

Case Study 16: Climate Watch programme

Hungary

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 NGO that was established in 1989 with the overall objective to “protect nature as a whole and to promote the implementation of sustainable development”¹. NSC works closely with its members, researchers, 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 started in 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.

Lessons learned

The following factors contributed to its success:

1. NSC has a very good reputation in the country among schools and a good network of local organisations that can help promote and implement its programmes;
2. NSC has a successful media and communication programme to facilitate the implementation of its project;
3. The topic is timely, and its on the national agenda, several other networks, programmes and publications exist that could contribute to the content and implementation of the programme;
4. Participation is on a voluntary basis;
5. Programme included an element of competition;
6. The programme involved the active participation of school teams and encouraged them to come up with their own ideas. This way, the programme helped local teachers and pupils to become change agents in their own institution.

¹ Source: http://www.mtvosz.hu/index_en.php (consulted on 22 July 2008)