

Case Studies

World Environment Day Community Survey Blair Athol Primary School

Middle Years

Partners: Year 3,4 students from Blair Athol
AirWatch in South Australia
The City of Prospect

The partners in the project participated in a pilot project from 10.00am - 2.00pm at Northpark Shopping Centre on World Environment Day, Thursday 5 June 2003.

The project was focussed on the effects of wood heaters on air quality. Students conducted surveys of people visiting the shopping centre. The data collected was entered live onto a database and displayed on a screen. The AirWatch monitoring equipment, a video about "clear skies" and other air quality experiments were included in the display.

Students used monitoring techniques in their local area to learn about air and air pollution; its causes and solutions.

AirWatch aims to work with schools to raise awareness of air quality issues and help students to understand more about our fragile environment and the harmful effects of air pollution.

This event also links in with one of the strategies contained in the City of Prospect's Environmental Action Plan, which is to enhance the local air quality of the Prospect region.

The aims included:

- To give students an opportunity to use survey techniques regarding an environmental issue that affects their local area
- To research the number of wood heaters in the Prospect City Council Area
- To research the source and quantity of wood used for wood heaters in the Prospect City Council Area
- To pilot a project in a smaller local government area
- To develop a partnership with local government
- To help raise awareness of wood heating issues in the local community

The success of the program is determined by

- An assessment of the understanding of the students re the air quality issues

- Willingness of the community to take part in such a survey
- Assessment of the knowledge of the community - particularly with reference to some of the questions included in survey
- Number of surveys completed and information forwarded to local government for use in future decision making

Links between classroom work and environmental project

- The classroom work included working through "The Burning Issue" section in the AirWatch Manual "Who cares about our air?" so the students understood the issues around burning and home heating. They also considered dealing with the public and issues regarding survey development.

Environmental Reporting Themes and Issues for this project

Themes

Issues

Atmosphere



- Air Quality

Environmental Reporting Themes and Issues for this project

- Mathematics
- Science
- Society and Environment

Elements of the Essential Learnings that your project develops

Futures

- Learners building scenarios of preferred futures

Interdependence

- Learners coming to an understanding of cultural and global connections, patterns and evolutions
- Learners coming to an understanding of what is needed for sustainable social and physical environments
- Learners cooperating to achieve agreed outcomes
- Learners acting to benefit their communities

Communication

- Learners having an understanding of the complexity and power of language and data.
- Learners having the ability to make effective use of language, mathematical information and the tools of information and communications technology.