



## **Esmeé Fairbairn Project** **Wood Fuel and PV in Schools**

CEN's Esmeé Fairbairn project is aimed at breaking down all the barriers to, and growing the market for, renewable energy. The project aims to achieve significant reductions in carbon emissions and fuel costs within schools and local community groups, initially in the London Boroughs of Croydon and Sutton. The project aims to use renewable energy installations to support education on sustainability issues within the schools and communities and facilitate broader dissemination of sustainable energy.

Renewable energy, and wood fuel heating in particular has the potential to provide the UK with a safe, cost effective and socially responsible means of generating our energy, protecting the environment, providing economic benefit locally and ensuring social equity. Despite these benefits, significant barriers to adoption remain:

- ❑ Lack of awareness and knowledge
- ❑ Lack of time and ability to coordinate installations and associated activities
- ❑ Difficulty in securing a reliable source of wood fuel
- ❑ Lack of access to capital

The Esmeé Fairbairn project employs a project manager to overcome these barriers and grow demand for wood fuel in particular (incorporating solar PV and energy efficiency measures) that will lead to significant reductions in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, provide financial benefit to local schools and community organisations in Croydon and Sutton and stimulate jobs locally. The project team promote sustainable energy more broadly from these beacon installations, incorporate sustainable energy into the syllabus and provide information, advice and support to members of the community.

The schools benefit from immediate fuel bill savings, as CEN arrange the capital for the installation of the wood fuel heating systems. This means schools will have no outlay of capital; achieve immediate cash flow benefits and even more substantial savings over the long-term. Energy efficiency measures and grant supported photovoltaic systems will be incorporated, where these are appropriate to ensure the greatest opportunity for environmental and economic benefit.

The school students will benefit from sustainability issues being integrated into the syllabus, reinforced by the visible and exciting nature of wood fuel heating and PV installations and an innovative range of activities such as "Energy Assemblies". The sustainability issue will be disseminated further to the students' families with activities such as the "Home Energy Check", an activity that will ensure that families of the students are also able to benefit from sustainable energy.

Integration of sustainable energy into the syllabus and broader dissemination

- ❑ Delivery of "Energy Assemblies" to raise awareness of sustainable energy
- ❑ Integration of sustainable energy into the syllabus, with wood fuel heating and PV, enabling subjects such as geography, mathematics and physics to be supported.
- ❑ Delivery of sustainability activities within the schools such as assignments to identify opportunities for energy savings and completing drawings and presentations.
- ❑ Students will be tasked to complete "Home Energy Checks", an opportunity for them to carry out small surveys of their own homes to identify ways of saving energy where they live.

- The results will be used by the project team to provide “Advice Packs” to families, pointing them to services and grants to assist in making improvements in families’ homes, reinforcing the sustainability messages and achieving greater environmental improvement.