

# The Leys EcoSchools ~ Action Plan ~ January 2008

This document includes the issues which arose as a result of the first Environmental Review, completed in November 2007. Issues in bold relate to action points. These were discussed by the EcoSchools Group and ranked in order of perceived importance and how readily achievable they would be. Ranking is included as part of the action points below, in red text for the top 6, which are separately included on page two.

## 1. *Is the school litter free? Where are the problem areas? Are there enough bins?*

The school is generally litter-free; there are enough bins around the school and we have good cleaners.

**There are no recycling bins around the site.** However, **along the edge of the school, we can see litter dumped by pedestrians outside the school**, which enters the school grounds.

**ACTION POINT 4:** We would like to see some external recycling bins, perhaps at the Sports Hall and Tuck Shop to begin with. These could be single-item only, preferably plastic bottles.

**ACTION POINT 6:** We need to alert ground staff to the problem of litter on the perimeter and see whether a sweep can occasionally be made.

## 2. *Does the school recycle anything: cans, papers, computer cartridges, etc?*

We do recycle a lot of things. The recycling facility is relatively newly built and still expanding. Recyclables include: mixed glass, paper, card, cans and plastic bottles. Collection facilities exist in all the houses, **although they're not used as well as they might be. Not all departments have recycling collection.**

**ACTION POINT 1:** All departments need a basic facility for paper, which is consistent across the site.

**ACTION POINT 3:** We would like to see house provision improved. School and Fen Houses have had a trial in place with bins in all pupil rooms. This has increased the amount of recycling taking place, although extending to all houses considered impossible using the same approach. Some sorting of recyclables must be done in houses. For further discussion.

## 3. *Does the school use only recycled paper in disposable materials, e.g. paper towels?*

Yes, in terms of toilet paper and towels, even in the dining hall. However, **disposable cups for the common room are polystyrene** - we get through **8000 a year!** This is as tall as five Thomson Buildings.

**ACTION POINT 2:** The disposable cups should be replaced with recyclable plastic cups with holders, or (preferably) uniquely identifiable mugs that can be dropped off in the common room.

## 4. *Are there lights left on unnecessarily? Draughts and around windows and doors?*

There are, but there are not that many being left on. People were told to close their windows to stop heating from losing in order to save energy. However, some radiators are unnecessarily hot, making it impossible not to open the windows.

**NO ACTION CONSIDERED NECESSARY AT THIS STAGE.**

## 5. *Does the school avoid using aerosols in art lessons, or by domestic staff?*

Aerosols are used in art lessons still, although we apparently stopped using them a few years ago.

**ACTION POINT: CONFLICTING INFORMATION - REVIEW AGAIN.**

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### 6. *Does the school encourage walking or cycling to school?*

The School is delighted that a number of pupils and staff walk or cycle to School. We would ideally like even more to do so. If you have any ideas about how we could encourage more pupils to walk or cycle, I would be delighted to hear them.

**ACTION POINT: SURVEY BEING CARRIED OUT - REVIEW AGAIN.**

### 7. *Do the school's grounds include areas of wildlife habitat other than those offered by grass on school fields?*

The only other wildlife I can think of is the dogs which some teachers have as pets. Also, some of the teachers have their personal gardens with flowers in them and I think that there are some fish in Mr Brown's classroom...

Around the perimeter of the school site there are a large number of trees which provide a habitat link to the nearby Coe Fen. Across the site there are large bushes and trees which support a wide variety of birds and insects. At the main entrance to the school is a protected piece of land called the Deer Park. This encourages a large variety of wildlife and insects, but no deer!

**ACTION POINT 5:** Take advice more often regarding the removal of habitat.

### 8. *Do the school toilets have water-saving devices fitted?*

Yes we do employ a variety of measures to reduce water consumption. Some toilets have a dual flush facility or a reduced cistern size. On the male toilets the urinals employ a variety of different methods. Some use a Cistermiser. This is a product that looks at the fluctuations in water pressure caused by hand washing this can then lead to the urinal flushing after a predetermined time. The best system employed is called Aqualogic. This uses PIR (Passive Infra Red) technology to sense how many times the urinal has been used and flushes at predetermined ratios.

**NO FURTHER ACTION CONSIDERED NECESSARY AT THIS STAGE.**

### 9. *Are environmental issues discussed in lessons or in assemblies, etc?*

It is discussed in lessons such as physics, economics and geography. We have also got an Energy Saving Fortnight every year, which is being announced in assembly to remind people to save energy.

**ACTION: MORE DETAILED SURVEY BEING CARRIED OUT - REVIEW AGAIN.**

## Action Plan Points Discussed and Agreed ~ December 2007

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1. Recycling for Departments
2. Mugs!
3. House Provision
4. External Recycling Bins - we suggest  $\frac{1}{2}$  dedicated plastic bottle bins
5. Habitat
6. Alert Groundsmen