



Eco Council Meeting

Wednesday 14th January 2026

Online

Minutes

Attendees: Porthleven, Portreath, Rosemellin, Parc Eglos, Godolphin, Pennoweth, Marazion, Garras, Halwin, Treloweth, Sithney, Trannack, Mrs Andrews, Mrs Collins, Mrs Jewell, Lisa and Karen (Chartwells)

Absent: Lanner, Pencoyes, Penpol, Weeth, Roskear, Illogan

Welcome

Review of actions from November meeting

We discussed progress around the actions we agreed from our meeting in November. Schools that haven't managed to carry out these actions yet are focused on completing these by the Easter holiday.

- Are the Eco Heroes displayed in your school?
5 schools agreed that this was in place
- Have you discussed the Eco pledges in school (in assembly / with the school council etc?)
6 schools answered yes
- What actions did you decide you needed to do at the November meeting? Have you been able to carry these out in school?
4 schools said that they had done this so far
- Have you put an article together about the Eco council to share on the school newsletter or the school's Facebook page?
4 schools said that they had done this already

All schools to look at completing these actions before Easter.

Green Careers

We discussed what Green Careers are and why they are important to think about as Eco-councillors.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A green career is any job, role or occupation that contributes to preserving or restoring the environment and our planet • Many roles also require green ‘skills’ so while the main part of the job may not be environmentally based, there is a real need to think about sustainability • Over our next three online sessions we will be hearing from people working at 3 different companies about how their company thinks about environmental impact and what they do to reduce this and operate sustainably.
Chartwells	<p>Karen and Lisa joined us from Chartwells. Chartwells is the company that we work with to provide school meals in nearly all our schools.</p> <p>They explained the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chartwells work hard to reduce the amount of food waste that is produced and to limit food miles (the distance that food travels to get to the place where it is eaten) • Food Miles • Chartwells use Scorse Foods to purchase meat – they are based in Helston, so this is very local to all our schools. Scorse have just covered their industrial unit in solar panels, so they are helping to reduce their impact on the environment; the solar panels generate all the energy that the industrial unit uses • WestCountry is the supplier for fruit and vegetables. As they supply Chartwells, Chartwells are not in control of the food miles that are involved – also, it is tricky to control this as much of our fruit can’t be grown locally (e.g. oranges). However, when fruit is in season locally, it is sourced from there (e.g. apples) • Brakes provide items such as milk. This is sourced from Cornwall. Brakes work hard to reduce food miles. The milk all goes to a central depot to be distributed. This then goes out on

one large order and is delivered to various locations; this reduces food miles.

- **Food Waste**
- We ask that children pre order their food so that we are cooking to order; this reduces waste as children are ordering what they want. Like at home, all peelings from vegetables go into the food waste bag and are recycled. Children can do their bit by thinking carefully about what they want to order for lunch and then eating it all!
- If you notice lots of food waste for specific menu items, then let Chartwells know; if children aren't enjoying one of the meals, then it can be changed. This will reduce food waste but will also help to make sure everyone is enjoying their lunch and starting the afternoon not feeling hungry.

Questions asked:

Rosemellin: Could we have bigger portions for the older children in school?

Chartwells: We are really happy to come and talk to the school. We have government guidelines to follow regarding the portion size which say that a 5-year-old and an 11-year-old should have the same amount of food. We can speak to Nathan in the kitchen at Rosemellin to try and help.

How do you calculate food miles?

Chartwells: This is something that is calculated by the sustainability network. They look at the carbon used to distribute the product alongside the amount of carbon used to produce to the food.

We are currently in the process of looking at carbon labelling for each dish which will be a calculation of the food miles the food has travelled along with how much carbon it has taken to produce each element of the dish. Each dish will then get its own carbon rating.

Can we share the carbon ratings:

Chartwells: Yes! The carbon ratings will be on all the menus. We can blow these up and display them in classrooms so that children are able to check them. We'll make the ratings relatable e.g. the carbon used is equivalent to the energy needed to charge your mobile phone three times etc.

Rosemellin: Can we change the tomato pasta from our menu to noodles?

Chartwells: We can look at this, but the pasta is an option for our children with allergen issues. But we can definitely speak to our nutritionist about options.

Godolphin / Porthleven: Can we have gluten free or dairy free options?

Chartwells: There are gluten free and dairy free options for children who need it; where children need an alternative menu, there is a process to go through (the school office can help with this)

Pennoweth: Could we have a competition between schools to try and reduce the amount of food waste we produce?

Chartwells: That's a great idea! We have scales that we can share with the schools. We can launch a competition next term (after Easter) with our new menu. We can record waste and will be able to divide this by the number of children having school meals, so it is a fair comparison.

Portreath: Please could we have sandwiches on our menu?

Chartwells: Sandwiches are always available to be added to the menu; it depends on what you want. We can come into school and speak to the school council about what would work best.

Thank you very much to Chartwells for joining our meeting!

<p>What's next?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will send out some information / poster capturing what Chartwells have shared with us. Please share this within your school (on your Trust Council noticeboard, through an assembly, on the school Facebook page, newsletter etc) • Keep working on the pledges!
<p>AOB</p>	<p>Marazion: After Storm Goretti, there were so many trees lost everywhere but on St Michael's Mount, we lost 80% of the trees. Our community is going to plant some new trees in Marazion. We are also looking to get some wood from a fallen tree on the Mount to remember how many trees fell. We were planning to work with the Woodland Trust to plant more trees before the storm but feel it is even more important now. Everyone agreed and asked Marazion to share what happens next.</p>