



School discussion, Slovenia.



Young explainers in Yemen.

'Sustainability in Education' Workshops in Slovenia

Practical workshops for teachers of 15 to 18 year olds and staff from the Ministry of Education were run by Dr Tony Shallcross, a specialist in sustainability in education. One of the most interesting aspects explored how students and local communities could work together to enhance their local environments. The emphasis on practical action was reported as being 'different to the way this subject is usually taught'. Non-science teachers were deliberately included as it was felt the subject extends beyond science.

"The workshop made me realise what active and influential members of society we [teachers] are. We speak to huge numbers of young people everyday and it is important that we are trained in the correct messages about climate change and the environment".

Teacher participant in the workshop

"The choice of a venue where teachers could work in a beautiful environment meant they could feel and experience the purpose of this form of education".

Danijel Lilek – Institute of Education, Ministry of Education and Sport

Young Explainers in Yemen

Young people aged 15 to 17 that had participated in Cafés Scientifique events were trained to accompany and explain the *NorthSouthEastWest* exhibition when it visited three locations in Yemen. This gave them a unique opportunity to learn about the subject of climate change in greater detail. They were very well received by visitors to the exhibition.

"It is young people who will be most affected by climate change. I am very pleased that they are not just in the audience but that they are also explaining the subject to us. People will believe what they are saying."

Visitor to NorthSouthEastWest exhibition, Al-Mukalla



Front cover image:
Detail of Singapore art competition entry, entitled 'Living in the 21st Century'.

Educational activities Success factors:

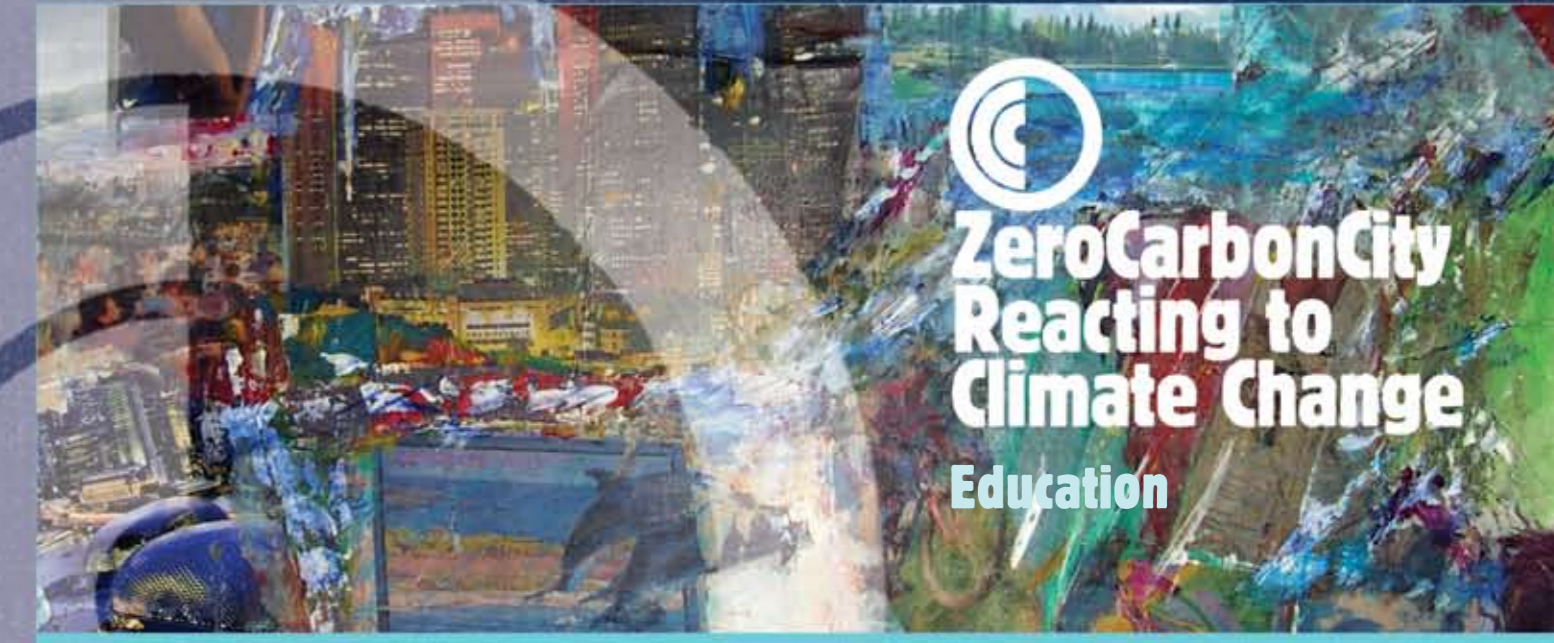
- activities that encourage 'learning by doing'
- activities that are easy to remember for teachers
- engaging local teachers and other educators through workshops or training events
- easily accessible (e.g. online) and translated support materials and information
- using local youth media to promote activities
- quizzes and competitions using local media to engage the widest possible range of young people
- local partners who understand the campaign messages
- detailed planning and briefing of deliverers
- integration with other activities, e.g. getting children talking to scientists and vice versa
- content and materials made relevant and attractive to individual children
- use interesting and striking photographs to make science appear attractive.

Sharing Good Practice Case Study

One of a series of documents designed to share good practice amongst offices and partner organisations.

To find out more about the ZeroCarbonCity campaign, please visit www.britishcouncil.org/zerocarboncity or contact Renuka Parmar on +44 (0)161 957 7043 / email Renuka.parmar@britishcouncil.org. ZeroCarbonCity is part of our wider science programme, details of which can be found at www.britishcouncil.org/science.

More than 62 countries participated in ZeroCarbonCity during 2005 and 2006. It is estimated that the campaign reached 2.5 million people directly (i.e. participation in activities such as the *NorthSouthEastWest* exhibition or Café Scientifique events) with a further nine million reached indirectly through media coverage, giving a total of 11.5 million.



Introduction

One of the audiences identified for ZeroCarbonCity was the wider public. This case study describes activities that were particularly effective in reaching school groups and identifies the factors that contributed to their success. 38 of the 42 countries that completed the ZeroCarbonCity e-survey reported school groups as one of their target audiences. Together they reached c. 290,000 school students. Overall, 18 per cent of the total audience for ZeroCarbonCity were aged under 12 and 20 per cent aged 12 to 18.



Create workshop, Cairo.

Some countries targeted school audiences very successfully and flexibility in the suite of activities included in ZeroCarbonCity meant that there were appropriate activities for all age groups. The subject, climate change, was widely described as attractive and relevant to young people.

"It [the environmental theme] lends itself to story telling, which many children like and respond well to."

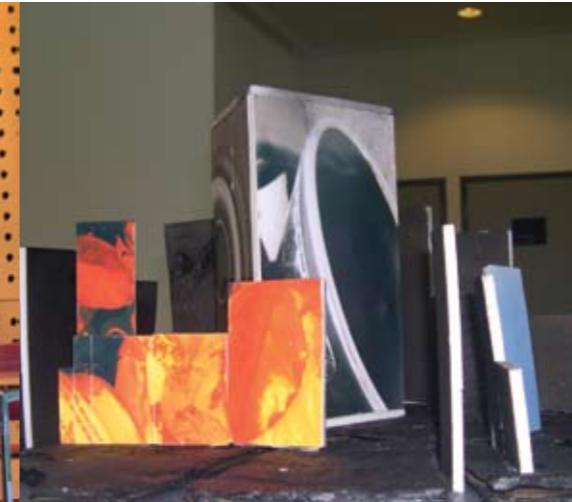
**Anna Buendia, Explainer,
Papalote Children's Museum, Mexico**

"Teenagers are important because we will be living in the climate that results from our actions now, we can also spread knowledge to our friends."

**16 year-old visitor to Café Scientifique
Slovenia**



School debating competition winners, Singapore.



Schools art competition entry, Singapore.



Solar workshop, Papalote, Mexico.



A winning art competition entry.

Art, oratory and debating competitions in Singapore

These competitions, organised in collaboration with partners, used the theme and brand of ZeroCarbonCity.

"It is good to see opportunities for students to represent this subject using both speech and images. People learn differently – some prefer words and others pictures. This caters for all types of learners."

Secondary school teacher

The oratory competition attracted more than 300 secondary students and 200 teachers and family supporters. Students were invited to make personal pledges to reduce CO₂ emissions, which encouraged them to think more carefully about their own impact on the climate.

"I enjoyed the writing pledges most of all. It was interesting to compare mine with other peoples' ideas and I was pleased that someone wanted me to write down my opinions."

Schools Oratory Competition contestant

The art competition was open to secondary and primary schools. 25 commended and winning entries accompanied the NorthSouth-EastWest exhibition on its tour of Singapore libraries.

"It [the art exhibition] made me realise this is a subject that both governments and individuals should address"

14 year old female visitor to art exhibition

32 debating teams from 17 junior colleges, 13 secondary schools and one international school participated in the annual debating competition debate tournament. This was the largest ever participation and included new teams. More than 500 people saw three rounds of the competition.

"We used the British Council website to research the subject. It was really helpful."

**Members of the winning debate team
(Raffles Junior College)**

"The debating competition gives scope for two way interaction, which this subject needs."
**Michelle Lim, Scholastic Environment Fund
(sponsor of the art, oratory and debating competitions)**

Solar workshops

Training workshops for museum staff and teachers run by Keith Kelly in Mexico were described by participants as an "absolute success". They enabled the widest possible communication of the subject.

"The ZeroCarbonCity workshop reaffirmed the subject in the minds of school teachers. This helped when we came to promote the exhibition [NorthSouthEastWest] to schools."
**Rafael Enriquez, PR & Promotion Director,
Papalote Children's Museum**

Public workshops attracted schools and young people from family groups, with 40-50 children attending each one. A solar cell building workshop explained how technology can help address problems caused by climate change, which science teachers thought was important. Each teacher was given a workshop kit so that the activity and discussion could be continued in science lessons.

"The most successful activity was the solar cell workshop because it involved hands-on activity and was explicitly about climate change."
**Adriana Bravo Williams, Director of the
Department of Education, Universum
Science Museum**



Energy workshop, Beijing, China.