

## **Solar system lights up Gorsemoor**

A solar PV system has been fitted to Gorsemoor Primary School, at Heath Hayes in Staffordshire, bringing educational opportunities and renewable energy to the school, to offset against fossil-fuel supplies.

The system was supplied free to the school through the Eco-school solar programme: Free Power for Schools, which is managed by Winch Energy. The 27.6 kWp PV system consists of 120 panels. It is expected to generate 23MWh electricity and save the school around 12.5 tonnes of carbon every year.

Keep Britain Tidy's Eco-schools programme manager Andrew Suter said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for schools to reap the benefits of solar power, to look at energy supply and reduce their energy bills and their carbon footprint at the same time."

Nicholas Wrigley, Executive Chairman of Winch Energy, which manages Free Power for Schools said: "This project is a true partnership between the private and public sector bringing long-term benefits to schools. We have worked with schools, local education, energy and planning teams at county and district councils as well as many dioceses to make it happen. With so many parties involved and the tight timeframes for installation, we are delighted that it has come to fruition."

The programme allows schools to have solar panels installed, maintained and decommissioned at no cost to either the school or the local authority. Schools benefit from the renewable energy it generates and gain teaching and learning opportunity about renewable energy for future generations.

The programme is expected to run until March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012, based on new terms that allow schools to have the solar PV systems and the renewable energy at a fixed rate that is index-linked so schools gain from a subsidised renewable energy. With traditional energy prices set to rise, the new deal will help buffer schools from escalating fuel bills.

## **Eco-Schools Solar Programme Free Power for Schools**

<http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/Programmes/ecoschoolssolar/Default.aspx>

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