

SPARE: "We Can Contribute to Reduction of CO₂ Emissions"

Achievements & New Goals



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A New Step: Practical Action Linking Climate and Energy

Within the last year, SPARE national coordinators agreed that there

is a need to emphasize, in SPARE educational work and educational materials, energy efficiency as a solution to the global climate-change problem. As a result, a new step was taken at the 2007 annual meeting in Kishinev (Moldova), where SPARE network has announced this priority and the slogan of the project, "We can contribute to reduction of CO₂ emissions". It means not only an educational link between climate and energy, but also development of practical actions on the local level within SPARE, which should bring real benefits, including reduction of greenhouse-gas emissions.

Practical Projects

In accordance with this new priority, the next stage of the SPARE project was characterized by the emergence of many small low-cost practical projects initiated by schools in almost all project countries. These small energy projects were devoted to improving energy efficiency, mostly through insulation of windows. These energy-saving measures are intended to improve comfort for schoolchildren while saving fuel and reducing CO₂ emissions.

Development of small school-based energy-saving projects became possible thanks to the methodical support of International Energy Brigades. Trainers from Rivne (Ukraine) came to Armenia and Tajikistan. Together with national coordinators (Eco-club Tapan in Armenia and For the Earth in Tajikistan) they provided training on the practical methods of window insulation for teachers, elder schoolchildren, parents and school administrations.

After these training sessions, insulation of windows was implemented in the several schools. As a result, temperatures in school classes increased by 3-4 C. Now schools are able to provide better heating



Practical SPARE school project



with less fuel. For example, calculations for Armenian projects show that insulation of 40 sq. metres of windows will help to save 7,000 kWh and reduce 3,500 kg of CO₂ per year. This corresponds to energy savings of 70,000 kWh and reduction by 35,000 kg of CO₂ emissions during the lifetimes of the windows' insulation. 30 projects of various size in Central Asia, Caucasus and Moldova have been completed or are under preparation. So far these projects are being financed by voluntarily CO₂ offsets from Norway.

In northwestern Russia, these methods of cheap and efficient insulation of windows are known by Apatity Energy Brigades, who, themselves, were trained by International Energy Brigades. Several school projects for window insulation were designed with the help of SPARE regional coordinators. At the end of 2007, we got the good news that our project addressed to improving energy efficiency in schools of northwestern Russia will have the support of the Public Chamber of Russian Federation.

During the next year, insulation measures should be implemented in three pilot SPARE educational organizations, working actively within SPARE: a secondary school in Petrozavodsk, Karelia, a kindergarten in Apatity and the House of Children's Creativity in the Leningrad region. This project will be managed by the NGO Friends of the Baltic in cooperation with Kola Environmental Centre "Gaia" (Apatity) and Karelian Department of All-Russia Society for Nature Conservation. The experience and results of this project will be widely disseminated among other northwestern Russian schools and housing communities.

SPARE School Competition

The International SPARE competition of 2007-2008 also runs under the slogan "We can contribute to reduction of CO₂ emissions". All schoolchildren's competition projects for energy-saving and for the application of renewable energy sources should show achieved or expected amount of saved energy or replaced energy from carbon fuel, along with corresponding amounts of greenhouse-gas emissions prevented. Informational projects for schoolchildren and pedagogical projects of teachers should also be directed to the promotion of practical actions for energy-saving or for application of accessible local renewable energy sources to produce concrete results.

In March 2007, in Kishinev (Moldova), the international organising committee announced the results of the International Competition "Energy and Environment" of 2006-2007. 14 schoolchildren and 4 teachers were named the winners. They were honored at the national ceremonies organized by national coordinators together with educational institutions.

Russian and English !

The international competition of 2007-2008 started in autumn of 2007. The invitation to the International Competition was translated into English and distributed among all interested NGOs.

This year's competition will be managed in two languages, Russian, and English. Every pupil and teacher of every school may participate, if the school is registered as a SPARE school.

In the registered schools, the pupils

- learn about energy,
- take practical actions to save energy and to use renewables, and
- inform society of sustainable energy solutions.

The deadline for national competitions is: February 15, 2008 and the international competition is: March 15, 2008.

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