

Current Cost and IBM collaborates with local Hampshire schools for Green Day initiative to raise young people’s awareness of energy issues

Volunteers from IBM Hursley ran some Green Day initiatives with local Hampshire schools Churcher’s College (on June 24th) and Bedales (on June 27th) to demonstrate new, exciting technology from Current Cost and IBM that gives students an insight into power usage in their schools.

The Current Cost energy monitors can track power usage and present it in a visually stimulating manner from which students can analyse and consider the use of energy, and the wider impact of their school on the environment. Current Cost believes that allowing students and staff to actually ‘see’ their school’s energy consumption will encourage behavioural change, such as switching off lights and computers when not in use.

The data collected by the monitors also allows students to view the school’s energy consumption history and compare the energy usage of several buildings onsite, at any time throughout the day.

The Energy Monitoring Projects conducted on the Green Days have been organised as part of IBM’s On Demand Community Challenge initiative.

IBM will also be inviting students from local schools to the IBM Innovation Centre in Hursley for “Skills for a Smarter Planet” workshops. Students will be able to compare and contrast energy monitoring in different organisations and learn about how they can monitor energy usage in their homes.

More about the IBM Green Day workshops with local schools

- The event at Bedales school was organised as part of Parents Day where the Green Committee at the school provided an interactive hands on demonstration of the Current Cost energy monitor, to educate students and parents alike
- IBM volunteers worked with teachers and students to build green themes into teaching/lesson plans
- Once installed, the technology can remain in place as long as the school desires it
- The data analysis is conducted entirely by Open Source tools

More about IBM’s On Demand Community Challenges

IBM launched the On Demand Community Challenge in 2005 to build on its tradition of supporting and empowering local communities. The initiative focuses on skills-related volunteering, enabling staff to share their knowledge, expertise and business skills with organisations and individuals. IBM’s aim through the programme is to help better equip organisations by sharing its employees’ skills, thus providing long-term, sustainable benefits to recipients.

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Images available on request as are products to trial.

Quotes available on request from:

Leo Winkley, Acting Head of Bedales School

Simon Williams, Headteacher, Churcher's College

Martin Dix, Director, Current Cost

Kevin Farrar, IBM Academic Initiative Leader, IBM UK & Ireland

Notes to Editors

Current Cost first came to fruition in 2004 and has partnerships with the government, the EU, leading utility companies and NGOs across the UK and now worldwide.

Current Cost aims to change people's habits when it comes to energy. This doesn't mean not using the gadgets and appliances you've invested in, but understand your energy use and the small steps you can make to cut wasted energy.

The Current Cost display allows you to do this and with the advanced features of the Envi, you can monitor how energy hungry individual appliances are.

If we all make small steps to cutting energy wastage we can cut our carbon footprint and ensure the future of the planet for generations to come.