

ENERGY WISE

Promoting Sustainable Energy in Primary & Secondary schools



June 2011

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What's in this newsletter?

[Bright Sparks from Loreto Balbriggan, Co. Dublin have One Good Idea Energy & Science Education at Teacher Summer Courses](#)
[Energities On-line Resource](#)
[Sustainable Energy Awards 2011](#)



Bright Sparks from Loreto Balbriggan

Transition Year students from Loreto Balbriggan, in Co. Dublin are the overall winners of the SEAI's search for One Good Idea with their project entitled Tree to One. The students showcased their work at the prestigious national final which took place today, Friday the 13th May, in Dublin Castle. They highlighted the important issue of deforestation and climate change with an imaginative project aimed at primary school students. Mr Pat Rabbitte T.D., Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources spent the best part of an hour examining the impressive work of the 20 projects and talking to students before presented the winning students with fantastic prizes including €1,500 for their school, iPod Touches and iTunes vouchers. He commended all students for their projects which aimed at raising awareness of climate change and energy efficiency to their peers, primary schools and adults in the community.

The award for the Senior One Good Idea Campaign went to St. Clare's College School in Co. Cavan for their project Road Runners and the Junior One Good Idea Campaign award went to St. Fintina's in Co. Meath for their project entitled The

Green Team. Both teams were awarded €1,000 for their school and iPods and iTunes vouchers for their team. Gaelcholaiste Ciarrai and Ardscoil Rath Iomghain were presented with prizes for senior and junior runner up, respectively. View the winning teams and some very innovative projects at www.seai.ie/onegoodidea.ie.



Energy & Science Education at Teacher Summer Courses

SEAI will be presenting at a number of courses this summer (Kerry, Mayo, Donegal and Dublin) in conjunction with An Taisce Green Schools and Dublin Zoo. During the presentation teachers will be shown the many resources available for bringing the topic of energy efficiency and climate change into the classroom. The Green School courses are designed to create an insight into environmental management within the school/community and what each person can do to reduce your carbon footprint. For more information and to book a place go to <http://www.greenschoolsnews.org/green-schools-summer-course-2011.php>. Dublin Zoo's course is based on the strand "Living Things" from the SESE curriculum. For more information and to book a place go to <http://www.dublinozoo.ie/6/Education.aspx/>.

The European Space Education Office (ESERO) Ireland are running a new summer course '*Maths – It is rocket science*' for primary school teachers.. It will take place in CIT Blackrock Castle Observatory, the Space for Science, from July 4th to July 8th, and in Armagh Planetarium, Ireland's leading centre for astronomical education, between August 22nd and 26th. This year ESERO Ireland is offering a limited number of bursaries to cover costs for teachers travelling to the courses from outside the normal commuter range. Worth up to €250 in total the bursaries are to be set aside to cover fuel and accommodation costs for the five days of the course. The course will begin with hands-on sessions based around the Discover Primary Science and Maths activities, and participants will explore ways to improve their students mathematical skills while also gaining a further appreciation of the possibilities that exist in the science and geography curricula. For more information go to www.esero.ie.

EnerCities On-line Resource

EnerCities is a free, on-line game aimed at encouraging young people to understand sustainable energy. It is funded by Intelligent Energy Europe and simply requires an internet connection to play.



The game is intended to stimulate debate and learning opportunities regarding the topics of energy use, renewable energy, security of supply and other related issues. In conjunction with EnerCities game competitions are organised which offer the chance for schools internationally to compete against each other for prizes as well as the prestige as being the most energy aware school or college. Prizes for this virtual competition include; A first prize of over €1200 worth of kit for the school, T- Shirts, Renewable Educational Energy Kits, USB Drives and more. For more information go to www.enercities.eu or <http://apps.facebook.com/enercities>.

Sustainable Energy Awards 2011

The logo for the Sustainable Energy Awards 2011, featuring the words "sustainable energy awards 2011" in white text on a red rectangular background.

Has your school improved its energy efficiency in the last year? If so, then why

not enter the Sustainable Energy Awards 2011 competition, sponsored by ESB Electric Ireland. These awards honour individuals and organisations that demonstrate excellence in the management and use of energy and are committed to more sustainable energy practices. Along with business and other public sector organizations of all sizes, the competition is open to schools that have achieved worthwhile improvement in their energy performance over a period of at least the last 12 months.

Schools have not featured prominently in the competition in recent times and so, entries from the schools sector would be most welcome. The awards are an excellent opportunity to get authoritative public recognition for organisational and individual effort in reducing energy costs and emissions.

This year's winners will receive their trophies at a gala event in Dublin in November. Last year's winners are featured on the SEAI website www.seai.ie/energyawards and received considerable press coverage as a result of their participation.

Go to www.seai.ie/Your_Business/Sustainable_Energy_Awards/ for more information and an entry form. Categories A,B and G would be most relevant to schools. Entry forms should be completed and submitted by email to awards@seai.ie no later than 30 June. Queries can be made to Aileen O'Hagan at aileen.ohagan@seai.ie or 01 8082067.

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