

Cotswolds Conservation Board Sustainable Development Fund



Applicant Name: Severn Wye Energy Agency (on behalf of Gloucestershire Environmental Education Partnership)

Project Name: Fun in the Forest

Location: Westonbirt, Slimbridge and Mitcheldean

Total Project Value: £11,780

Grant Awarded: £1,884.80

Grant Percentage: 16%



Project Summary

During summer / autumn 2015, the Gloucestershire Environmental Education Partnership (GEEP) delivered three sustainability events for schools. These events were designed to promote the benefits of sustainability and outdoor education, providing practical ideas for teachers and enabling schools to share ideas and experiences.

Each school attended three interactive workshops, with a total of seven different workshops being delivered across the three events. These workshops focused on a range of sustainability issues including energy, biodiversity, global citizenship, waste and recycling. Pupils built shelters, surveyed hedgerows and got up close and personal with the plants and animals that live on each site.

Activities took place at Westonbirt Arboretum, Slimbridge Wetland Centre and the Oakraven Field Centre.

Outcomes

- The events were attended by 137 pupils and 35 members of staff from 30 Gloucestershire primary schools.
- 100% of pupils stated that they enjoyed the events and 97% would recommend them to other children their age.
- 100% of teachers would recommend the events to other schools and 100% would like to attend similar events in the future.
- Overall, 97% of teachers and 93% of pupils rated the events as either very good or excellent.

Sample teacher quotes:

“The event clearly demonstrated the value of outdoor learning and an appreciation of what it offers.”

“Inner city children don't always get the chance to enjoy these kinds of workshops. As well as learning important messages about the environment, they help team building and develop self-esteem away from the classroom environment.”

Sample pupil quote:

“I learnt how the environment gives so much for us. Everyone had great fun and it was a great experience meeting children from other schools.”