



Clouddog Project 2008



By Julia Kinch
In partnership with Camden School
For Girls

**With Thanks to Jo O'Kane and Bruno
Reddy**



What was my aim and why?

It seems to me, that the world has become ever more worried about **global warming, and we're forever being encouraged to switch lights** off and conserve energy. This, to me, seems like fairly sound advice, after all if we want our planet to last and still have enough resources for future generations, the time is now to start saving. However, I also feel that somehow a more holistic approach is needed if we **hope to make everyone energy and environmentally aware. It's for** this reason that I choose to do a project involving my school, after all the youth of today will be the stewards of the earth in years to come, and they are going to be some of the most influential people in the future!

So, this led me to look at how energy can be conserved within the school environment. The first port of call was, naturally, light bulbs, however I later found that my school appears to have very efficient light bulbs already, so it was time to find a new area to target.

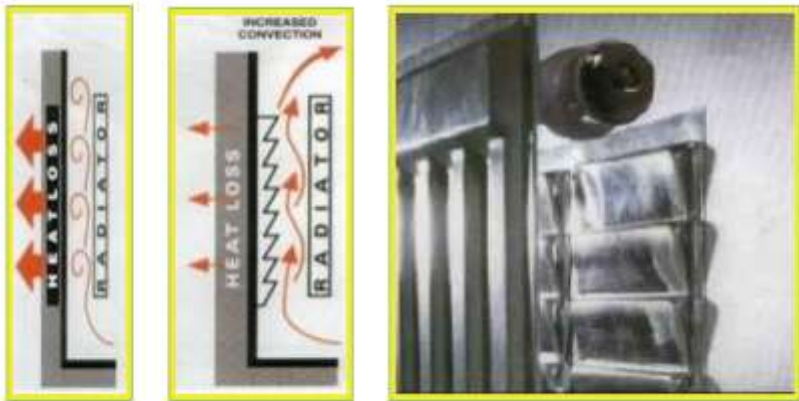
I am also a member of a youth action group call Envision, and it was through this that I met Bruno Reddy, who is a sustainable development manager at Arup [incidentally, it is also the company where my dad works] and he alerted me to the other ways in which buildings loose energy. Geared with my knowledge of energy inefficient buildings, I set about doing some research and came across these **wonderful inventions called "Radiator Reflectors"**. They reflect the heat given out by radiators back into the room and reduce the [up to] 70% heat loss to outer walls that normally occurs when radiators are used.

This being my way of reducing energy emissions, I got in contact with **the school care taker, Jo O'Kane, who also informed me that the**

school has heat sensors that turn the boilers off once a certain temperature is reached, bingo I thought, the reflectors will be superbly effective!

How they work (courtesy of ecofirst.net)

Little Changes Can Make a Difference, Together We Can Save Our Planet



We can work together to make a change!

What had to be done?

To begin with, my idea involved changing the school light bulbs to more energy efficient ones. For this I had to find out the types of efficient light bulbs available, how many the school had and how much **energy was used in them. However, as I've already said the school** appeared to already have very efficient lighting.

Having decided to go to plan B, radiator reflectors, I had to negotiate with the head school keeper, and find out where and how many radiators there were in the 6th form block, and how big they were, so I could work out how many reflectors I needed to raise money for.

Then came the brainstorming as to how I could raise money, and a cake sale seemed to be the obvious solution. Not only did it mean I involved the students in their own school and allowing them an active part in making our school more energy efficient, but it also served as a brilliant publicity opportunity to spread news and **knowledge about my cause and how it'd affect them as students and as young people.**

This was done through producing posters and leaflets, explaining how the radiator reflectors worked and providing them with **suppliers, in the hopes that they'd take the information and possibly implement** a similar thing in their own homes.

So, I roped in some friends to make a range of sellable cakes, checked that it was ok with the school and set about raising money for the reflectors. Helped by my friends I was also able to raise more money through selling cakes in tutor periods and lessons. On top of this I was able to get one of my teachers to sell some cakes and distribute leaflets for me in the staff room, which was vital to fulfilling the holistic nature of my project. In total we managed to raise £52.51 which covered the cost of the radiator reflectors with some money left over. This money will either go into a pot which will get added too and more reflectors will be bought, or it will be donated to the ECOschools group/project that is running at my school at the moment.

The Poster

Radiator Reflectors—How you can help

TOGETHER WE CAN SAVE THE PLANET

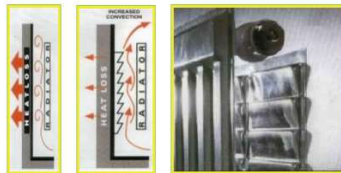
Did you know that up to 70% of the heat produced by radiators is eventually lost into the surrounding walls of the room?

This means that you're paying to energy that is effectively just being wasted.

But this can be stopped through the use of **RADIATOR REFLECTORS** which are simple sheets that can be slotted behind your radiators with great ease.

Not only are they cost effective, as they pay themselves back in 6-24months, they save you money on your energy bills but they also help reduce the footprint you leave on the planet.

What they look like:



Where you can get them and information:

www.ecofirst.net

www.CapCarbon.co.uk

If you have any questions email:

JKinch02@camdengirls.camden.sch.uk



www.clouddog.org

The challenges!

Although I was lucky enough not to have any major challenges there were a few. Thinking of a sustainable project that would make a difference was one, as was finding a sure fire way to raise enough money to buy the radiator reflectors was another.

However, I think one of the largest challenges for me was trying to co-ordinate my friends, finding a day when they were all able to bake cakes and bring them in without them getting battered. Not to mention the **fact that some of them didn't** have school on certain days, one had a wedding rehearsal to go and one of my friends was **ill. So, find a time and situation that fitted in with everyone's plans** was certainly the most challenging things.

Aside from this, fitting the radiator reflectors was relatively simple, just had to make sure that the double sided tape only stuck to the wall, and nothing else!



What I learnt

I learnt so many things whilst carrying out my project. It made me appreciate how organised you have to be to get things done on time, but it also made me realise that one, or a few people, can really make a difference. As scary as it might seem, and no matter how strong the fear of failure is, this experience has really taught me to go for it and just do it. Being more eco-friendly is something I feel very passionately about and it was so great to see other enthused, I had so many teachers coming up to me and inquiring about radiator reflectors, it really drove home the difference a little effort can make.



I also learnt about team work, and how great a group of willing friends can be, how vital communication is and how much difference a few cakes can make.

It also taught me that nothing risked means nothing gained, initially I



was a little wary about putting cakes in the staff room, I felt it might be asking a bit too much of a teacher, but she was so lovely and enthusiastic about it, as were all of the teachers, I realised that sometimes its yourself that puts the constraints on you, not others.

Clouddog 2008

With Thanks to:

www.clouddog.org

www.camdengirls.camden.sch.uk

www.ecofirst.net

