



## CENTRAL MIDLANDS EEAC – ENERGY IN EDUCATION

### SOLAR WATER HEATING AT SWANSHURST GIRLS SCHOOL

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#### KEY POINTS

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- Swanshurst Girl's School and leisure centre was Birmingham's first school to install a solar water heating system.
- The installation was 100% grant funded and was awarded 50% of costs by the Government Clear Skies grant scheme and 50% by Scottish Power's Green Energy Trust.
- The 4 square metre array is predicted to save the school between £30 and £70 and between 0.4 and 0.7 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year.



*The official opening of Swanshurst's solar thermal system by Steve McCabe MP.*

#### SUMMARY

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The idea of installing a renewable energy system at Swanshurst Girls School in Birmingham was first discussed as a result of an Eco-Awareness day in July 2004 during which around 300 year 8 students (aged 12 and 13) learned about recycling, biodiversity, fair trade and sustainable energy. Central Midlands EEAC and REAS attended this event and ran workshops with groups of girls opening with a brief discussion about climate change, energy efficiency and renewable energy and finishing with the girls working

in small groups to devise creative ways of spreading the sustainable energy message. Following the workshops the school went on to set up an 'Eco Team' including pupils, staff, governors etc and have worked for the Green Flag Eco award.

A subsequent visit to CAT inspired Swanshurst Girls School to install its own renewable energy system. The school has 1,800 pupils ranging from 11-19 years of age. It is also a leisure centre providing facilities for people of all ages in the evenings, at weekends and during the holidays. A display panel will be placed in the main reception area and will be visible to all who use the school building. As the school is used by such a diverse population it was felt that solar water heating, a visible and yet cost-effective method of demonstrating renewable energy was the most appropriate choice of technology to offer educational value as well as financial and carbon dioxide savings.

Central Midlands EEAC handled Swanshurst school throughout the project, assisting with obtaining of installer quotations and completion of grant application forms, enabling the school to obtain grant funding for the entire installation cost of £3427.00.

#### THE PROJECT TEAM

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- Swanshurst Girls School
- Filsol Solar (Installer)
- Central Midlands EEAC / REAS
- Birmingham City Council

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

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For more information about this project please contact Debbie Cartwright, Advice Team Co-ordinator at Central Midlands EEAC on 0121 262 6405 or email [deborah.cartwright@hestiaservice.co.uk](mailto:deborah.cartwright@hestiaservice.co.uk)