



**CASE
STUDY**

**THE
GROWING
SCHOOLS GARDEN**

**LEARNING OUTSIDE
THE CLASSROOM**

Sustainable School Buildings

**South Camden
Community School, and
Torriano Junior School,
London**

Finding out about Sustainable Construction

Year 4 at Torriano Junior School and Year 9 at South Camden Community School.
Sustainable School Landscape Construction Workshops. Facilitated by Felicity Robinson. Spring 2007

Looking at our own school grounds



The climbing frame is made of metal. It is very strong, and metal can be recycled.

Year 4 started by discovering what landscape construction materials were in their own school grounds.

They carried out internet research to find out more about the properties and sustainability of the materials.



The edge is made out of timber. It is a natural material. It is healthy and local.



This path is made out of chips of tree bark. It is natural and is healthy and nice to walk on.

Visiting another school



I think this bench is made of recycled plastics squashed together. It is good for the environment and it is colourful, I can see green, purple, blue and black.



It is good for the environment because if we recycle plastic it will save room in the landfill site and it does not rot away easily.

Year 4 visited South Camden Community School where several recent landscape construction projects had used a variety of sustainable materials.



I think this is sustainable because the timber has been recycled which is good because it won't go to a landfill site.

It's sturdy and will last a long time.

We found out that you are not allowed to use old railway sleepers any more. You need to find recycled wood that has a healthy treatment to stop it rotting.

A lot of materials in our school are sustainable but this concrete bench has a BIG carbon footprint! (Yr9 student)

I have learnt about how making some materials, like concrete, can increase carbon levels in the air. This is bad for climate change.



This bench is all concrete. It is not a good sustainable material because making it puts CO2 into the air. This is bad for global warming and climate change.



The gravel paving has chips stuck down. Water can go through it when it rains. This is good for the trees.

Concrete blocks are not good because of the CO2 from the factory.

Tarmac is partly natural (stones) but is glued together with stuff made from oil, which is running out.



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A photo story of a series of workshops at two schools, with photo captions and comments by the children and young people

Finding out about different materials



It's made of glass which makes it shiny. It is good because its recycled glass so we don't have to send bottles to landfill. This is a good choice because it is crushed glass which means its been recycled.



Rocks are natural, but the cement is bad because it lets out something bad. (Co2— Carbon dioxide.) It is a greenhouse gas that is bad for climate change.

I have learnt that sustainable materials are **not** just strong materials.



Concrete blocks are not good because of the CO2 from the factory.



These rocks come from a quarry. Its a natural material. They have come from lots of different places in the world. This means some of the rocks had to travel a long way which is bad for the environment. I like the way its lots of different rocks. We can learn about them. If the rocks are local it will cut down on pollution from lorries and ships.

If you carry something a long way from one place to another it has a big carbon foot print because of transport.



Recycled glass and gravel surfaces. This is a good material because it is using reclaimed aggregate (gravel) and recycled glass. Crushed glass is a good thing because it does not rot, and if you don't use it ,it will go to landfill.



Angel was drawing some materials and I was writing about the materials. It was good to go outside into the science garden to work.

I did not know you could recycle car tyres and mobile phones.

Testing the "hands on" kit

Samples of other materials have been collected to show children more materials that can be used in school landscapes.

The samples were useful, because you can get ideas about what some sustainable materials are like.

You can see and feel for yourself, and get a better look at it.

You can see and touch the stuff for real, better than pictures.



The material Layra is holding is made from recycled rubber car tyres. Its good because its recycled, but its expensive too.



The seat made from timber which is good because it is natural and can re-grow (renewable)

Designing Games!

Year 4 and Year 9 also thought about more good ways to learn about sustainable materials. They wrote quiz questions and designed some games

The Snakes and Ladders games is one that the children helped to design.

They wrote the words and drew some sketches for the "snakes" and the "ladders"
We hope you have fun with it!



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Visiting an architect

Year 9 also visited an architect to find out more about sustainable schools buildings and landscapes.

Back at school they also viewed a computer animation fly-through of a new school landscape.



The model maker showed us examples of the models and explained they were made for competitions.



This is an architects office

When I started out on this project I thought you could only make a wooden shack, but you can make spectacular architecture from sustainable materials.



The model maker showed us pictures of building designs and models too.

I liked the computer "fly through" of the school landscape. It looked chilled. It flows.



I learnt that you can make buildings from straw and cardboard!



We looked at lots of models. I really liked this office building design and structure and the road.

In this project I have learnt that during a building project you may have to take into consideration about what materials to choose because bad choices will increase a building carbon footprint.



Model makers use computers too to design the models.

Here are some humans, to scale, for a model.



Model Making

The model maker showed us around the model making department.



This machine cuts out the shape of the building



This is the paint room for the models. You



They use hi-tech machines to cut the model out. This is laser cutter. A computer controls the laser to cut the hard plastic for the models.



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