



... Ignite Passion for Our Place 2020

Can you help young people to get engaged?

Our Place 2020 is a project for 11-13 year old school students aimed at enhancing their understanding of the impact of climate change and resource efficiency – inspiring them to want to create places where they will live which meet these challenges. What will the future be like? What type of jobs will there be? How can I make a difference? These are some of the questions that young people face when thinking about their community and is the aim of a project to inspire young people to think about their sustainable community.

The sustainable communities' agenda is very broad and can mean different things to different people. The joy of having a broad agenda is that it enables young people to think widely about change and how their community can become a starting point for shaping their future, discovering the breadth of careers and opportunities available to them and getting engaged with life!

The project will educate the pupils about regeneration and get them to think about the place they live, local community and their ideas for future living.

The competition.

The Our Place 2020 is an initiative sponsored by English Partnerships, IGNITE and One NorthEast. Schools are being invited to participate by addressing the question: "What would my community look like in 2020?" and to discuss this topic using the eight Egan themes (Housing and the Built Environment, Services, Environment, Equity, Economy, Transport and Communications, Society and Culture).

The competition then asks the children to formulate their ideas, which can be thematic or overarching and to work with mentors to develop and present their ideas. **That's where you come in!**

The project involves a regional competition, where children will put their best ideas forward for how they see their future community in 2020. An interim final in June will see 8 schools chosen to go head-to-head in a regional final and prize giving event on 9 July.

The role of Mentors.

Mentors will come from many different backgrounds and will be matched to schools and projects by the Education Business Links Organisation Consortia (EBLOC). We would like to see mentors from all parts of the business and academic community – both young and old – to work with schools to both champion their ideas helping to shape them into a real future and to stimulate discussion – climate change, energy supplies, resources, water supply – What would our community look like?

Your input.

Apart from sharing your skills and knowledge, mentors would be required to:

- March 2008: Attend a launch event.
- March to June 2008: Work with schools; 2 half days in the first month, monthly visits thereafter.
- Be an email buddy using the e-communications system.
- June 2008: Attend the competition heats.
- July 9 2008: Attend the competition final.

Six key benefits of being a Mentor.

- Your **company** can benefit from participation since engagement with this activity can link you in to the regions' **Business Ambassador** scheme.
- Your **company** will be demonstrating your approach to corporate social responsibility.
- Mentors and **companies** will benefit from the profile and PR which will be generated from this initiative.
- **Individuals** will be able to develop their skills giving added benefit to their company including gaining a certified Mentoring Qualification.
- Expand your **network** and by meeting like-minded people from other core occupations that help deliver sustainable communities.
- Broaden your thinking about sustainable communities by meeting others from different occupations who are also involved.

If you are interested:

Contact:

Elsie Hopper for Tees Valley on 07787801500
Christine Vickers for Tyne and Wear on 07812 974 962
Carole Richards for Northumberland on 07809 457 411
Pauline Vipond for Durham on 07712 285 356

Dates for the launch:

- Tees Valley at 09:30 on 3 March, Stockton Education Development Centre, Junction Road, Norton.
- Tyne and Wear, at 09:00 on 5 March at Nissan Sports and Social Club, Nissan, Sunderland
- Durham and Northumberland to be confirmed.

Further information:

<http://www.ebcltd.org.uk/MasterclassMentors.html>