

# A brief overview of current grant bids

## 1. Renewable Energy Projects

Since spring 2008 more concerted efforts have been made to tackle the school's energy use and reduce the school's energy bills. In addition to carrying out a basic energy audit to establish areas where the school is particularly inefficient, proposals were put forward (by Richard Harris) to install renewable energy systems if 100% grant funding could be obtained.

In addition to the financial and environmental benefits, all of these systems will include digital output loggers linked to large digital display panels to be sited in the school's learning zone and give digital data streams that can be used by the children via the school intranet for various curriculum subjects and projects. The data can also be uploaded to the internet via the school's website and other sustainable energy websites and act as a catalyst for interaction with other 'sustainable' or Eco schools both in the UK and internationally.

### **Solar Photovoltaic (PV Array)**

This project consists of mounting 72 photovoltaic modules each able to generate up to 210 watts of direct current electricity on the south facing main school roof. The system would generate 15.1kW at peak output and give an estimated annual output of around 15,000 kWh. This represents about 20% of the school's current annual power consumption. The school electricity tariff has just increased to 9.5 pence per kWh so the PV array will significantly reduce the annual electricity bill. Not all of the electricity generated will be used on site however depending on the time of day and weekends / holiday periods. The surplus energy will be exported to the national grid. Under the current system the school would receive an annual income related to the installed generating capacity of about £1,500 plus income for each kWh exported back to the grid. Up until now the Government has supported the installation of small scale renewable energy systems including solar PV with 50% grant funding, but this approach is about to change however with the introduction of Feed In Tariff payments from April 2010.

Under the FIT system the school would be paid a fixed rate for every kWh of electricity generated irrespective of it being consumed on site or exported. In addition the school would also be paid an export tariff for each kWh of electricity uploaded to the national grid. The school would continue to benefit by using its own electricity to reduce the need for imported electricity from the grid.

The public consultation about the Government's FIT proposals has only just ended so it is not yet possible to state with any certainty what installing the PV array would mean financially for the school. If the favoured proposals are adopted however then the school would appear to stand to gain about £4,500 from FIT payments and electricity exports and displace approximately £850 worth of purchased electricity, giving a net annual benefit to the school of £5,355.

The necessary planning and other consents have been obtained for this project. The current funding status of this project is as follows:

System fixed price installation cost:	£71,173
Low Carbon Building Programme Grant:	£35,586
(grant claim deadline now extended to 28th February 2010)	

Communities Sustainable Energy Programme: (Big Lottery)	£6,000
Somerset CC (sustainable development group):	£5,000
Friends renewable energy donation:	£500
Current funding shortfall:	£24,087

Grants previously applied for  
 CSEP (First bid unsuccessful, second bid obtained offer)  
 EDF Green Fund (unsuccessful)  
 Scottish Power Green Energy Trust (unsuccessful)  
 E-on Sustainable Energy Fund (unsuccessful)

#### Current bids

Somerset Aggregate Levy Sustainable Fund (SALSF)  
 Applied for £24k – decision imminent

E-on Sustainable Energy Fund – reapplied on the 15th October for £20k (maximum grant) in new funding round with decision expected mid-November

Somerset CC have also undertaken to meet the cost of installing a roof mounted weather station which would provide additional digital data to complement the PV array such as daily minimum and maximum temperatures, rainfall, wind speed, and solar irradiation levels. This would significantly enhance the educational benefits.

### Wind Generator

This project consists of a proposal to erect a 5kW wind generator on a 15 metre high steel mast just to the north of the Playgroup building on the edge of the school field. The system will generate an estimated 8,150 kWh per annum which represents approximately 9% of the school's annual electricity consumption. Not all of the electricity generated will be used on site however depending on the time of day and weekends / holiday periods. The surplus energy will be exported to the national grid. Under the current system the school would receive an annual income related to the installed generating capacity of about £830 plus income for each kWh exported back to the grid. Similar to the case with the solar PV explained above, assuming that the favoured Feed In Tariff proposals are adopted then the school would appear to stand to gain about £2075 from FIT payments and electricity exports and displace approximately £395 worth of purchased electricity. There would be an annual maintenance charge (currently £375) so the net annual benefit to the school would be around £2,100.

Despite 100% grant funding of £28,947 having been achieved for this project, the school's governing body has voted to abandon the project following the opposition of a small minority of local residents, to avoid the risk of dividing the community over this issue.

System fixed price installation cost:	£28,947
Low Carbon Building Programme Grant: (grant claim deadline now extended to 28th February 2010)	£14,473
Communities Sustainable Energy Programme: (Big Lottery)	£14,000
Friends renewable energy donation:	£500 (NB – this is not being double counted but has been transferred to the PV project following the governors decision)

Current funding shortfall: £0

The project could still be carried out but it would require the governors to change their decision.

### **Solar Collector**

This project involves the mounting on the roof of the new kitchen extension of a 70 tube vacuum type solar collector that will provide domestic hot water to the kitchen to augment the new gas fired high efficiency boiler that has recently been installed. The new boiler replaces the electric water heating system supplying the existing kitchen and the old inefficient gas fired boiler that was heating the swimming pool. The anticipated output will be approximately 6,000 kWh per annum, with surplus heat being diverted to help heat the swimming pool. The system will reduce the school's gas consumption and give an estimated annual benefit of £189.

We have obtained planning consent for this installation. The current funding status of this project is as follows:

System fixed price installation cost: £9,350

Current funding shortfall: £9,350

Current bids:

LCBP phase 2E grant applied for to meet 50% of cost (£4,675). Our application has been held in a queue but is being processed this week so a decision is imminent.

## **2. New Kitchen & Associated Improvements**

The school's existing kitchen, much of whose equipment is either at or nearing the end of its design life, and which also has operational health and safety issues, is being replaced by a new kitchen housed in an extension that has been built at the end of the school hall. The new extension also provides two changing rooms and an externally accessed toilet to make use of the swimming pool more autonomous. The school intends to convert the existing kitchen to provide a group resource room that will be used among other things for music teaching and practice.

Unfortunately, the expectation that some Government grant assistance would be obtained in view of public announcements following publicity about the poor quality of school meals by Jamie Oliver's TV programmes, has not been met. As a result the project has not yet been completed and the school has been busy trying to find alternative funding and voluntary donations of labour and materials to finish the new facilities.

An application was made to the Garfield Weston Foundation in mid-August for a £74,500 grant to complete the new extension (including all new kitchen equipment) and de-commission the existing space and convert this to a group room.

Our application is under consideration and we expect to receive a decision between now and the end of November.

### **3. First Light Film Making Grant – ‘When I Close My Eyes’ (Charlotte Harris – Project Supervisor and Sara Fletcher (soon to be Annwyl) Project Manager)**

We have applied to First Light for a grant to support Year Three children from Wedmore First School, Somerset (aged between seven and eight) to initiate develop and produce a short 5 minute non-narrative experimental film, using the title ‘When I Close My Eyes’ as a creative impetus. This title was agreed upon during an initial brainstorming session with the children in which filmmaking ideas and possibilities were explored and expressed through game playing and workshop exercises. It was felt that ‘When I Close My Eyes’ evoked the imaginary worlds which the children plan to express with their filmmaking, while allowing plenty of room for further development and the growth of ideas. ‘When I Close My Eyes’ will be an exploration of dreams, retold and expressed by the children through digital video, Super-8, light, colour, animated drawings and sound. Workshops will be led by filmmaker, Sara Fletcher (soon to be Annwyl) and illustrator/ animator, Dorry Spikes.

The primary ambition of the adults is to empower the young participants to author their own film. We hope also to capture a sense of the power and fragility of those moments of transportation and transformation during which children express and share their imaginary worlds. The children will be given the opportunity to project this naturally and in a relaxed manner through an exploration of their own dreams, desires, fears and imaginary worlds. If we are successful with this application the resulting film will be exhibited.

First Light grant application:	£5,000
Total Income – In Kind	£625
Total Income – Cash (Friends of Wedmore First School)	£625
TOTAL Project cost	£6,250

A decision is expected by the end of November. If successful the project will be carried out during the Spring Term.

We will also be applying for a grant for an arts project called ‘Hurray For Our Days’ which will involve children from other year groups.