



Eco Eye Clip and Comprehension

(NB remember to print and prepare these in advance).

Taking the Green Schools' message home

Here we see how primary school children involved in Green Schools bring the message to their communities and their homes through the Green Homes initiative.

Watch the clip and complete the comprehension exercise.

Activities

1. Individual research: A sustainable lifestyle audit

- Students can visit the Green Homes website to research the topic at <http://www.greenhome.ie>.
- Students are asked to focus on their own or their family's lifestyle in relation to sustainable living. Students should complete a questionnaire at home. See sample questionnaire.

Analysis of results

When the questionnaires are completed analyse the results in class by going through the responses to each question individually.

For example Question 1:

- Yes answers = 13 No Answers = 12.
- Work out the percentage: Yes = 52% No = 48%
- Repeat this process for each of the questions with set answers.

For the open-ended questions the class should list all the possible answers and then classify similar or related answers into groups. Total each of the groups and present as a percentage of the total.





Results and conclusions

Students should now present a short written report showing all the results of the audit and then draw the most important conclusions. They could ask:

- What are these results telling us about our lifestyles?
- What are the key areas which are unsustainable and contributing to global warming and climate change?
- What are the areas that can be changed which might help the situation?

Action

Now take action

- Display your findings in school or in the community (e.g. at a local library, community centre, shopping centre, in a leaflet sent home with students).
- Build a website to highlight the situation or post these results on the school website.
- Extend the project to a much wider investigation in the community.

2. Investigation - fieldwork

Sustainable living: A community audit

Pick a scientific sample using the Register of Electors and complete 200 questionnaires.

Remember the steps!

Step 1: Identify key aims or formulate a hypothesis.

Step 2: Identify and get the background material required.

Step 3: Identify the main methods of gathering your information.

Step 4: Identify the main results and draw a conclusion.

Step 5: Identify some achievable actions that may help the situation.





SUSTAINABLE LIVING: A HOUSEHOLD AUDIT

Our Transition Year class is doing a project on Sustainable Living in our local area. I am interviewing 10 households in this area. I wonder would you take 5 minutes to answer some questions please?

Please answer the following questions.

The House:

1. Are the walls of your home insulated? Y N Don't know

2. Is the attic of your home insulated? Y N Don't know

3. Are the windows double-glazed? Y N Don't know

4. Do you have any energy efficient light bulbs? Y N Don't know

5. What is the main fuel used to heat the home?

6. Do you have "ECO Friendly" settings on the washing machine / dish washer

Y N Don't know





Do you use them?

Y N

7. Is any of the waste from the household sorted and recycled?

Y N

If Yes, what happens to the following:

Waste glass?

- Collected for recycling
- Brought to a recycling centre
- Thrown away/put in bin for disposal

Waste paper?

- Collected for recycling
- Brought to a recycling centre
- Thrown away/put in bin for disposal

Waste plastic?

- Collected for recycling
- Brought to a recycling centre
- Thrown away/put in bin for disposal

Waste food?

- Composted at home
- Collected for composting





- Brought to a recycling centre
- Thrown away/put in bin for disposal

The Garden:

8. Does your home have a garden? Y or N

9. If yes, what happens to the garden waste? _____

- Composted at home
- Collected for recycling
- Brought to a recycling centre
- Thrown away/put in bin for disposal

10. Do you compost any material? Y or N

If yes, what materials are composted?

11. What is used to cut the grass? _____

What fuel is used? _____

Travel:

12. Does the household have a car?





Y or N

13. If yes, How many? _____

14. How do you commute to work/school/college? _____

15. What proportion of your family journeys are by public transport? _____

16. How would you rate the quality and availability of public transport in your area?

Good Very Good Poor Very Poor

Shopping:

17. What kind of shopping bags do you use? _____

18. Can you name three products, which you buy regularly, that contain recycled materials,

(i) _____ (ii) _____ (iii) _____

19. What do you do with the packaging off products after you use them?





20. Could you suggest any ways that shops could reduce the amount of waste material generated? _____

21. Could you suggest any ways that consumers could reduce the amount of waste generated?

22. Do you check food labels and try to buy food that is grown locally?

Y or N

23. Do you know what your carbon footprint is?

Y or N

24. Would you know where to go to calculate it?

Y or N

Can I finish by asking you a few questions about yourself?

25. Into what age bracket do you fall?

Under 20 20 to 34 35 to 49 50 to 64 over 65



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26. Gender? Male Female

27. What is your marital status? Married Single Other

Thank you for your help