

Champions for Wind 2012 – Project Synopsis

Champion: Andy Day
School: Withernsea High School
<u>Resource audience</u>
Age group: Year 7 - 9
General ability developed for: Foundation/Higher
Number of Learning hours: up to 8
Subject area: Geography
Project title: Geographical impacts of renewable energy developments in the N. Sea
Project synopsis: <p>Up to 8 lessons have been developed with resources and lesson plans to help students explore the likely economic, social and environmental implications of new offshore wind farms in the North Sea over the coming years. Some of the lessons can be taught as stand-alone, some are short sequences of 2-3 related lessons but together they form a unit of 8 lessons. These have been taught to all Year 8 students at Withernsea High School, who engaged with enthusiasm and increasing motivation as they became aware of the implications for their own futures. The thinking behind the lesson sequence has been to introduce essential knowledge early on and then make students aware of career opportunities both offshore and onshore that will appeal to students of all abilities, subject-interest and gender. Lessons then explore possible economic, social and environmental issues of offshore wind farms. Students engage in role-play investigations of conflicts of interest between different groups, research their arguments and engage in debate. The sequence of lessons concludes with students exploring various solutions and compromises to the conflicts of interest such that they can see how the benefits of offshore wind farms can be maximised whilst reducing the negative effects. Throughout the unit students are challenged to use higher-level thinking skills, research skills and presentation skills.</p>
<u>Lesson Overview:</u>
Lesson 1 : What is Britain's energy gap; and what is Britain's answer?
Lesson 2 : Offshore wind farms and associated career paths.
Lesson 3 : Arguments for and against offshore wind farms.
Lesson 4 : Conflicts of Interest : group research and presentation of arguments.
Lesson 5 : Conflicts of Interest : searching for solutions to resolve differences.
Lesson 6 : Conflict Resolution : Presenting compromise win-win solutions.
Lesson 7 : What does the public think? : Analysis of surveys of public attitudes to renewable energy.
Lesson 8 : What have we learnt? Review of the presentations; the issues; and how career paths of students may be influenced.