

School Project Case Study

Sandwich Technology School



Sandwich Technology School is an 11-18 school for girls and boys in Sandwich, close to the East Kent coast.

Eco School

As keen members of the Eco-schools programme, STS was keen to incorporate renewable energy generation into their school. A feasibility study was conducted to look at the costs and benefits of electricity generation by wind and solar. Because STS has an open site, close to the coast and therefore no obstructions to the wind, the conclusion was that a wind turbine would be the most cost effective for them. The Iskra AT5-1 was installed in February 2008. The school keep track of the energy production on a regular basis and use the figures in both science and geography lessons.

Site of the Turbine

The turbine is situated in the school grounds close to the tennis courts. It is an Iskra AT5-1 mounted on a freestanding 12m tower. The tennis courts have floodlights that are of a similar height and colour to the turbine, so it doesn't stand out in the landscape. In fact visitors to the school sometimes fail to notice it - a source of sadness to Sue Hibberd who was the member of staff responsible for the installation Project.

There is however a display panel in reception that which shows the amount of power that the turbine is generating at that moment, alongside the total is has generated and how much CO2 has been saved. People can't fail to notice this and it often generates comments and questions from visitors.

Planning Issues?

During the process of applying for planning permission for the turbine, there were a number of objections from local residents whose properties neighbour the school. Most of these were based on misunderstandings about how large and how noisy the turbine would be, and were disregarded by the planning authority based on the figures provided. To celebrate the opening of the turbine, STS invited Kaddy Lee-Preston (a local celebrity who presents the weather on BBC South East) to cut a ribbon and make a short speech. In her speech, Kaddy told how she had arranged to spend the previous night staying with friends in the area. When she arrived and told them why she was there, they were rather embarrassed and admitted that they had submitted one of the complaints and hadn't realised that the turbine was already installed and working. There have been no complaints since the installation.



Kaddy cutting the ribbon on the turbine

Funding

The majority of the funding for this project was provided by E.ON. Grants were also received from the Low Carbon Buildings Program, Phase 2 and from Sandwich Town Council. The school contributed around £7,000 of their own money to the project.