



ENVIRONMENT & INNOVATION:

Theme 2007/2009

**Climate Change:
Let's Save Energy!**

The Finnish Association for Environmental Education (Sykse - Suomen Ympäristökasvatuksen Seura)

The Finnish Association for Environmental Education is the only organisation in Finland that concentrates solely on furthering, developing and supporting environmental education. As an expert organisation, we represent other organisations in matters related to environmental education. Our aim is, that there would be an increasing number of educators in Finland with the will and skills to help children and youngsters to get the knowledge, skills and values that promote sustainable development. One of our central tasks is to raise the quality and effectivity of environmental education. This includes making use of the latest research results, supporting development work and the continuum of environmental education.

Our association, founded in 1990, is politically and religiously unconnected. Our members consist of individuals and organisations working with environmental education. The members of our Board represent the Finnish top expertise in the field. We always strive for working in an open, professional and ethical way.

Our work covers the ecological, cultural, social and economical aspects of sustainable development. In addition to children and youngsters, also adults need too to understand and solve the challenges posed by sustainable development on both the personal and collective level. Our association is aware of what is going on in the field of environmental education and we have the networks for spreading information to educators and decision-makers.

Our work is divided into

- Lobbying for improved conditions for environmental education
- Improving the quality of environmental education
- Supporting the work of the educators

Our most important products are

- The international Eco-Schools / Green Flag environmental programme for kindergartens and schools
- The yearly national Environmental Education Days
- The magazine Environmental Education, that is the most important medium in this field in Finland
- Co-ordinating the work of researchers, organisations and other actors in the field of environmental education

We also annually hand out the Rose of Environmental Education to a person or action that has developed environmental education.

In November 2007 the Environment and Innovation was started in Finland. A total of 13 schools submitted their ideas and 7 of them were awarded in October 2008.

Awarded schools:

- ✓ Maikkulanraitin koulu (Oulu) - ***Renewable energy from the open air***
- ✓ Mettijäis Päiväkodit (Oulunsalo and Ylikiiminki) - ***Totally Outside?***
- ✓ Päiväkoti Neulanen (Helsinki) – ***A Draining Board Project of Kindergarten Neulanen***
- ✓ Terälahden koulukiinteistö (Tampere) - ***Renewable energy from the open air***
- ✓ Torpparinmäen Peruskoulu (Helsinki) - ***Energy saving, participation and sustainable development***
- ✓ Vasaramäen koulu (Turku) - ***The Clock Project***

The National Jury comprising Kari Skogster (CEO, Toyota Motor Finland Oy), Tarja Heinonen, Anu Kaila and Hanniina Manner chaired and by Peter Kullberg, awarded, on May 2009 "A draining board project of kindergarten Neulanen" as Finland's best project.

Päiväkoti Neulanen Kindergarten from Helsinki accomplished the 2nd place on the International Competition.

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