

Inspiring environmental understanding through first-hand experience



Epping Forest Field Centre


The Centre is managed by FSC for, and on behalf of, the City of London



Head of Centre’s report on progress in 2012

Purpose of report:

The purpose of this report is to inform the Joint Committee on progress at the Epping Forest Field Centre in 2012. I recommend that the report be RECEIVED.

| Criteria | | 2012 Targets | 2012 Performance at end of first quarter |
|----------------------------------|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Learner experiences | | 22,000 | On target |
| Volunteer days | | 525 | On target |
| People | | Able to demonstrate meeting of IIP standards for internal or external assessment | FSC re-accredited with IIP (assessment included EFFC) March 2012  |
| Quality | | Maintain standards and prepare for re-assessment in 2013 | Standards being maintained. |
| Health & Safety | | Maintain standard of Gold Shield and prepare for re-assessment in 2013 | Standards being maintained. |
| 'Overall' visitor feedback score | >4.9 | >4.9 | On target |
| | >4.9 | >4.9 | On target |
| | >4.8 | >4.8 | On target |

In common with all other FSC centres we now ask two crucial questions of our customers:

- ‘Overall did your experience with us match or hopefully exceed your expectations?’ (yes/no)
- Did your learning experience lead to a significant increase in your understanding of the environment?’ (yes/no)

It is pleasing to be able to report that, as at the end of the first quarter there have been no instances where the answer ‘no’ has been recorded.

The 2012 Plan presented to the last meeting made clear reference to the need to respond to rising basic costs and also to recover 'lost' income relating to:

- delivery of DEF modules (in the autumn term)
- funding for the management & evaluation of the DEF project (in the autumn term)
- the reduction in the City of London payment
- any additional costs incurred in securing new income

With this in mind we have:

- reduced administration staff from 1.5 full-time equivalent to one by making the post of administrator (part time) redundant (retaining the post of Bursar)
- not replaced a Trainee Tutor whose contract ended in December
- kept a Tutor role at 0.4 full-time equivalent and not made this full time for the peak season as originally envisaged

Whilst this inevitably brings additional pressures and challenges the current team have all worked effectively together for more than 12 months and we are now getting some efficiency gains that we hope will still enable us to deliver our 2012 Plan.

The Lessons from Nature Project (as described in the EFFC 2011-14 Plan) is a current focus of attention with trialling of this exciting new programmes taking place in the summer term – see next page for further information.

Our Easter 'stakeholder' newsletter is attached to this report to give a flavour of other things that are of current relevance at the Centre. [Please note that some of the links in this newsletter may not be active until circulation date later in mid April].

Steve Bunce, Head of Centre

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Epping Forest Field Centre introduces Lessons from Nature



Using insights from nature to inspire and build a brighter future

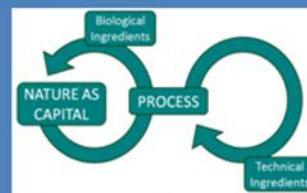
An exciting opportunity for a group of students to participate in trial of an innovative learning experience. Learners will be encouraged to provide feedback on their experience to shape this exciting new European wide project.

Lessons from Nature is designed to enable and inspire learners to:

- use insights from nature to critically examine and re-design products and production systems
- search for new solutions to sustainability problems that are relevant and interesting to the learners
- embrace discovery learning and learning outside of the classroom
- develop knowledge, understanding and a range of competencies including critical thinking

Insights from nature in the trial programme include:

- Multiple benefits
- Diversity gives strength
- Waste equals food (closed loop systems)



Visit our website to find out more about the project
www.field-studies-council.org/centres/eppingforest/lessons-from-nature-project

All activities at Epping Forest Field Centre are led by appropriately qualified and experienced tutors and are fully risk assessed. The project costs (excluding transport) are met as a result of the Lessons from Nature project. The project aims to boost attainment in a range of subject areas. This project is available for up to 30 pupils from each school. Lessons from Nature has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication [communication] reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein. We are pleased to be working on this in collaboration with our partner organisations from Bulgaria, Latvia, Netherlands, Romania and Spain.

Epping Forest Field Centre

April 2012

Challenge Anneke
Team Leader Anneke is facing a number of challenges in 2012 including the London marathon
[Read more](#)



Celebrating 20 years of Steve!

Staff past and present, associates and friends of Epping Forest Field Centre came together for a surprise party
[Read more](#)



Have EFFC staff got the skills to survive?

James and Tania spent two days in the heart of Epping Forest. Did they survive?
[Read more](#)



Enhancing Learning Environments

The Centre team needs all the help it can get to maintain and enhance the learning environments within the grounds. A team from Epping Forest Countrycare and their volunteers spent a day at the Centre removing plant overgrowth from two ponds. Find out the reason for this and how you can help
[Read more](#)



www.field-studies-council.org/centres/eppingforest/newsletters

Project Updates



- Teachers react well to Mind the Gap online resources developed by EFFC staff in an EU project
[Read more](#)

"Links well with topics used in school. It's great to see students being encouraged to look at and engage with their local area."

"Excellent activities with great resources."

Articles in other Newsletters

- [Easter Safaris](#)
- [Family Fun](#)
- [Science for All](#)
- [Geography Under Control](#)



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