

GREEN TEAM



LORETO ACTION DAY ON ENERGY - 29TH FEBRUARY 2016 – NO ENERGY LOW ENERGY DAY

OUR FIRST GREEN FLAG FOR LITTER & WASTE

Powering Ahead For Our Second Green Flag

by Mary Gorman

Green-Schools, known internationally as Eco-Schools, is an international environmental education program, environmental management system and award scheme that promotes and acknowledges long-term, whole school action for the environment.

One of the key success factors of the Green-Schools programme is that it is a themed programme. That is, schools undertaking the programme work through the seven steps one theme at a time. The themes in sequence are:

1. Litter & Waste
2. Energy
3. Water
4. Travel
5. Biodiversity
6. Global Citizenship - Litter & Waste
7. Global Citizenship - Energy

Here at Loreto College Swords we are very proud of our first Green Flag on Waste and Recycling, which you will see billowing just inside our front gates. We recently delivered a refresher presentation to all 630 students on recycling, reducing and reusing. We also welcomed primary school students from St Margret's NS to our school to inform them on our actions to date.

The Green Team have been working very hard over the last few months to submit our application for our second Green Flag for Energy.

Over the last 16 months we've been raising awareness amongst students and teachers alike in regards to energy management and conservation.

Action Plan

A series of initiatives from our Action Plan have been rolled out over the last year and this year following our environmental review. These initiatives were subdivided over –

1. Heating - turn it down
2. Lighting - switch it off, colour coded switches for use
3. Information Technology e.g. computers, laptops, projectors and visualizers, -

- avoid standby use dead switches
- 4. Electrical items throughout the school e.g. vending machines, photocopiers and boilers – switch it off or have on timers

Targets

We set a target of reducing our energy consumption by 8- 10 % through no cost / low cost measures.

Within in our target areas we also focused on opportunities that were based on;

- Changing people attitudes towards heat and energy
- Technical improvements to our electrical systems and appliances as well as application and approval for the replacement of our single glazed glass roof to a double glazed one and the covering of our open air atriums.
- Managerial involvement and policy making regarding review of our insulation, boilers, electrical systems, budgets and A rated appliance policy.

Successes

Prior to implementing our action plan we were using on average 504 units of electricity a day.

Our aim was to reduce this by 50 units a day.

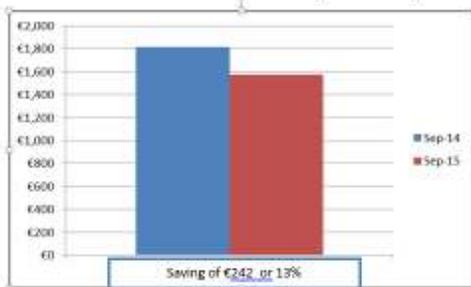
Comparing December 2014 and December 2015 readings we have achieved our target as daily units were down by 56 units per day.

Likewise January 2015 compared to January 2016 readings are down by 80 units per day. This is even more promising.

Financially this can equate to up to €240 saved per month.

With the addition of our new double glazed roof over the summer we are also showing promising savings in our heating consumption and costs. A notable €370 for comparable Decembers of 2014 and 2015.

Electrical costs and savings for Sept '14 & Sept '15



Such savings can now go towards much needed resources in other areas of the school and for which the Student Council make recommendations.

Now Your Turn

Did you know?

Irish homes use about 27% of all energy used in the country – that's even more than industry.

The average home consumes 21% more electricity than it did in 1990.

There are different types of energy saving measures people can take, some cost money and some cost nothing. Here are some examples:

Zero-cost tips

- Lowering your room heating thermostat by just 1°C will knock 10% off your heating bill. Check the temperature and if it's above 20°C turn it down.

- Keep your curtains closed at night, even in empty rooms. • Switch off lights when leaving a room.

- Switch appliances off rather than leaving them on standby. e.g. Media box / Sky box, TV's, laptops Unplug phone chargers from wall when not in use. This can save up to 20% of your appliances' energy use and cost.

- Make better use of the timers on your immersion or boiler so you can control when the heating comes on and goes off. This means you have heating and hot water when and where you want it.

Low Cost Tips

These measures typically pay for themselves in energy savings in 1-2 years.

- Insulate your hot water cylinder with a lagging jacket

- Replace ordinary light bulbs with more efficient CFL bulbs. This can save up to €30 per year

Medium-cost tips

These measures typically pay for themselves in energy savings in 3-4 years.

- Insulate your attic.

- Buy energy efficient appliances. Look for A on the Energy Label.

- Install an energy monitor in your home to help manage your energy use.

Long-term tips

Ideally considered when doing renovation/replacement work.

- Insulating your attic and walls could save you 30-40% on your home heating bill.

- Double-glazed windows:



Ongoing Plans

As part of the seven step program we look forward to complete a necessary action day. This action day will raise awareness on energy management and conservation.

Teachers will partake in a low energy / no energy school day. Minimizing energy usage in the classroom while relating the topic of energy to curriculum links within their subject.

Students will be invited to partake in competitions surrounding energy and recycling themes.

While we take the opportunity to showcase our music video focusing on our work and tips on energy conservation in school – which will be uploaded to our school website on that day.

Keep in touch

To keep up to date on our Green Team please see our school website or type in the following link

<http://www.loretoswords.ie/extra-curricular/green-team/>

To view our presentations on Recycling and Energy please type in the links below

https://prezi.com/sbi-geowu_r /copy-of-recycle/

<https://prezi.com/h7t8dhaa9j4z/energy-efficiency-in-schools/>