

Be prepared for the future

With climate change having become a recognised reality, what can we in Scouting do towards safeguarding the environment for the Scouts of the future? In the first of a series of articles, **Julie Robinson** introduces some new resources to help put the environment at the centre of the Scout Programme

As we celebrate the first 100 years of Scouting, have you stopped to think about the next 100 years? What will Scouts be celebrating at our bi-Centenary, and what legacies will we, as a generation, have left them? It was Lord Baden-Powell who said, 'Try to leave the world a little better than when you found it'. What greater motivation could Scouts have for getting involved with Be Prepared for the Future, the new project to help tackle climate change?

Funding from the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has enabled a number of resources to be developed that help Leaders to include climate change within the Balanced Programme. Our climate change resources and website, www.scouts.org.uk/climatechange, are available now, and this year will see the launch of a range of initiatives. We want the whole of Scouting to become involved in this project, whether it's including the activities from the resources in your programme, or making energy saving changes at home.

Themes

As the topic of climate change covers a variety of specialist subjects, we are focusing on four

main themes to build in to the Programme at appropriate times throughout the next year:

Let's talk about climate change

The climate change message will underpin all of our messages and activities. As well as understanding the science behind climate change, we want Groups to recognise how important their contribution is; one small change for a Scout, one major change for mankind! We need to get across that we're all responsible. We all have a role to play in reducing our impact on the world's climate and ecosystems, and together our collective action will help to tackle climate change. It's quite a sensitive issue, particularly with young people, so it's important that it is handled carefully. It's best not to use apocalyptic views of the future, but rather changes that are likely to be relevant and local to your Group. We want to show the solution, as well as the problem.

Saving energy

This is a key campaign taking place during October and November, where we can all get involved in making small lifestyle changes that will have a tangible effect on our carbon



Visit our climate change website at www.scouts.org.uk/climatechange for some fascinating facts, information, activities and more.



footprint. We'll be looking at top energy saving tips, such as remembering not to leave TVs on standby, but we'll also be looking at ways that your Groups can become involved with the community and take the energy saving message out further!

Eco-thoughtfulness

What on Earth is that? I hear you say. Well, we want to educate people to make informed choices when using products or buying new ones; looking at the packaging, understanding how far it has travelled to reach you and sharing unwanted items with others rather than wasting them. We're using the Christmas and New Year period to consider ethical gift purchasing or making, and to look at activities to see what impact this will have on our change in climate.

Ditch the car

February and March, with spring approaching, will see the launch of our transport initiative, encouraging walking and cycling and understanding the impact of using cars for small journeys. We'll be showing how it's more fun to walk and cycle and highlighting the health benefits, too!

No matter how small you think you or your Group's contribution could be, together Scouts can help to tackle climate change.

▶▶ **MORE INFO**

- www.scouts.org.uk/climatechange
- www.climatechallenge.gov.uk
- Read your Section supplement for some Section-specific activities and ideas.



HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Website – www.scouts.org.uk/climatechange

This is a dedicated website, where you and your Groups can access information on the science of climate change, take part in a quiz to test your knowledge and find up-to-date information on new initiatives, activities and resources.

Programmes and activities

There is now a wealth of resources that you can access that will help you to share knowledge and concepts with other Groups. The best way to search for these is via Programmes Online at www.scouts.org.uk/pol. Make sure you're registered and then use the following key words to search for activities, resources and programme ideas:

- Climate change
- CCF
- Environment
- Energy saving

Scouts award

Later in the year, we will be launching the Green Footprint Award. Watch the website and *Scouting* for more information.

TOMORROW'S CLIMATE
Today's Challenge

This project is sponsored by Defra's Climate Challenge fund.