First in the UK carbon savers dashboard helping to reduce Glasgow's carbon footprint



Glasgow's ambition to become one of the most sustainable, energy-efficient cities in Europe, took a step nearer that goal with the launch on October 23 of a new city-wide, online resource: the carbon savers dashboard. (A dashboard is an easy-to-read, graphical presentation of complex information – for those of us with Smartphones, a familiar dashboard app would be the weather app.)

Glasgow's newly-developed carbon dashboard is accessible to every education establishment in Glasgow, and quickly shows each establishment how well they are doing in the energy stakes. Aiding in the reduction of carbon emissions across the council, as well as helping cost savings, the carbon dashboard provides an instant display of a building's energy consumption in an easily-understood visual format. The carbon dashboard takes information gained every half hour from meters around the school building; this data is then re-interpreted and displayed in a very user-friendly format. Almost in real time the dashboard updates each school's own data page, showing the building's energy use performance.

To showcase how the dashboard might further enhance and influence curricular work, young representatives from Cleveden Secondary School, Rosshall Academy and Kelvindale Primary School gave presentations showing their varied, crosscurricular activities around Sustainable Development, Ecology, and Citizenship.

Recipients of both the Evening Times Clean Glasgow Streets Ahead 2012 award, and the Scottish Green Award for the Best Green School Campaign, the young people from Kelvindale Primary gave a spirited talk about their own school's work on sustainable development. Particularly interesting was their 'Clyde in the Classroom' scheme, which saw the school organise their own brown trout hatchery - the young trout (or parrs) being returned the River Kelvin and River Clyde to replenish stock