

Climate change challenge for Surrey schools

Atkins staff from Water Management and GroupIS recently helped organise a competition between a number of Surrey primary schools to design a poster to persuade people to take action on climate change.



Photo: Atkins and school staff with the 3 winners of the climate change poster competition

Following a local schools initiative led by Group IS Environment Manager, Nicola Tagart, our Climate Change experts Geoff Darch and Nikki Williams assisted with the judging panel and gave a presentation to the children on the causes and impacts of climate change.

The winning artists from 3 schools were invited to a prize giving lunch at Group IS offices in Leatherhead. Following a tour of the office and Nikki's presentation, each of the winners was awarded a certificate for themselves and a prize for their school, which included a mini wind turbine and solar panel kit and some energy efficiency games .

The judges chose the winning entries on the basis of presentation and content and were particularly impressed with some of the pupils ideas for mitigating climate change. The winning posters have since been printed and can be seen around a number of Atkins offices.

nikki.williams@atkinsglobal.com

Putting additional leave to good use

Making use of additional leave for voluntary work, a joint team from Rivers & Coastal and Water Resources Management recently undertook a day's work with the Woodcote Millennium Green Trust in Epsom.

Unique in Surrey, this woodland area is part of a nationwide network of approximately 250 'Millennium Green Spaces'. Set up to safeguard areas of open land in otherwise built environments, the Woodcote Millennium Green is enjoyed by local residents and hospital visitors and patients alike.



In addition to providing valuable recreational space, the Millennium Green, which includes open glades and a pond, also provides valuable habitat to a variety of species.

Atkins' team members worked alongside trustees on a variety of tasks on the site including litter collection, ditch maintenance, ivy stripping and dead wood clearance to create a more open woodland floor.

The chairman of the Trust, Surrey County Councillor Chris Frost, comments that the work carried out by the Atkins team "has made a significant difference to the Millennium Green, and helped us get on top of the regular maintenance that the area needs if it is to remain a pleasant and safe area for local people to enjoy."

Contact your local HR co-ordinator to find out more about the additional voluntary leave scheme.

tom.howden@atkinsglobal.com
www.woodcotemillenniumgreen.org.uk

Photo: Atkins staff with the Millennium Green Spaces trustees at the woodland site.

Social News

The newly formed Water Sports and Social Committee held their first event, which saw 11 teams of four compete in a lunchtime charity quiz.

Held in Warrington, the event raised £100 for Francis House Children's Hospice and further events are being planned throughout the year with the aim of improving social activities available to staff.

devina.naga@atkinsglobal.com



Fundraising News

Between 22-27 June, geotechnical engineer Alex Blake will be taking part in The Race Against Time for The Bishop Simeon Trust.

The event involves cycling 874 miles from Lands End to John O'Groats in just 6 days. Alex says, " It will be the toughest sporting challenge of my life, but worth it because in doing the ride I will be raising vital funds for people affected by HIV / AIDS in South Africa. Please take a moment to sponsor me. A relatively small sum of money can be of great help to people affected by the pandemic."

To make a donation and support this worthwhile cause log onto: <http://www.justgiving.com/alexblake>

All donations are secure and sent electronically to the Bishop Simeon Trust.

alex.blake@atkinsglobal.com