

Environment social action

St Cenydd Community School

Introduction

Geography teacher, Kath Davids, at **St Cenydd's Community School**, was looking for some extra input for the curriculum and asked Size of Wales to do a presentation on deforestation. "We were learning about ecosystems and the rainforest so this was ideal for Years 11 & 8. Learners who took part in the fantastic interactive sessions were very motivated."

"I was shocked! I didn't realise it was this bad," said 13-year-old Connor Stone. "I don't want such a negative effect on the earth for the things we have."

Learning about the use of palm oil in a wide variety of products, and the impact of its cultivation led to a class discussion and assessment about using sustainable palm oil versus a total ban.

The learners were outraged by the ban on the Iceland supermarket advert. They also learnt about food labelling and held a palm oil free Christmas buffet. The learners had to read the labels and sort items into the green, amber and red categories before tucking in.



SOPHIE, HARRY AND CONNOR TAKE CONCERNS ABOUT PALM OIL TO THE SCHOOL SENYDD

Kayley Edwards (Year 11)

I was inspired by the very visual presentation about deforestation and palm oil, and decided to use my Welsh Baccalaureate skills project to do some good. I did research in our local area using a survey about which products people buy that contain palm oil. Most people did not know which items had palm oil. 70% of people supported better labelling. The survey raised awareness and lots of people have reduced their purchases of items with palm oil. My Nan does nearly all her shopping at Iceland now. One friend went vegetarian!



I have always been passionate about wildlife and I realise this is so urgent. I want to work with others from the school to share this information through the community. I also want to do some fundraising for a re-forestation project.

Contact info@sizeofwales.org.uk to find out more inviting Size of Wales to lead education sessions in your organisation or school.

Benefits, challenges and tips

What were the challenges?

Not all the learners in each year group could attend the sessions because of capacity and time. Those who did have shared with others, but it's not quite the same. I hope we can have more sessions soon. It will take time to inspire the whole school with the same enthusiasm.

What benefits have you seen so far for the school?

Those in the session who are members of the school Senedd have been discussing the use of palm oil in the Senedd and to the school healthy eating committee. "I feel happy that I know something that I can share to make a difference," said Year 8 Sophie Harris. It really has engaged so many people and they want to talk to the County Council about palm oil in the school meals menu.

What tips would you give to other schools?

I am new to the area and searched on the Welsh teachers resources to find out about who would offer something extra to help with the curriculum and found Size of Wales. I would encourage others to invite people from other organisations in. This impact on learning has been very positive, with them applying what they learnt and experienced through the curriculum. Learners have been inspired into action by what they learnt.

Size of Wales / St Cenydd Community School

Environment Activist



"I have combined what I learnt and my passion for wildlife and developed it within my Welsh Baccalaureate skills project. Through my research and survey I reached many people in the community with my concern about the use of unsustainable palm oil in everyday products."

Kayley Edwards, Year 11, St Cenydd Community School

Accompanying social media text:

Year 11 Environment activists in St Cenydd Community School get valuable experiences and knowledge, and support their peers in taking action on deforestation and the use of palm oil. Perfect for #WBQ and #newcurriculum
www.sizeofwales.org.uk