

## Renewable Energy Day at the Genesis Centre

In 2008 twenty three students from Ladymead Community School, which is designated as a Technology College, attended the Genesis Centre at Somerset College to explore renewable systems.

The Genesis Centre is an award winning sustainable building made from cob, straw, earth and a range of other sustainable materials. Colin Savage from Exmoor Nation Park and David Wall from Wessex Water acted as industry ambassadors during the event giving informative talks and demonstrating a solar collector in the grounds of the centre.



After lunch the pupils moved on to the technology block to learn about the engineering designs of wind turbines, soldering components to make an electrical circuit. Yvonne Mackeson from the Genesis Project organised the event and gave a tour of the Genesis Centre enabling the students to see the use of sustainable building materials and renewable energy sources. Yvonne said that it was a pleasure to work with a group so well informed and concerned about the effect our greed for energy is having on our environment.



Ladymead pupil Tim Cuff was pleased with the activities and said that it supported the work he is doing at school. Tim has been selected for an innovation award and will be presenting the research he has carried out on wind and water turbines at a ceremony at Bath University.

The event was sponsored by Aimhigher Strand 7 with the objective of increasing participation in Higher Education. This exciting and innovative event demonstrated the new technologies around renewable energies, raising aspirations and an understanding of the possible career progression

routes within environmental engineering.



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## Construction Matters – Building Your Future

This successful Aimhigher Construction Matters event was held in February 2007 in the Genesis Centre at Somerset College. Over 200 people were present during the day to see what information, advice and guidance is available for people interested in the construction sector including pupils from Heathfield Community School, The Castle School and West Somerset Community College.

Eight speakers gave lively talks and 25 display stands exhibited their products and services from large companies such as ICI Dulux paints, Irwin Tools, CITB and ROK to local companies like Gadd Homes, Bradfords and the eco friendly building suppliers Mike Wye and Associates and other local training providers.



After listening to Ian Moore, the Director of Genesis, talking of how the building was made from cob, straw, earth and a range of other sustainable materials many people commented that they had been 'bowled over' and were now converts to sustainable construction.

Students and their teacher from Richard Huish 6th Form College commented: "We really enjoyed the time at the event. What a great venue! The range of exhibitors was really interesting and there were some knowledgeable people to discuss topics with such as environmentally friendly building materials. The lectures were good and it was really interesting to hear, both young and experienced practitioners/professionals talking. There's nothing like anecdotal evidence to convince you of real opportunities."