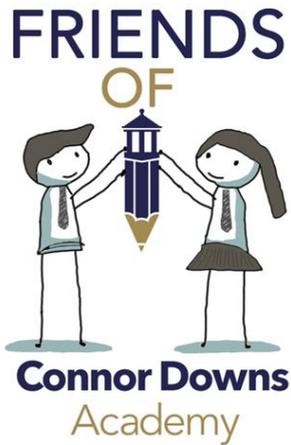




**Connor Downs
Academy**

Looking
Toward
Our
Green
Future





Foreword from the Friends of Connor Downs Academy

The Friends of Connor Downs Academy provides the extra resources that improve the children's learning opportunities and enhance their experiences which wouldn't normally be able to be purchased from the school budget.

In recent years we have bought playground equipment, a wide range of books, sports kits, classroom furniture, maths resources as well as contributing to the cost of school trips and funding a visiting Shakespeare Workshop.

Our fundraising goals are achieved by holding numerous events throughout the year and we rely on the support of the teaching staff, parents, family and friends.

This year we were delighted to support Connor Downs Academy in helping to become a leading school in sustainability by installing Solar Panels and a Rainwater Harvesting and Distribution System. There is no doubt that making the most of resources we have can make a big difference towards a more sustainable future. At school the children are passionate about issues concerning the environment and they really benefit from learning how these two systems work. The Friends would like to express their sincere gratitude to the Gwinear-Gwithian Sustainable Community Fund who provided funding towards both projects.

Solar

Solar energy is a self-sufficient renewable energy resource, which is an environmentally safe alternative to burning fossil fuels. It is also a great way of reducing your carbon footprint. The cost of solar panels has reduced by up to 70% over the last 8 years, becoming much more efficient. Manufacturers now provide excellent equipment and performance warranties. Solar power is not just about creating electricity. We can also use the power of the sun to provide hot water. Investing in a solar panel system is a safe and easy path to contribute to a sustainable future.



Wind Power

Many of us may have seen the huge wind turbines that are visible in the countryside. However, these are unsuitable for the majority of households. Wind turbines are often unpopular due to their noise and appearance. Therefore, they are best suited to rural locations. There is a selection of mini and micro wind generators available. They are suitable for some homes with an open aspect. These smaller domestic wind turbines produce less noise and can potentially provide 30 to 35% of an average home's electricity needs, potentially paying for themselves in 8-10 years.



Rainwater harvesting

Water is a precious resource. Unfortunately, around 25% of the world's population faces a water crisis. It is estimated that around 10% of all household water is used in the garden or for washing cars. Simply by installing water butts we can lower the demand on mains water supplies. This has the added benefit of reducing your water bill if you are on a water meter. Rainwater harvesting is the collection and storage of water that would otherwise enter the gutters and flow down the drain. If you are constructing a new home significant savings can be made on water bills by installing a rainwater harvesting system. These systems can provide up to 50% of a family's water requirements and make your home more sustainable.



Composting

This is a natural process that can transform most of your kitchen and garden waste into a nutrient rich food for your garden. To get started, buy a compost bin and find out which materials need to be added. After 9 to 12 months, you will be rewarded with compost that can provide all the nutrients that your plants need. You will also be benefiting the environment by reducing the amount of carbon dioxide you produce. This could amount to saving the same amount that your kettle produces each year.



Recycling and reusing

Have a positive impact on the environment by following these four actions:

1. Refuse to buy single use plastics and other items that you don't need.
2. Reduce what you waste by shopping wisely and planning your meals in advance.
3. Reuse items such as: carrier bags, pots and jars, envelopes and packaging. Use rechargeable batteries.
4. Recycle to reduce the amount of waste ending up in our oceans and harming wildlife. Please recycle correctly using the council's kerbside services.

Extra coloured bags can be requested from Cornwall Council.





Gwinear-Gwithian Sustainable Community Fund

The Gwinear Gwithian Sustainable Community Fund (GGSCF) is a community benefit charity which offers funding to the parish for local projects which improve the sustainability and/or carbon footprint of organisations and the community.

The funds are provided by the two local solar farm developments and there are two rounds of funding each year that community groups can apply for.

We are proud to support Connor Downs Academy in their continued commitment to sustainable projects and have funded the following Friends of Connor Downs projects:

- Cedar Lodge
- IT Resources
- Rainwater Harvesting System
- Solar Panel System

We invite groups with sustainable projects that need cash funding to visit our website to get more information on eligibility and how to apply.

www.ggscf.org.uk