



Two of Lithuanian schools solutions of climatic conservation *Lithuanian Green Movement, Lithuania*

Summary

The highest priority of Lithuanian environment control is climatic conservation. Two of Lithuania's best schools *Pagegiai municipality Vilkyskiai Secondary School* and *Panevezys municipality Alfonsas Lipniunas Secondary School* worked all year and has inquiry the ecological environment and arrived at the conclusion that there are many things to do in the spheres of collecting waste, energy-saving and transport problems. They have chosen the spheres of waste, transport and energy due to their consequences, i.e. greenhouse gas, which causes climatic alternation in the earth. Thereby, a lot of man-made deeds such as sorting out of waste, heating of premises, usage of shifting fuel, traveling by bike, etc. can help to diminish the amount of greenhouse gas (CO₂) in the atmosphere. One of the schools focused on transport problems and the other at energy-saving and waste collection. They have embodied the actions, projects, integrated lessons. So at this time these schools can share experience and recommend others schools to join together.

End-user area

New buildings
 Refurbishment of buildings
 Transport and mobility
 Financial instruments
 Industry
 Legal initiatives (regulations, directives, etc)
 Planning issues
 Sustainable communities
 User behaviour
 Education
 Other

Target Audience

Citizens
 Households
 Property owners
 Schools and universities
 Decision makers
 Local and regional authorities
 Transport companies
 Utilities
 ESCOs
 Architects and engineers
 Financial institutions
 Other

Technical

Energy efficiency
 Heating
 Cooling
 Appliances
 Lighting
 CHP
 District Heating
 Solar energy
 Biomass
 Wind
 Geothermal
 Hydro power
 Other

Context

There was a very important reason for this project carrying out in schools. Schools have learned why they need to save energy, water, collect waste-paper, solve the transport problems and organize the actions and projects. And it is useful for them, because they are saving money, having very interesting actions, projects. They can communicate with local municipalities and gain a financial support. They made inquiries about transport and started to solve the problems what can be done.

Objectives

The objective of the project was to

- show the schools the main problems of our environment and let the pupils look for solutions. Our pupils can organize actions and project, investigations. These activities can be used in the schools to increase social level of pupils, school community and parents.
- To give them a chance to communicate with local municipalities, they could solve all environmental problems together.



Case Study 235: Lithuanian Green Movement, Lithuania

- To work with solving the problem about heating in winter, the school had its windows replaced and the walls thickened.
- To save water and electricity the schools have made stuck messages on water-taps and electric switches.
- To investigate air pollution by looking at effect on moss.
- To save as many tree as possible schools started to collect waste-paper.

Process

Earlier one school had been using black diamonds and wood to heat the premises. The windows were timeworn and the walls weather boarded thus the heat was lost and the solid fuel input was enormously huge. The common council has decided to renovate the school and to save solid fuel and energy. The school had its windows replaced and the walls thickened. This was the way to save the funds designated for solid fuel. Then they abandoned the black diamonds as they had enough warmth by using wood.

One day they had integrated lessons under the title "*The Other Life of a Tree*" at there school. During these lessons children have got acquainted with the importance of any tree to the ecosystem, the way the paper is produced, and the sorts of trees used for paper production. Children were using old newspapers and making the paper themselves. They were counting the trees which they had saved and the amount of waste-paper they had collected. The figures were amazing, approximately a ton of waste-paper and 12 centenarian trees!

The schools have organized the action of gathering paper waste, batteries, and plastic. The ton of waste-paper we had gathered we brought to the waste-paper collecting center and earned nearly 100Lt (30 €). The money was budgeted for other activities. Furthermore, they used old newspapers to make clothes and armor for knights. The knights symbolized the permanent fight against waste.



They have collected more than 6000 plastic bottles and made "*The new Noah's ark*" which symbolized the idea that only all together they can save the earth from the flow of waste. During the art lessons children made lots of beetles, bugs, and worms. These were the form of protestation against the grass burning in spring.

New Noah's ark

Both schools are going to save energy in the following ways as well: they have stuck messages informing about energy-saving on water-taps and electric switches, and they have changed their way of traveling; now they use bicycles and sculls instead of motor vehicles.

Other school was focused on transport problem and how to solve it. This year they have organized the project "*The Day Without Your Car*" for the thirist time. They are hoping that this day will become the tradition and more members not only of their community will join them. Every year children with mathematics and biology teachers research impurity of air in the territory of school. They also clean up and enrich their school yard – their outside classroom. There they have arranged their compost box. They would like what theirs children could spend more time outside.

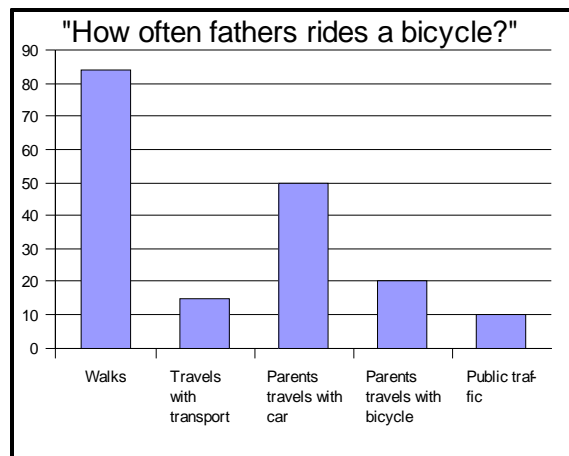
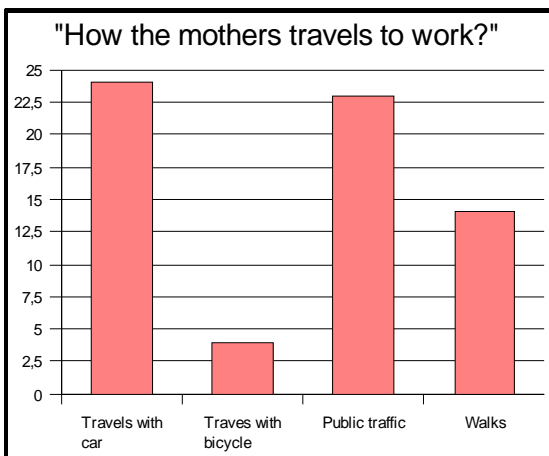


Case Study 235: Lithuanian Green Movement, Lithuania

During 2005 year they have collected 1,5 t waste-paper, it means that they saved 25 trees. In this year they participate on republic environmental project „Assort and care“. Our community collected about 5 ton paper. It means that their pupils saved 85 trees or 100 are forest, which will be needed to make that paper. These trees grew up for 50 – 60 years. Few last years they are organizing action „Christmas-tree“, their pupils are suggesting to replace life firsts to artificial one, they trying to make it themselves.

Conclusion: Save up paper!

In this year they have organized project „The Day Without Your Car“. And they made inquiries about bicycles. Participated 120 pupils and their parents:



Project "The Day Without Your Car"



Since 2000 they are carrying out the investigation about "Air pollution establish with test of moss". They have noticed that in their suburb dominate. The air which are they breathing is polluted with gas of sulphur dioxide.

Conclusion: The school is near by the big street and gas-station, the traffic is terrible. It damaging not only for people, but also and the trees, buildings, animals – the temperature of the air is rising! Pupils collecting the examples of the moss for comparison to prove that there are not polluted areas in Lithuania where can grow different kinds of moss.



Financial resources and partners

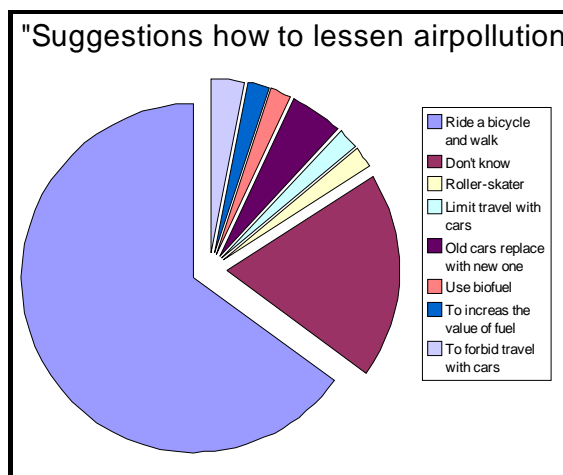
They have been given a had of other organizations: municipal economy helped to bring away the plastic, the company of recycling of electronic machines gave us a casket for collecting batteries, and helped to collect the old domestic electric appliances. The municipal environmentalist endowed their projects financially.

Results

Schools has involved all community to there activities, they become an environmental centres of their towns. Energy, water – savings gave an opportunity to save money; which was budgeted for other activities. More young people, members of community started to ride bicycles. Some schools investigated that there are cancer-causing substances in the candies, and other sweet products. So now they are solving that problem and trying to change something. The schools are also investigating quality of the water and carrying out others interesting investigations. Our pupils have become more social, independents and creative.

All of them have made conclusions and suggestions:

- how to lessen air pollution,
- way we need to save up paper,
- way it is useful to save energy,
- “what shows the moss”,
- what each of us can do and how to do.



Lessons learned and repeatability

Schools have an opportunity to communicate with local municipalities, sponsors and all community. It is very important to make their environment beautiful and clean, that pupils have their surrounding where they can to play and spend more time outside. But to realize that they need a support of all community and it is the main problem. Not all wants to maintain order and cleanness. Some thinks that it is useless. All schools can make investigations to understand and to know their environment, but for that they need financial support.

In the future all schools must be involved in such activities.

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