

Week of Wonder - SEI workshops Cork and Dublin Feb 9-12th 2009

SEI ran workshops on Energy in Cork and Dublin as part of STEPS to Engineering's Week of Wonder. The [Lifetime Lab](#) hosted the Secondary School workshops.



The Cork School of Music was the venue for SEI primary school workshops which were part of the Week of Wonder Treasure Trail in Cork.



While in Dublin schools visited [Cultivate](#) to take part in primary workshops as part of the treasure trail.

Trinity Comprehensive School - Climate Change Awareness Week

Dylan Sheridan a Transition Year student at Trinity Comprehensive, Ballymun was one of a group of eight transition year students who were selected to go on a voyage of discover to Antarctica led by Pat Falvey the Irish explorer. These students travelled to the Antarctic and met researchers studying climate change as part of this trip. Information on this project can be found at <http://www.tyact2008.com>



Trinity Comprehensive held a Climate Change awareness week for February 9-13th 2009 to highlight the information that Dylan Sheridan and the other students gathered from their expedition.

Why is Antarctica important for climate change

Antarctica is important for science because of its profound effect on the Earth's climate and ocean systems. Understanding how the Antarctic is responding to current climate change, and what the continent was like in the past is essential if scientists are to be able to more accurately predict future climate change and provide accurate information to politicians and policy makers.

Antarctic ice cores reveal the clearest link between levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and the Earth's temperature. They show that the temperature of the climate and the levels of greenhouse gases are intimately linked. The Antarctic Peninsula is one of the fastest warming parts of the planet. and parts of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet, parts of which are thinning rapidly. Their work is crucial to understanding whether this thinning could signal the start of the ice sheet's collapse, an event that would cause sea levels to rise much more than currently predicted.

SEI secondary school workshops

Any teachers interested in Secondary School workshops please register your interest by emailing schools@sei.ie. We hope to arrange workshops later this year.

Energy lighting tips for School and Home

Lighting checks for schools

Lighting accounts for the majority of electricity consumption in schools but simple changes can mean less energy wasted and lower bills.

- Make sure blinds are open during daylight hours
- Turn off lights during the day if there is enough daylight
- Label light switches so that an entire panel of lights doesn't need to be switched on
- On Fridays or before holidays make sure all lights and appliances are off
- have a checklist for holiday or weekend switch offs- include anything that cannot be switched off
- Ask cleaners to keep clean windows and skylights clean that maximum light is achieved
- turn off lights even for a short break (15-30mins)
- Students can take on responsibility for checking if lights and appliances are switched off

- during the day and after school when they are not in use
- if bulbs need replacing ask your electrical supplier about energy efficient replacements



More detailed information available at these sites:

- [SEI general lighting guide](#)
- [ESB website](#)
- [EU greenlight](#) - -Click _what to do_ and then _choose options_

Lighting Checks at Home

Saving energy at home the same rules apply, turn off lighting in empty rooms or when there is sufficient daylight. Open the curtains or pull up blinds instead of using lighting.

Task lighting is another way to save energy, instead of using whole room lighting have a desk lamp or other small amount of light for reading or other tasks.

Energy efficient bulbs or CFL's (Compact Fluorescent light bulbs) are a great way of saving energy and money at home. CFL's can last up to 15 times longer than an incandescent bulb and use 80% less electricity. If you swapped just 4 regular bulbs for CFL's you would save €20 each year. If every household in Ireland did this we would save 102, 865 tonnes of CO₂.

You may notice that CFL's don't get hot when they've been switched on. Only about 15% of the energy that is used to light a typical incandescent bulb comes out as light, the rest is lost as heat, why they heat up when they've been on.

Here are two fun sites which have lots of information about CFL's

<http://www.newbulbintown.com/>
<http://unscrewamerica.org/>

The Green Planet Awards

The Green Planet Awards are a competition for 3rd level students. The 2009 Green Planet Awards challenge is Eco-Eating - raising awareness of how the food we eat affects the planet. The winners will receive a Reva electric car, worth approximately €13,000 More information on the website www.greenplanetawards.org

