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CLIMATE CHANGE SCHOOLS UNITE - 09 JUL 2009



Students from schools across the UK and beyond came together to share ideas for battling climate change at the Change-Makers Conference, which took place in London last Thursday (July 2).

The event, which played host to eco-conscious pupils from 14 secondary schools, was organised by the InterClimate Network – a not-for profit organisation that promotes innovative solutions to climate change.

The youngsters present got the chance to showcase their individual projects to the other schools, and their ideas will now be put to the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December.

Schools across the UK are also being asked to voice their concerns about climate change, and 1,000 of these issues will be taken to Copenhagen by representatives from the InterClimate Network schools.

Among those taking part last week were students from The Long Eaton School in Derbyshire, who were showcasing their achievements in developing their outside space, and planting a staggering 1,750 trees and shrubs in the school grounds – one for every student and staff member.

Joseph, a year 8 student, told SecEd that the school was very concerned about the local environment.

He said: "We have tried to make the school grounds as environmentally friendly as possible, and we talk about new

ways of doing this in our school eco-committee, which is made up of students.”

Sibford School in Banbury, Oxfordshire, was also present, with students demonstrating how they were hoping to save £2,700 per year – drastically reducing their energy consumption – by fitting a cover to the school’s swimming pool.

Alex, a year 12 student, explained: “We have been testing different materials to see which is the most effective, as we’ve never had a cover for the pool before.”

Tom, also in year 12, added: “At the moment we have to run the power day and night to keep the water heated, but once we have the right cover we will be able to save money and energy, and help reduce the school’s emissions.”

The conference also attracted eco-savvy schools from further afield. Nelson Cheruiyut, 19, is a student at Nakuru Boys High School in Kenya, and he was at the event to demonstrate what his school was doing in the battle against climate change.

Nelson told us: “Our school has a dairy farm on site, so we came up with the idea of using cow dung as fuel in our ovens, instead of wood. This means that we have less waste from the farm, and we are able to save our forests.

“We also weave baskets, which we line with tin foil and unneeded plastic bags, and this allows us to keep food warm for longer instead of having to throw it away.”

For more information on the event, visit www.interclimate.org

Picture: United: Teacher Erick Ng’ok with students Obrein Telly and Nelson Cheruiyut (left to right) from Nakuru Boys High School in Kenya at the Change-Makers conference

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