



Corby Pupils Deliver Innovative Energy-Saving Ideas

Through the District of the Future project, Electric Corby has been supporting a Corby school to introduce students to the concept of energy, why we need to save it and how we can reduce our energy consumption

Electric Corby is a community interest company established to test on a community scale for new practical and sustainable ways of living, working and travelling. This has led to Electric Corby being invited to work with a number of European projects with partners across Europe, including France, Spain and Italy. These projects have placed Corby at the forefront and brought money from the EU into the town to deliver a real benefit to the community whilst meeting the challenges of energy demand and climate change.

District of the Future (DoF) is one of the EU projects that Electric Corby is a partner in, which aims to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gases by 30-40% by utilising ICT tools to implement energy-saving strategies on a district level.

As part of DoF's third and final year, Electric Corby has been working with a local school, Corby Technical School to run the 'Switched on Thinking' project - a STEM project which introduced students to the concept of energy, why we need to save it and how we can reduce our energy consumption.

The project culminated in an energy-saving innovation competition, in which students designed an application or product that would enable the user to save energy around the home. These were then presented to a panel of judges, including the Sustainability Officer of Corby Borough Council and representatives from Electric Corby, who scored the ideas based on criteria covering their impact on energy saving, ease of use, and their level of innovation.

The students produced an impressive range of ideas, with many of them demonstrating an interactive app. Many of these ideas focused on an app to monitor energy consumption within the home. Students came up with many innovative features including historical data, the ability to monitor water and gas, daily energy-saving tips and feedback based on how much energy they

were using based on normal consumption and the weather. Some students even designed their own posters so that their products were ready to market.

The winning idea was called 'Smartosaurus', a clever product that saved energy by automatically turning off plugs when an appliance, such as a phone, was fully charged. This was accompanied by an app that enabled users to see which of their devices were fully charged and give them the ability to switch on or off charging. This idea impressed the panel due to its uniqueness and its capability of saving energy, accompanied by an impressive presentation where the students showed the panel the app on their own phone.

It was exciting to see how students engaged with the project, and were able to put their learning about energy saving into practice whilst demonstrating their creativity, innovation and excellent presentation skills.

The students also greatly enjoyed the project, with feedback from the students showing that the project helped them to understand how to be more energy efficient, and almost all said they would recommend the Switched on Thinking project to a friend. In particular, students enjoyed an experiment that allowed them to understand how much energy individual appliances used, such as kettles and lightbulbs etc., and were surprised by how big the difference in energy consumption was between a normal and energy-saving lightbulb.

Nick Bolton, co-founder of Electric Corby said, "Overall the project has been a success, and it's down to being a part of the DoF project that has allowed Electric Corby to give back to the community through education and feedback. Utilising its projects to deliver a real benefit to Corby is one of Electric Corby's core values, and in this case it has been fantastic to see young people so engaged with energy."

Notes to Editor:

Electric Corby

Electric Corby is a Community Interest Company formed in part to attract world leaders in clean engineering and technology to Corby by becoming the UK's practical, community scale test centre for energy efficient living, working and travelling. Aiming to generate new employment opportunities with a low carbon, low energy focus to match the high levels of population growth in the area, Electric Corby will help the town become one of the most environmentally and economically sustainable areas in the UK.

Community Interest Companies (CIC's) are limited companies that hold the values of the public sector whilst possessing the flexibility and agility of a private company, and any profit is relayed back to the local community.



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www.electriccorby.co.uk

District of the Future (DoF)

District of the Future is a European Commission funded project with the objective of reducing energy consumption and carbon by a third in cities at a district level using innovative Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

The DoF project consortium, led by Telefonica, brings together leading ICT practitioners in Europe with cities, Corby (UK), Orleans (France) and Sabadell (Spain) to demonstrate the results.

DoF uses cutting-edge equipment to collect and monitor energy data from selected buildings and transmit this to a cloud-based platform based on FIWARE software. This platform gathers real-time heterogeneous data and analyses energy patterns at a building and district level. The platform provides the data for different ICT software applications, such as sophisticated energy modelling and simulation tools, forecasting algorithms to facilitate energy management and optimisation.

STEM

STEM is an acronym meaning 'Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths' and is typically used as a term for education within schools.



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