

Moray Schools: Community Energy and Enterprise Hub

The Purpose

This project focuses on schools as a community hub in order to:

- **Environmental**
Reduce carbon emissions through better energy usage, initially in schools and gradually in the wider community, thereby combating climate change
- **Social**
Raise the levels of energy literacy leading to reduction in levels of fuel poverty in the community and its attendant implications for health and well being
- **Economic.**
Create opportunities for a positive engagement with new approaches to energy use such as insulation and renewable technologies leading to new local enterprise and new career and early employment opportunities for school leavers

Practical Outputs

We will employ 3 (FTE) Outreach Officers to work with all Moray schools – 9 Secondary, 45 Primary and 5 Independent - over a 3 year period in specific classes.

These officers will work in a supportive role to teaching and ancillary staff in schools and community youth workers in:

- School clusters or community hubs i.e. feeder primaries in a catchment area around each secondary school
- P7 pupils before they move to a secondary school
- In secondary schools: Over the 3 years - Year 1 & following them through to Year 3; Year 4 & following them through to Year 6
- Youth groups in each catchment area
- Partnership with Moray Council, Moray College, Eco Schools, SEAM (UHI), Education Scotland, Scottish Qualifications Authority, Moray Social Enterprise Network, the Social Enterprise Academy and the energy industry – manufacturers, suppliers and installers.

To achieve:

- 1) **Improved levels of energy literacy** that can be applied in schools, in homes and in schools' communities.
- 2) Development of a whole school approach leading to a formal **School Energy Policy and Energy Reduction Strategy** leading to reduced carbon emissions.
- 3) **Reduced levels of Fuel Poverty** in pupils' homes through improved insulation and energy efficiency leading to health benefits and improved academic achievement.
- 4) **Delivery of the key curriculum areas** using the study and application of energy as a context and an interdisciplinary delivery agent

- 5) **Annual Summer schools** for participating pupils and youth groups supported by relevant agencies and businesses to teach practical skills and knowledge, as well as local community engagement regarding energy use.
- 6) **Engagement with renewable energy and insulation** as a :-
 - a. Technology and science subject
 - b. practical intervention in the school, at home and in the community
 - c. career and enterprise opportunity
- 7) Using the vehicle of **Community Learning Development (CLD)** for pupils and youth groups to apply the skills acquired to improve energy efficiency in community buildings.
- 8) **A report from all Moray schools in March 2015** presented to local and central government showcasing school achievements and recommending future development.

Legacy

The project will build school and community cohesion and resilience by:

1. **Embedding** an approach to energy use and reduced carbon emissions in school routines through a particular approach to the curriculum and the creation of a school energy policy and strategy.
2. **Installing** renewable technologies in schools.
3. **Building** lasting relationships between schools and the energy industry leading to employment opportunities for school leavers and improved energy use.
4. **Establishing** a working model of how energy issues, entrepreneurship and community development can support education, the environment and future employment.