



# ST. THOMAS MORE PRIMARY SCHOOL:

# EVALOC ECO PRODUCTION

EVALUATING LOW CARBON COMMUNITIES

COMMUNITY EVENT SUMMARY C3-3

FEBRUARY 2014



**TYPE OF LEARNING:** Show and Tell

**EVENT AUDIENCE:** Local school children, parents and carers

**DURATION OF EVENT:** 1 hour

**KEY AIMS:** To increase knowledge, understanding and awareness of environmental issues, as well as diffuse and encourage sustainable principles.

**COST<sup>1</sup>:** Medium Cost (£198 including script, CD, online and public performance license, costumes, scenery, materials)

**TIME<sup>2</sup>:** Intensive

**KEY TASKS:** Selection & adaptation of script, selection of music, rehearsals, costume, scenery, invitations to parents and other administrative tasks.

## ATTENDANCE & FEEDBACK FORMS

The show was attended by around 20 parents, 30 children from Easterside Primary School and 15 staff attended.

Number of feedback forms completed: **32**

## DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

The objectives of the eco performance were to:

- Increase pupils' knowledge and understanding of what it means to be environmentally friendly.
- Raise awareness of 'the role we all have to play in protecting the planet and reducing our carbon footprint'.
- Encourage others to reflect on their behaviour and the personal contribution they make to help achieve the 10 principles of sustainable living.

The production was performed in the school hall. It followed the format of a television talk show to explore how everyday people can disregard and neglect their environment. Unusually, the production talked explicitly about climate change and appealed to the audience almost exclusively on moral and altruistic grounds. The overall key message was that we only have one planet, that it is beautiful and precious, that we must look after it, that we all have a role to play, and that small actions can make a difference. The show 'host' challenged the 'guests' to reflect and change their behaviours in order to protect and look after Planet Earth.

## LEARNING

The feedback forms indicate that the event was very successful in getting over its messages both in raising the audience's understanding of how to be environmentally friendly and also how individual action can make a difference.

The majority of respondents said that as a result of seeing the performance they felt more motivated to save energy in their home, that the production had increased their ability to save energy at home, and they intended to take action to reduce energy use in their homes. Of those who explained why they felt more motivated to reduce energy use, 37% mentioned the process of change (e.g. because 'they now knew what to do' or 'they now know it is helpful [to take action]', 'everyone and every little counts', 'it made me think') and 37% mentioned pro-environmental reasons (e.g. 'because there is only one planet/world', 'they want to help save the planet' or they 'didn't want to leave a ruined one', or to save or conserve energy).

The performance also reached parents who would not necessarily otherwise attend an event on climate change, the environment or energy issues, and engaged the children more deeply in the issues. The most useful things respondents learned included energy saving actions, climate change and the planet, the process of change and about the nature of community. While 46% said they learnt this through watching the play, 73% of respondents said their learning had occurred either through talking to people about the play or through the experience of helping put the play on.

<sup>1</sup>Cost key- Low Cost (less than £50); Medium Cost (between £50-£500); High Cost (£500 or more). <sup>2</sup>Time key - Light (Less than 1 person day); Moderate (several days organisation over a number of weeks); Intensive (Several weeks over a year).



**Academic partners:**

**Environmental Change Institute,  
University of Oxford and Low Carbon  
Building Group, Oxford Brookes  
University.**

**Community partners:**

**Awel Aman Tawe, Sustainable Blacon Ltd,  
Middlesbrough Environment City, Hook  
Norton Low Carbon, Kirklees Council and  
Low Carbon West Oxford**

**For further information on EVALOC**

**please contact Rajat Gupta**

**Email: [rgupta@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:rgupta@brookes.ac.uk)**

**Tel: 01865 484049**

**[www.evaloc.org.uk](http://www.evaloc.org.uk)**

The EVALOC project seeks to assess, explain and communicate the changes in energy use due to community activities within six selected case study projects under the Department of Energy and Climate Change's (DECC) Low Carbon Communities Challenge (LCCC) initiative, a government-supported initiative to transform the way communities use and produce energy, and build new ways of supporting more sustainable living.



EVALOC is a four-year multi-disciplinary project worth £1.14 million funded by the UK Research Council's (RCUK) Energy Programme. The Energy Programme is a RCUK cross council initiative supported by EPSRC, ESRC, NERC, BBSRC and STFC.

**OXFORD  
BROOKES  
UNIVERSITY**

