



EVALOC
EVALUATING LOW CARBON COMMUNITIES

EASTERSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL:

E C O P L A Y

COMMUNITY EVENT SUMMARY C3 - I

MARCH 2012



TYPE OF LEARNING: Show and Tell

EVENT AUDIENCE: Local primary school children, parents and carers

DURATION OF EVENT: 1 hour

KEY AIMS: To spread messages about energy saving, recycling and climate change to adults in the community.

COST¹: Medium Cost (£198 including script, CD, online and public performance license, costumes, scenery, materials)

TIME²: Intensive (Rehearsals need to be carried out over several months)

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 25 people, mainly family of the children. The feedback forms indicated that both children and adult audiences absorbed the messages of the play.

Number of feedback forms completed: **21**

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

The play was performed in the School Hall by Year 3 children plus a number of older children who were 'eco warriors'. The play was about a group of penguins in Antarctica who are sad because the ice is melting. They go to the North Pole to find more ice but find it is also melting there. The Polar Bears explain that the humans are making the planet too hot. They then travel to UK, the US, Brazil and Australia and in each country sing a song to persuade people to stop driving so much, stop using so much energy, stop sending so much waste to landfill sites and stop chopping down the rain forest. Each time the people listen to the penguins and change their behaviours the planet cools down a little more until all the ice returns to Antarctica.

Children also visited Newcastle Centre for Life as part of their preparation for the play which is an award-winning science centre full of exhibitions, activities and events, including some relating to climate change. This provided an additional learning experience for the children.

LEARNING

The school play offered an entertaining, effective and motivating way of getting messages about climate change across to people. It reached and engaged parents/carers who might not otherwise have attended an event about energy or climate change. The involvement of children in the play also meant that parents/carers were engaged on an emotional level. The play also contained practical ideas for action.

Most people said they felt more motivated, and able to make changes to energy use as a result of seeing the play, and intended to reduce their energy use.

A possible risk of the play was that people might be put off by being preached at or the feeling that their children are being 'used' to get a message across that they may not agree with. The humour in the play appeared to have helped reduce this risk, as well as the deputy head teacher's upbeat, upfront and inclusive comment to the audience at the end of the play: 'Wasn't that a brilliant way to get the message across?!

It was subsequently suggested that the play might be staged in Middlesbrough town centre or at another local primary school, and another of the EVALOC LCCs explored the possibility of holding an eco play at the local primary school.

¹Cost key- Low Cost (less than £50); Medium Cost (between £50-£500); High Cost (£500 or more).

²Time 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

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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.



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