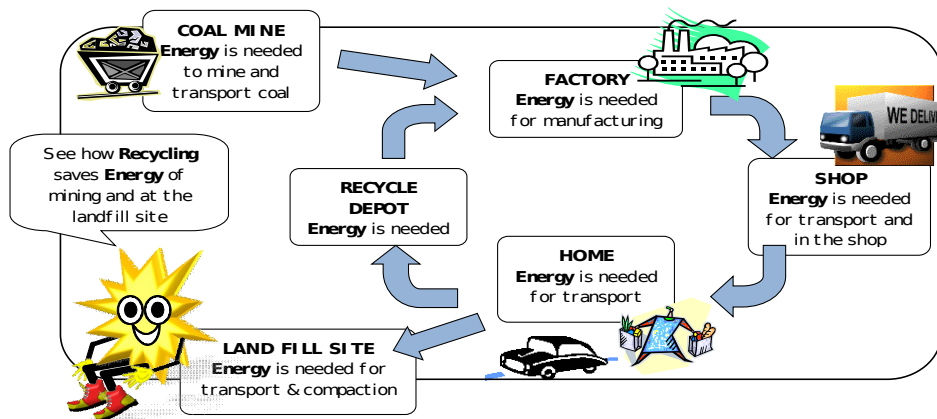


## Recycling saves Energy! Delta Environmental Centre's "Energy Dialogues" programme.

For the past 2 years, Delta Environmental Centre (DEC), with sponsorship from SHELL SA Marketing, has run an "Energy Dialogues" programme for the Grade 11 Geography learners. The pilot programme, in 2010, entailed over 2000 learners visiting the Centre and taking part in an interactive and educational programme that covered topics related to "Sustainable Use and Management of Energy". One of the activities included in this programme highlighted the energy flow used to produce an item, in this case a plastic bag. By exploring this, the learners realised that plastic production used a lot of energy and that by recycling, this energy usage could be decreased therefore cutting down on costs.



*Tracking the flow of energy during the production and use of a plastic bag.*

The learners were asked to design and implement "Energy Dialogues" campaigns back at their school/home/community. At the end of the year, the most innovative campaigns were showcased at an EXPO held at the Centre. It was interesting to note that many campaigns focussed on recycling projects as a means of saving energy within their school and home.

In 2011, the same programme that was carried out at DEC in 2010 was converted into a Research Task (with support from the Gauteng Department of Education) and distributed to every Grade 11 Geography learner in the province (+/- 33 000). Based on the assessment of their Research Task, top learners were challenged to come up with innovative and effective "Energy Dialogues" campaigns. On the 19 October 2011, these learners were given the opportunity to showcase their campaigns at an EXPO, again hosted at the Centre. Once again, many of the learners used recycling projects as ways of promoting the saving of energy.



*Making fashionable items from waste!*

**A story of change:** Hillview High School, Pretoria, sent in the following description of their Action Plan for their Energy Dialogues campaign and how it was implemented. Note their recycling initiatives.

## **HILLVIEW HIGH SCHOOL'S ENERGY DIALOGUES CAMPAIGN – ACTION PLAN 2011**

### **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

1. Hillview to become an energy efficient school.
2. Motivate Hillvonians to commit to energy efficiency both at school and home.
3. Promote the sharing of energy conservation techniques within school community and home.
4. Raise awareness with school management and SGB
5. To further GREEN Hillview
6. Ensure the sustainability of such a concept.

### **KEY ASPECTS OF THE CAMPAIGN**

Central to the campaign was communication/dialogues. The three members of the project started conscientising close friends. These close friends had to spread the “gospel” to their close friends and parents as well. Having convinced other learners who were initially not part of the group enabled the campaign to kick start on a positive note.

### **EDUCATING THE EDUCATORS**

Moitshepi Sekgobela, Boitumelo Maine and Lebogang Sebake practically walked into each and every class, spoke to the teachers and politely requested to help switch off lights. The cooperation from the educators was quite amazing. This also involved talking to teachers about ways to conserve energy and the rationale to do so. Doing so during lesson time ensured that the message was passed to every learner who was in class at the time maybe with exception of bunkers.

### **THE CARBON FOOTPRINTS**

It was time for teachers also to be made aware of the impact on the environment of the vehicles used daily. We had to ask each teacher about the distances their travel, fuel they consume and then the carbon they emit into the atmosphere. The most interesting thing about this was that we were taking our time to educate the educators – a real dream for each and every learner. The tree planting which is an initiative of the current matric Geography learners is ongoing and an answer to emission problem issue. From this campaign we won a lot of support from the educators and it is our hope they will keep implementing this at school and even at homes as well.

### **RECYCLING**

A company has been coming to collect paper every Wednesday and Fridays for recycling rather than burning the papers. In each class is a paper recycling/dumping container. All paper is collected per class for this company to come and collect. The paper project is a follow up to the Coca Cola FIFA 2010 Soccer World Cup can collection in which Hillview participated and over 85 Hillvonians won tickets to go and watch soccer at Soccer City between Argentina and South Korea. From this experience we realised that getting the message across to the learners yields desired results. To sustain the Coca Cola initiative we still collect these cans at school for recycling.

## **FAMILY MEMBERS: THE FAMILY DEAL!!**

Putting across this message to family members is quite a challenge. Parents think they have the right answers to everything more than their children. We asked them to enter into a “deal”. In this deal, parents had to agree to a simple “trick”. We promised to reduce their electricity and water bills to no less than R100 per month. If successful the kids will get that money as their pocket money for the month. In actual fact we managed to reduce consumption by over R250. By doing so we contribute to energy saving for the family, country and the world at large. Consequently, parents learnt a lifelong lesson through their kids.

## **TREE PLANTING**

A consignment of indigenous trees await planting at school courtesy of Ms Mawela who sourced them from a tree planting company in Pretoria. It is our hope that the current Grade 10s will continue with the project and if possible involve other lower grades enthusiastic Hillvonians. By doing so sustainability of the Energy Dialogues will be guaranteed. The idea of a school garden is in the pipeline and we hope it will get all the necessary support it deserves.

## **DELTA ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE STAFF**

The dialogues teacher always communicated with the Geography facilitator and Delta Environmental Centre on any thorny issues. We hope and appreciate that such a harmonious relationship will be maintained.

By:

Boitumelo Maine

Lebogang Sebake

Moitshepi Sekgabela

Coordinated by Mr M Machoba