

# *The Hampshire Solar Car Challenge*



2007  
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The sixth annual Solar Challenge for schools took place in 2007. Once again the challenge was a successful and popular activity raising the awareness of solar energy technology among pupils at Key Stage 2.

The other benefits to the schools and children of taking part are;

- New skills developed
  - Team work
  - Organisation skills
  - Following instructions
  - Problem solving
  - Design skills
  - Publicity and motivation from the children
- The Challenge links to the curriculum through
  - Design technology
  - Science
  - Literacy and maths

### **Facts and figures 2007**

- The event ran in 5 local authority areas – Test Valley BC, Eastleigh BC, Havant BC, Basingstoke BC and the Isle of Wight Council
- Number of schools involved - 29
- Number of children attending events as teams representing their school – 235

The children were selected in a variety of ways, in some schools the whole year group were involved, others selected children on the basis of enthusiasm rather than expertise and ability, one school held interviews and the children presented to the teachers why they wished to be picked. Other schools used it as a team building activity, a reward for pupils who had achieved a goal or as a stretch activity with the more able pupils in design and science.

### **What have the schools and children said about the project?**

Trinity School IoW – ‘in an OFSTED report the Solar Challenge has been commended for the cross-curricular nature of the task and the value of using junk (link with sustainable practice)’

Teacher – ‘the event is truly a challenge and an exploration of engineering skills, Children learn that in solving one problem, another is created, patience, perseverance being the essential qualities for success’

Teacher ‘the children have to cooperate and make best use of individual talents. Recycling and renewable energy became hot topics’

Child ‘We felt proud of our team’

Child ‘At the end my heart was beating like thunder but we won. How exciting is that?’

### **Press coverage received**

Original 106 FM (live radio coverage)  
Andover Advertiser  
The Portsmouth News  
Southern Evening Echo

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