

# CLIMATE WATCH PROGRAMME

## Summary

The Climate Watch programme was designed, initiated and implemented by the National Society of Conservationists (NSC) in Hungary. The organisation is the local member of Friends of the Earth.

NSC is a not-for-profit and non-governmental organisation that was established in 1989 with the overall objective to “protect nature as a whole and to promote the implementation of sustainable development” ([http://www.mtvsz.hu/index\\_en.php](http://www.mtvsz.hu/index_en.php)). NSC works closely with its members, both organisations and individuals. Additionally, it also works with researchers (e.g. the Hungarian Academy of Sciences - its former president is the honorary president of NSC), policy makers, primary and secondary schools, all kinds of community groups as well as other NGOs that are not its members. Its individual members and numerous volunteers also contribute to the success of its activities.

The aim of the **Climate Watch** project was to increase the knowledge of primary and secondary school pupils on energy efficiency and energy saving. Thus, with the involvement of its local member associations as well as the media, NSC aimed at reaching and involving schools. The project was started in September/October 2007 and was very successful as 52 school teams including teachers and more than 200 students registered to participate, and then completed the programme.

School groups received information (in the form of a booklet) on the basis of which they observed and evaluated energy use in their schools, and came up with suggestions and proposals to make it more efficient.

Best efforts were awarded at a public ceremony held in the Natural History Museum in Budapest at the end of the project (held on the day of the 3rd anniversary of the Kyoto Protocol entering into force). The project was a follow-up of a pilot project implemented in the 2006/2007 academic year, and is also going to be continued in 2008 (starting in the autumn) and will be focusing more clearly on behaviour change.



## Analysis and conclusions

**Some of the most crucial factors in the context, focus, design and/or process of programme that contributed to its success:**

### Relating to the specific organisation:

- NSC has a very good reputation in the country among schools - it has implemented various programmes in the field with success since the end of 1980s;
- NSC has a good network of local organisations that can help promote and implement its programmes;
- NSC has a successful media and communication programme to facilitate the implementation of its project.

### Relating to specific context:

- The topic is timely, and its on the national agenda, several other networks (e.g. eco-school network), programmes (e.g. Climate Deal programme of the same organisation, energy school programme of one of the main utility providers) and publications (both electronic and printed) exist that could contribute to the content and implementation of the programme.

### Relating to programme design:

- Participation on a voluntary basis;
- Programme included an element of competition;
- The programme involved the active participation of school teams and encouraged them to come up with their own ideas - most reports handed included some kind of an evaluation (in terms of potential savings and the level of easiness to implement them) of suggested actions. This way, the programme helped (with information, assistance and reward) local teachers and pupils to become change agents in their own institution.