
Report To:	Education & Lifelong Learning Committee	Date:	03 November 2009
Report By:	Acting Director of Education	Report No:	EDUC/92/09/AH
Contact Officer:	Iain Mills	Contact No:	01475 712824
Subject:	School Green Charters		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to ask committee to note the contents of the attached report on School Green Charters.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Inverclyde Council developed a Green Charter for Inverclyde in Spring 2009. The Green Charter is supported by an Action Plan. Education Services has contributed two targets to this Action Plan. These relate to educational establishments developing their own Green Charters and to the achievement of Eco School Awards. Schools will be asked to develop their own Green Charters by June 2010. These will be three-year plans primarily addressing school and local area environmental issues. Education Services will support and advise schools on preparing Green Charters. School Green Charters represent an exciting way to bring pupils, parents, staff and members of local communities together to work towards a common purpose and make a difference in their local area as well as contributing to wider, global environmental targets.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Committee is asked to note and approve the contents of this paper and its appendices.

Albert Henderson
Acting Director of Education

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The need for sustainable development was highlighted in the proposals from the Rio Earth Summit and other UN conferences in the 1990s. This was followed by Kyoto and other protocols on sustainability. The Kiev Conference of Ministers in 2003 stressed the central role of education in relation to sustainability, and this is the UN decade of Education for Sustainable Development. Local Authorities and educational establishments need to ensure that pupils have opportunities to learn about sustainable development and put their ideas into practice.
- 4.2 This work sits alongside the work that the Schools Estate Team has been doing with the Carbon Trust on voluntary approaches to saving energy. Papers have been issued to schools regarding energy management. These two developments will reinforce each other.

5.0 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 Schools will be asked to develop their own Green Charters and accompanying action plans by June 2010, and to deliver these targets over the following three years.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial implications – Budget information – core budget

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Year	Costs	Virement from	Other Comments
00426	Curriculum for Excellence	2009-10	£2,000	N/A	Support materials will be funded from existing resources

- 6.2 Legal: There are no legal issues.
- 6.3 Personnel: There are no personnel implications.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Consultation was carried out involving a cross-sectoral focus group; with Head Teachers (all sectors); and with a representative from economic development over the appropriateness and links with the *Corporate Green Charter*.

8.0 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The Committee is asked to note the contents of this paper and its appendices.

9.0 EQUALITIES ISSUES

- 9.1 All school green charter initiatives will comply with equalities legislation and recognise the need to promote equalities, including race, gender and disability equality.

10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 **Appendix 1** – Green Charter information and samples of support materials being produced for educational establishments.

APPENDIX 1 – Green Charter information and samples of support materials being produced for schools:

School Green Charters

Every Inverclyde Educational Establishment is required to develop a Green Charter as part of Inverclyde Council's corporate work on the Council Green Charter. The following are required characteristics of school Green Charters:

Green Charters will:

- be **three year plans** for promoting sustainability at school and local level
- have **clear aims or targets** (measurable where appropriate)
- have **information on delivery**
- **involve** staff, pupils and the wider school community in planning the Charter
- be **displayed** clearly in schools
- be subject to ongoing **review**, progress being reported in Standards & Quality reports
- be **submitted** to the authority at the start of the three year period
- **cover the essential components** and several elective areas as well

Individual establishments can choose whether to present their Charter as an all-in-one plan or as two separate documents. An all-in-one plan will contain information on focus areas, targets and delivery in one document. The alternative is to have a Charter that has the areas the school is planning to address in one document and target & delivery details in a separate Green Charter Action Plan.

The **essential components** for establishment Green Charters are as follows:

1. Action on energy saving
2. Action on recycling
3. Action on litter
4. Aiming for an Eco School Award at the appropriate level

The rest of the Charter will be made up of items drawn from the elective list below or other sustainability areas that a school may choose to focus on (and that are not on the essential or elective lists). There is no set number of elective and other areas that must be included.

The **elective areas** are as follows:








5. Water conservation
6. School grounds work such as initiatives to enhance biodiversity
7. Waste reduction
8. Journey to school
9. Going for Fair Trade School status
10. Developing an environmental 'Community Code'

These essential and elective areas cover eight of the nine Eco School Scotland targets, the exception being 'Health and Wellbeing' which could be addressed through several of the ten areas. However, establishments may choose to address them in greater depth than is required for Eco Schools and to involve a wider range of people than is sometimes the case.

Exemplar Charters and Action plans follow

Greenville Primary School: Green Charter

In Greenville Primary School we aim to.....

-  Reduce our electricity use by 30% between January 2010 and January 2013
-  Recycle cans, paper, glass and clothing and use the money raised to improve our school grounds
-  Set up a Litter Warriors group to tackle litter in and around the school
-  Gain our Eco Schools silver level and start working towards our Green Flag
-  Plant the northeast corner of our school grounds with Scottish native species to encourage wildlife to visit us
-  Reduce the number of private car journeys to school by 25% between January 2010 and January 2013
-  Run a Fair Trade tuck-shop and use the money raised to improve our school grounds

Target	Actions	Time-scale	Personnel & Monitoring All staff & pupils, plus.....
1. Reduce our electricity use by 30% between January 2010 and January 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fit low energy bulbs and light 'cut-out' sensors • Switch off equipment rather than put on 'stand by' • Guest speakers 	Ongoing, with annual reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eco group do random checks • Janitor to take readings • Wall chart of readings (Eco Group)
2. Recycle cans, paper, glass and clothing and use the money raised to improve our school grounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain big playground bins • Smaller colour-coded bins in corridors & classes • Posters for guidance 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision by P6 monitors & eco group • Posters designed by P6 • Parents help organise it and work with P6 pupils on funding
3. Set up a Litter Warriors group to tackle litter in and around the school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litter Warriors keep school and playground litter free • Work with parents on community clean-ups • Inputs in curriculum on litter (all stages) 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litter Warriors draw up rota & do checks/ report to Eco group • Parent Council work with pupils to identify and clean up local problem areas • Local Community Council help monitor litter situation
4. Gain our Eco Schools silver level and start working towards our Green Flag	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff & Eco Group work to identify what's needed • Apply for silver accreditation by June 2010 	Silver by June 2010; start work on Green Aug 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eco Group keep timeline for silver & green • Regular progress checks against Eco Schools criteria (staff & Eco group)
5. Plant the northeast corner of our school grounds with Scottish native species to encourage wildlife to visit us	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with Forestry Commission & Scottish Natural Heritage • Parent/ P7 pupil/ staff volunteers prepare ground & plant • Maintenance by P7 volunteers 	Planting by January 2011 then ongoing monitoring & maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before & after species counts by P7 & P4 • Quarterly maintenance needs check (parents/ pupils)
6. Reduce the number of private car journeys to school by 25% between Jan '10 and Jan 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P5 produce leaflet for parents • Set up designated 'park & stride' area • Create safe area for bike storage • Set up 'walking buses' 	Ongoing with annual survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual journey census by Pupil Council • Charting/ recording results in public area of school (P5) • Council journey to school staff to advise
7. Run a fair trade tuck-shop and use the money raised to improve our school grounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register online for Fair Trade Schools award • Pupil Fair Trade Group & staff members identify necessary steps • Draw up & implement Fair Trade plan 	Gain Fair Trade School status by June 2011 & renew annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly progress audit by Fair Trade group • Parent & staff volunteers assist as required, including advice on procurement & finance

Greenville Primary School: Green Charter Action Plan

Evergreen Secondary School Green Charter

In Evergreen Secondary School we will.....



Reduce electricity use by 30% over a three year period through energy-saving measures



Increase the amount of waste we recycle through installing bins for glass, paper, aluminium cans and clothing recycling



Reduce litter in and around the school by setting up anti-litter squads and increasing monitoring



Gain our 2nd Green Flag by June 2011 and work towards our 3rd



Reduce water use by 25% by 2013 through installing water-saving devices



Campaign against unnecessary packaging in our school and community



Work with our associated Primary Schools to gain Fair Trade Cluster status



Develop a Green Code to share with the local community

Think Global - Act Local

Evergreen Secondary School: Green Charter Delivery Plan

Our Green Charter targets have been drawn up by pupils, staff and representatives from the local community working together. Pupils will play a leading role in the delivery of all the Green Charter targets. The role of staff will be to advise and be equal partners with pupils and parents in taking the work forward. The Charter covers the period 2010 to 2013, and progress will be reported on annually to the whole school community.

The pupil Year Councils will have specific responsibilities for different parts of the Charter, and the (overall) Senior Council will help co-ordinate the different activities. The school Eco Group will advise, direct or support as appropriate, with the expertise of parents, staff and pupils on that group a valuable resource for all. The table below sets out where the different responsibilities will lie. The Year Councils will plan the detail.

Charter Target	Main responsibility will lie with..	Linked areas
Reduce electricity use...	S1 'Power Rangers'/ Year Council; janitorial team	Outcomes in science and technologies curricula (e.g. physics) in S1
Increase the amount of waste we recycle...	S2 Year Council, liaising with local authority	Appropriate S2 outcomes in science and social studies; enterprise activity
Reduce litter in and around...	S3 Litter Team/ Year Council	Annual sponsored family litter pick-up; links with Community Council
Gain our 2 nd Green Flag...	School Eco Group to co-ordinate	(activities of <i>all</i> Year Councils)
Reduce water use by...	S4 Year Council working with Scottish Water adviser & janitorial team	(Global) Water Aid fundraising initiative
Campaign against ... (packaging)	S5 Year Council/ local business representative/ parent representatives	
Work with primaries... Fair Trade Cluster	S6 Pupils/ Senior Council working with local P7 classes	Social Studies curriculum at senior level; links with Community Council & local business; RME curriculum
Develop a Green Code...	School Eco Group and Parent Council	Expressive arts (design); business links