



GraduatePlanet
Stratford School Sustainability Programme

Energy Day

Event and impact information



The venue: The largest community solar farm in the UK

The Energy Day events were hosted at the Leys solar farm which is part of at the [Heart of England Community Energy Solar Farm](#), the largest community solar farm in the UK and it is situated just outside Stratford upon Avon.



HECE is supported by local investors and supplies enough power for 4500 homes as well as funding local good causes. It is important that more local people are made aware of the farm and how they can support it by investing in a bond offer which will launch in the autumn. This provides an opportunity for people to invest in locally sourced renewable energy, supporting long term environmental sustainability as well as good local causes that help to reduce fuel poverty and other socially disadvantaged people.



Huge thanks

to all of the people who helped us do it...

Special thanks to our funders



Orbit Group specifically funded the
Thomas Jolyffe's Energy day.

And those who supported the event for FREE



Special thanks to Anesco and HECE

[Anesco](#) and [HECE](#) took the children on tours of the solar farm and provided them with a unique opportunity to see a real solar farm in action. This was an exceptional chance for the children to grasp how solar energy works first hand and gain an insight into the types of careers available to them in this industry.



- Huge thanks to HECE who own the solar farm for granting us access to the solar farm, for planning the events, and in particular to Eric Appleton who helped run the tours around the farm.



- Huge thank you to the Anesco team for: Access to the solar panels, space to run the workshops, Health and Safety, the Solar Tours - in particular Tom from Anesco who co-ran the tours. Thanks to Dave for getting us the new High Viz Jackets. They also funded most of the day and enabled us to buy important materials that can be reused, such as solar circuits for the circuit activity and battery powered hairdryers for the wind turbine activity.



- CFR helped organise the school trips and coordinated the Health and Safety risk assessment and measures between the school and HECE and Anesco.



NFU Mutual

- NFU Mutual provided the workshop chairs for free.

And thanks to the paid for support



- CSJ Events Warwickshire provided 17 pop-up tables at a great price for our Energy Day workshop.



- We bought electrical circuits from them at a good price and they are very keen to promote the use of their products at solar farms



- We received a friendly, efficient and cost effective service from TV Toilet Hire who we plan to use again

Thanks to our wonderful educators



STEM Matters - Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths education experts deliver fun educational workshops to children.



[Act on Energy](#) encourage energy conservation by providing free and impartial advice to householders and small businesses in the midlands area.



Graduate Planet CIC which is a social enterprise recruitment agency that reinvests 100% of profit into environmental sustainability education workshops.

What we did

And the schools that took part

We ran three Energy Day workshops



**Thomas Jolyffe
Primary School**

57x Year 4 kids

On 12th July



**St Gregory's Catholic
Primary School**

28 x Year 5 kids

on 13th July



**St Gregory's Catholic
Primary School**

22 x Year 6 kids

On 15th July

The Energy Day activities

Throughout July and August 2021 a total of 105 children attended the Energy Day at Leys Solar Farm, just outside Stratford-upon-Avon.



Kate Evans, Graduate Planet kicked-off the day with an introduction to renewable energy and invited the children to share what they already knew about energy and conservation.



Julie from STEM Matters ran a human national grid activity so the children could understand how energy is distributed across the UK.



Julie then briefed the children on a fun [Wind power challenge](#) where the children made a wind turbine out of old materials...

The Energy Day activities

Throughout July and August 2021 a total of 150 children attended the Biodiversity Day. Running across 3 venues the children:



... before testing their solution with a rechargeable battery powered hairdryer and finding ways to improve their design.

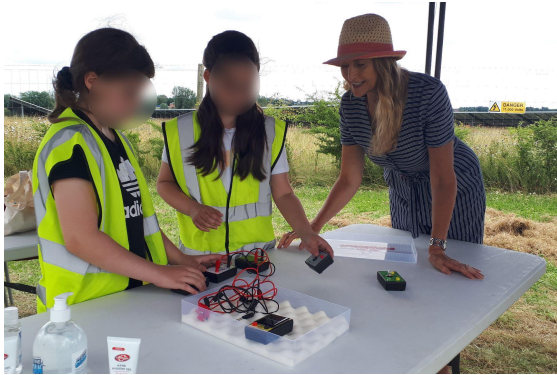


HECE, Anesco and Graduate Planet took groups of 15 children on a tour of the solar farm where they learned how it works and about career opportunities in renewable energy.



Act on Energy brought home insulation to life through an activity involving cardboard homes and recycled insulation materials.

The Energy Day activities



With **STEM Matters** children experimented with generating electricity powered by solar and kinetic energy to power light, sound and movement.



Richard from Act on Energy challenged them to a relay race to collect different coloured energy balls to power home appliances.



And finally, **Kate from Graduate Planet** asked them to make her a cup of tea and then quantify how much energy they'd used in cups of sand.

Before going home **Act on Energy** shared out LED energy saving lightbulbs and competition entry forms.



Our impact

Publicity and data so far

We featured in the local newspaper

Stratford-upon-Avon Herald, July 15, 2021 - 9

NEWS

INSPIRING A PLANET-SAVING GENERATION



SOLAR power has been inspiring schoolchildren to think about green issues and saving the planet.

Around 100 children, aged nine to 11, were invited to attend workshops at Leys Solar Farm at Drayton Manor Farm off the A46 towards Alcester this week.

"We have a beautiful planet and it's important that we look after it for people in the future," was the conclusion of Abi Walker, nine, after pupils from Thomas Jolyffe were shown around the site.

Explaining what she had learned to the *Herald*, Abi said: "I found out that solar panels are made out of a very hard metal. There are thousands of panels here absorbing energy from the sun. I've also learned that it takes a lot of power just to boil a kettle – ten volts. It's made me wonder about where we get energy from – like where does it come from at our house?"

Another pupil, Jess Baker, also nine, said that all her friends were interested in saving the planet, and that the pupil in her class most like young eco campaigner Greta Thunberg was Ewan who she said "knew all the science".

During their visit, the pupils from Thomas Jolyffe and St Gregory's primary schools took part in a range of practical activities. They were given a tour of the solar farm and got to meet the team who constructed it. They also took part in wind and solar power challenges, which saw them making a wind turbine out of old materials and using small solar cells to build a power circuit. They also played some energy saving games designed to encourage positive behavioural change.

Leys Solar Farm forms part of the largest community-owned solar farm in the UK. It covers an area of 75 acres – the equivalent of more than 1,800 football pitches – has 60,000 solar panels and is capable of generating enough energy to power around 3,800 homes. It was designed and constructed by Reading-based, Anesco, which also sponsored the school visits.

Tom Wales, regional operations manager at Anesco, said: "It was fantastic to meet the children and to talk to them about solar power and the role renewable energy has to play in tackling climate change.

"If the UK is to achieve its net zero carbon emissions target and make the switch to cleaner, greener energy then we're going to need a skilled workforce to deliver it and hopefully these workshops gave the children an insight into the many different types of careers on offer."

Kate Evans of Stratford organisation Graduate Planet, who co-ordinated the initiative, said: "It's all about saving the planet and inspiring the children – because in ten years it will be in their hands."

■ Abi Walker, front, with her classmates and teachers from Thomas Jolyffe, and green associates of Leys Solar Farm.

Photo: Mark Williamson 571/7/21/00723.

An article published in the Stratford Herald on 15 July 2021 showcased the unique and fun experience the children and teachers had, and the impact we'd made so far.



Impact measurements

We asked the children a question at the beginning of each activity and the same question again at the end to measure what impact we had made.

The questions were:

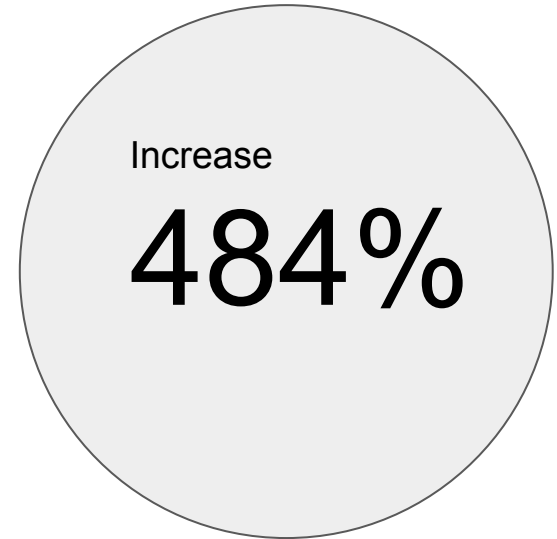
Q1) Hands up if you know what renewable energy is?

Q2) Hands up if you know ways to save energy?

Impact measurements

Q1) Hands up if you know what renewable energy is?

School	Before	After	% increase
1 Thomas Jolyffe Y4	7	55	686%
2 St Gregory's Y5	5	15	200%
3 St Gregory's Y6	3	20	566%



Impact measurements

Q2) Hands up if you know ways to save energy?

School	Before	After	% increase
1 Thomas Jolyffe Y4	12	57	375%
2 St Gregory's Y5	14	20	42%
3 St Gregory's Y6	6	22	267%



Act on Energy responses - TBC

At the end of the day

School		
1 Thomas Jolyffe Y4		
2 St Gregory's Y5		
3 St Gregory's Y6		