

Watt watchers in South Ayrshire

When Dalmilling Primary School conducted their Eco-Schools Environmental Review, they immediately identified the Energy topic as an area that needed a greater focus. Pupils stated that they didn't know enough about energy and wanted to try to reduce energy use both in school and in their local area by involving families wherever possible.

The Eco-Committee conducted a whole school energy audit which revealed that many pupils were unaware of their energy impact and many staff acknowledged habits such as leaving lights and screens on unnecessarily. The Committee also sourced and, with support from staff, interpreted the school's gas and electricity data provided by the local authority. Both quantitative data (from energy bills) and qualitative data (from surveys) provided a strong starting point for measuring the impact of their planned actions

The Eco-Committee then established a sub-committee to focus on energy and named it the Watt Watchers. This group carried out a number of actions to educate all pupils about why they should save energy and also implemented energy saving actions across the school. These actions included an assembly, an energy audit, participation in Switch off Fortnight, a monthly award to the best energy saving class, promotion of using natural daylight wherever possible as well as energy reduction messages around the building. The Watt Watchers continue to encourage sustainable practice to ensure that these measures continue indefinitely.

The school found that the Energy topic enabled them to achieve various outcomes in the Science curriculum in particular Energy Sources and Sustainability. Children were also able to learn about how they could use light sources effectively to preserve energy. Analysing the energy data from the council was an excellent way for more senior pupils to look at graphs and figures in a real life context thereby covering Data and Analysis benchmarks in their maths and numeracy curriculum.

