



Virgo Fidelis Goes Solar!

Pupils at Virgo Fidelis School in Croydon are reaping the benefits of green energy technology, including less pollution and savings on electricity bills, having had solar electric panels fitted to the roof of the science block.

The school received funding from a number of organisations, including the Community Renewables Initiative (£4000), the DfES (£2000) and the photovoltaic Major Demonstration Programme (£4200) as well as support from the Renewable Energy Action for London (REAL) initiative to install the renewable photovoltaic (PV) system.

The use of the Sun's energy to provide electricity to the school building will help mitigate climate change. The system will also provide an excellent educational resource, helping pupils understand the impacts of climate change, and the need for renewable energy.

Tackling Climate Change

The school's PV array comprises a set of 8 panels, which have been installed on the roof. The grid-connected system generates electricity from daylight for use in the school, with any surplus being sold to the National Grid. It is estimated that use of the solar panels to generate electricity will result in nearly 500kg of CO₂ emission savings each year.

Councillor Adrian Dennis, cabinet member for planning, environment and urban development, said: "Even on cloudy days in the UK there is a huge amount of light and energy that can still be generated - every cloud really does have a silver lining! The school will benefit the whole year round, safe in the knowledge the energy they are generating comes from a clean and renewable source which does not produce harmful carbon dioxide emissions - one of the largest contributors to climate change."

Key Points

Technology

1.5kWp grid connected photovoltaics (PV) system

Funding

100% secured through the CRI, the DfES and the PV MDP

Collaborators

**Virgo Fidelis School
Renewable Energy Action For London (REAL)
Chelsfield Solar**

Want to know more?

Residents and community groups across London and the South East can seek support for installing renewable energy on their homes or other buildings through contacting the REAL project team on 020 8683 6600.

Creative Environmental Networks, Ambassador House, Brigstock Road, Thornton Heath, CR7 7JG
Tel: 020 8683 6600 Fax: 020 8683 6601
Email: enquiries@cen.org.uk Web: www.cen.org.uk



**PV Installation
Virgo Fidelis School
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Photo courtesy of Chelsfield Solar