

Hackney Free & Parochial – an ‘Eco-School’

- Between 1997- 2006, the school has undertaken a number of environmental projects led by Science teacher Surjit Vohra. These included:
 - Field trips to Epping Forest and recycling centres in Hackney, annual litter pick-ups (‘Spring Clean’), making rubbish sculptures, community service, tree planting, raising issues through letters to MPs / City Hall, water conserving projects, poems, paper-saving, and developing a rainforest garden and an organic garden as a resource for learning / quiet area.
- By following the national ‘**Eco-Schools**’ programme (with Groundwork Hackney), Hackney Free have so far achieved 3 green flags... The school is currently raising money to develop a new area for a growing club for students with special needs.
- The pupil-led ‘**School Environment Committee**’ was established in January 2004 and agreed a school ‘[Eco-code](#)’... (click on the link to view)
- This year, in partnership with the Environmental charity Global Action Plan, Hackney Free is taking part in their ‘**Action on Waste**’ programme to reduce waste and encourage recycling, raising awareness within the school and at home.

Global Action Plan

‘This project is an Environmental charity Global Action Plan, funded by the Association of Local Government to give support to secondary schools in London to raise environmental awareness in the school community. Hackney Free and Parochial is one of the 10 schools from London Boroughs selected to participate in Action on Waste in the 2005/2006 academic year.’

The aims of the project are:

- To help students to reduce waste and increase recycling in school
- To encourage students to become actively involved in the environmental decision making of the school community
- To encourage family environmental action within the home, through capital waste learning’s teaching resource
- To save money on stationary costs and school utility bills (depending on contract)
- To create stimulating learning by involving teachers and all members of the school community
- To deliver elements of the Citizenship and PSHE

So far, an **Action Team** has been appointed to lead the project and carry out waste audits – consisting of teachers, school / facilities staff, 20 pupils from years 7, 8 and 9, and staff from the Global Action Plan team, Hackney Council Recycling Department and ecoACTIVE

An informative **assembly** was given which included a recycling quiz and an environmental song...



The role of the Action Team will include:

- Assessing and recording the amount and types of waste disposed of by the school
- Assessing what is purchased by the school, in the office, kitchen and other areas
- Assessing the costs of waste to the school
- Assessing what recycling facilities are needed in school and negotiating with the council to obtain them
- Discussing and negotiating a programme of action to reduce the amount of waste produced by the school and help to develop a long-term plan (include future targets for waste management into the School Improvement Plan, and incorporate waste minimisation into the School Development Plan)
- Overseeing communications campaign and publicity
- Recommending changes
- Establishing processes for measuring change

For more information, contact Surjit Vohra –
Surjit.Vohra@hackneyfree.hackney.sch.uk 020 8985 2430