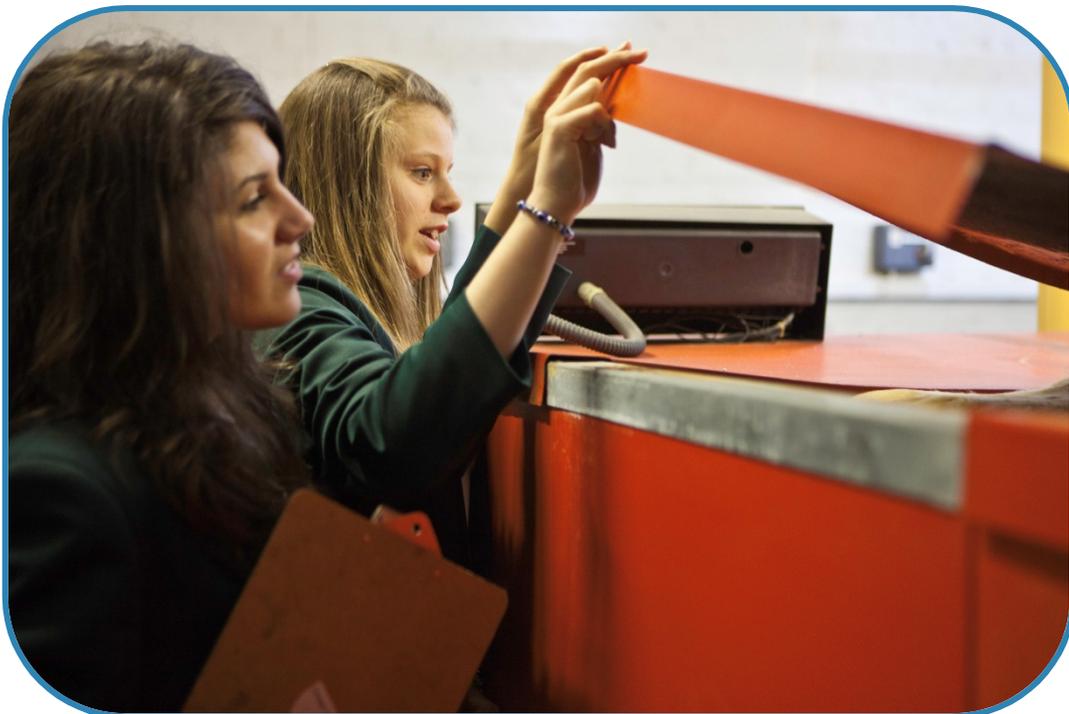




Supporting schools and their communities in sustainability and student development since 2007



Information Pack for Schools



The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in Rural Areas



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About us: Severn Wye Energy Agency

Severn Wye is an independent charity and not-for-profit company which aims to promote sustainable energy and affordable warmth. To achieve this we offer impartial advice and technical support and provide training and education for people of all ages. Severn Wye employs nearly 50 staff across our two main offices in Llandrindod Wells and Gloucester.

Severn Wye work closely with staff and students in schools and colleges both in the UK and across Europe and have developed a range of education programmes and resources for primary, secondary and adult education. Our education team consists of qualified, experienced teachers meaning that we understand schools' needs and the pressures they face and are able to identify the types of support that will prove most effective according to individual school's circumstances. As a result, we have a strong track record and won an Ashden Award in 2011 for our main secondary school project 'Young Energy People!', one of the forerunners to this project - see www.ashden.org/winners/swea11 . One of our 'Your Green Future' events, which form a key part of this project, was also recognised as STEM event of the year for South-West England in 2014 - see www.yourgreenfuture.org.uk.

Severn Wye's community and business teams have extensive experience of carrying out technical energy surveys and providing advice on energy efficiency and renewable energy measures for both domestic and non-domestic premises. They will support our education staff in the delivery of this project.



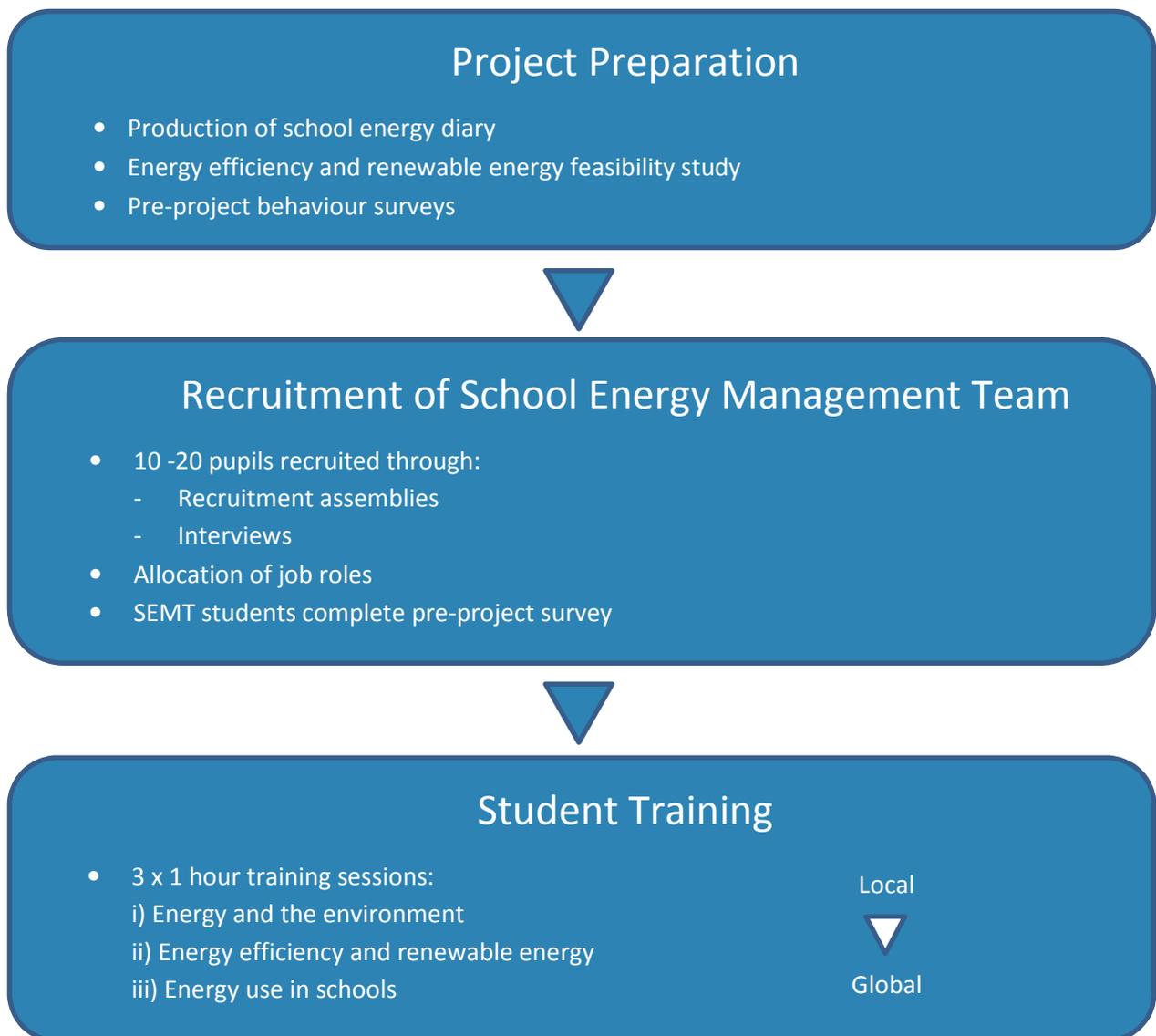
Find out more at: www.severnwye.org.uk.

About the project: Our Future's People

Our Future's People is a sustainable energy project for secondary schools. It brings together two of our most successful projects; 'Young Energy People' and 'Your Green Future' both of which have won prestigious awards for their contribution to sustainability education (see above).

The project aims to reduce school's energy use and improve the sustainability of their operations whilst providing students with a valuable educational opportunity that will help them to develop a range of transferrable skills, increase their self-confidence and develop an awareness of environmental issues and the wide range of employment opportunities available within the ever expanding 'green economy'.

The chart below summarises the main project activities:



School energy survey

- Investigating:
 - Heating
 - Insulation
 - Lighting
 - Electrical appliances



Dissemination of findings

- School energy report
- Presentation to governors and senior management



School energy campaign

- Students plan and run an energy awareness campaign to promote positive behaviour change in the school.
- This will often tie into national and international events such as Earth Hour and students may decide to raise money for Sola Aid, a charity providing solar lights to families in Africa with the aim of eradicating dangerous and expensive kerosene lamps.
- The campaign will also include an information evening to spread the message to parents and the wider community.



Work placement

- One week placement.
- Students carry out work-based survey and report back to host organisation.



School sharing events and presentations to businesses

- A chance to meet with the other schools working on the project to share ideas and experiences.
- Students to present their business energy-saving plans.

Your Green Future

- An interactive event which engages school students with a low carbon economy, and their potential role in creating this through their career choices.
- They will attend a series of interactive workshops looking at various sustainability issues as well as interacting with a range of businesses and education providers in our exhibition hall.

Outline project timetable

Sept 2017	Recruit students
Oct 2017	Student training
Nov 2017	Your Green Future event to launch / inspire
Nov - Dec 2017	School energy survey
Dec 2017	Dissemination of findings
Jan – July 2018	School energy campaign
May – July 2018	Work placements
June – July 2018	School sharing event

Project benefits

Curriculum enhancement

Our Future's People links with the Welsh curriculum, particularly programmes of study for science, geography, PSE, IT, English and mathematics.

Promoting enjoyment of learning

Students can see the direct benefits of their work on the project and they have a chance to apply curriculum knowledge and skills to a real-world context.

Empowering pupils: Direct involvement in school decision-making

Through the project, students become directly involved in decision-making processes within their schools. They present an action plan for improving the sustainability of the school's energy use and it is hoped that some of their recommendations will be implemented.

Improved student self-confidence

Students increase their self-confidence as a result of working on a project with clear positive outcomes and through having their voices heard. They see that they really do have the power to make a difference both to their school and the wider world.

Development of transferable skills

Students develop a wide range of transferrable skills including teamwork, numeracy, literacy and IT skills. They also develop increased confidence in presenting in front of an audience and key public speaking skills. They are then able to utilise these skills to improve their curriculum work.

Cohesion: Bringing together the whole school community

The project brings together the whole-school community in working towards a common cause. Students also interact with support staff such as members of the school's site and finance teams in a way that they may not have done before.

Citizenship – Local and global

Our Future's People helps students to develop as responsible citizens at both a local and global level.

Careers-related learning

Students apply for a position on a School Energy Management Team, helping them to develop key job application and interview skills. They apply the knowledge and skills they have developed to a work context and the Your Green Future events help them to develop an awareness of the growing employment opportunities available within the 'green economy' and related occupations.

STEM -related learning

Both the in-school work and the Your Green Future events have a heavy focus on the development of STEM knowledge and skills and how these can be applied in order to improve the sustainability of school and business operations. Students also develop a greater awareness of STEM-related career and training opportunities.

Developing links with local employers and the wider community

We will support schools in developing links with local employers both through arranging the work placements for students and through the Your Green Future events. Links with the local community will be strengthened through the information evenings, helping schools to strengthen their role as key community hubs.

Supporting work towards eco-schools

Project activities link well with the eco-schools award scheme and can provide valuable evidence of student sustainability-related activity.

Reduced energy use and costs

Schools benefit from reduced costs as a result of reducing their energy consumption. They also improve the sustainability of their operations, acting as positive role-models for their students and local communities.

Contacting us

The main people working on the 'Our Future's People' project are:

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