Energy Sparks Case Study
Widcombe Infant School, Bath

Widcombe Infant School is a school of 180 pupils in central Bath. They enrolled in the Energy Sparks programme in September 2020 partly in response to interest from parents, partly responding to their school and Trust declaring a climate emergency earlier that term and partly to further the children's understanding of environmental issues they had shown particular interest in. They are an exemplar school with low energy costs and school staff are responsive to energy efficient measures, replacing light fixtures with LEDs when they can and keeping an eye on boiler controls.

> *"Children are really taking on board the message that this is their world and they need to make it the best they can for them."*
> - Teacher

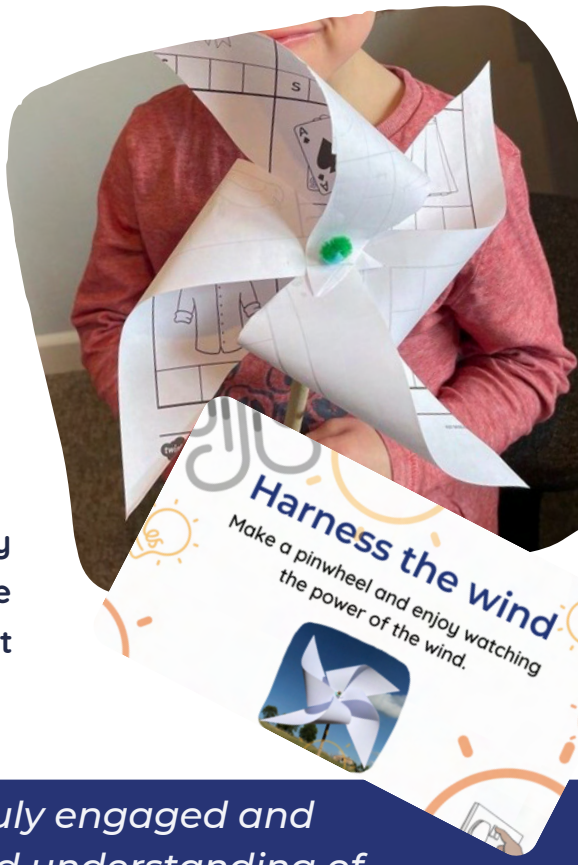
An opportunity to take action

The school had received an energy audit from the local authority in 2012 and were keen to build on this by involving the children in energy conservation activities. School management saw enrolling with Energy Sparks as an opportunity to complement the environmental projects taking place in the school, giving the school a definite focus for taking action on the climate emergency.

> *"... lots of lovely activities ... really accessible... children can see the progress straight away."* - Teacher

Engaging the children

Engaging the children in energy conservation was the priority from the very start. A parent volunteer ran a whole school assembly and then all classes took part in workshops using a thermal camera to look for cold spots in the classroom. Energy literacy has become part of the daily routine at school, with children checking thermometers to record classroom temperatures and making energy conservation posters as morning work.



Although young, these 4-7 year olds are aware that by reducing electricity and gas use, they're making the environment better for them. They're recognising that this is linked to plastics, pollution and climate change.

Energy Sparks
Helping schools fight climate change

> *"Children are truly engaged and developing a good understanding of being more energy efficient."* - Teacher

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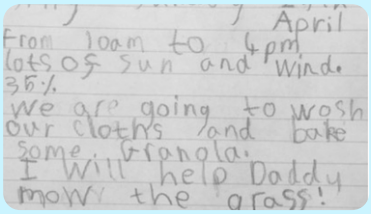
The activities and resources have acted as a real catalyst for discussions on energy use in the school; children are being consulted on how best to control temperatures in the classrooms and about whether artificial lighting in class is needed throughout the day.

Taking the energy saving message home

Both teachers and parents have noticed how the Energy Sparks work has grabbed the children's attention. Throughout the school they have fully participated in the activities and discussions and parents are reporting that the children have enthusiastically taken the energy saving message home. The school has regularly sent home the Energy Sparks Home Learning activities for children to complete with their families over Lockdown and in the holidays and the children are proud seeing their work celebrated on school displays or recorded on the Energy Sparks website.

> *"It's good to see them increasing their understanding of [climate change] issues and see them taking ownership of energy use around the home."*
>
> -Parent



Saving schools money and time

Time is always at a premium in schools and school staff have really appreciated how easy it is to take action on the school's energy consumption. The momentum started by Energy Sparks work is contributing to staff understanding of their carbon footprint and how to reduce it as well as complementing other school eco initiatives like Walk to School week.

> *"[Energy Sparks provides] accessible activities that heighten awareness, easy to use and follow - why wouldn't [schools] get involved?"*
>
> - Teacher

Find out more about how you can get your students engaged in tackling climate change in school and at home by visiting **https://energysparks.uk** or emailing **hello@energysparks.uk.**

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