

Meaningful Learning Experiences

Strategic Commitment	✓	Part of a regional, ESF-funded 'Careers Local' programme
Curriculum Provision	✓	Developed to support KS3 and KS4 Geography
Employer Partnerships	✓	Involving a major regional utility company
Reflective Young People		
Informed Career Choices	✓	Showing Severn Trent as a responsible corporate employer

GCSE Geography students come up with ideas for water conservation at Severn Trent

East Leake Academy is located on the Loughborough side of Nottingham and is part of the Diverse Academies Learning Partnership. This project was initially aimed at the AQA GCSE Geography module about 'Challenge of resource management' in which students need to understand how the UK matches water supply and demand in areas of deficit and surplus. The teacher brief stated that, *'It can be quite abstract in terms of water demand and supply across the country as not many students will have ever experienced not having enough water'*.

Severn Trent Water challenged students to come up with 'big, bold ideas' to meet their target of 50% reduction in water consumption. They were provided with background information, including the company's drought plan and water resource plan. Internal pressures caused by curriculum changes and exam timetables resulted in delays and adapting the project to suit year 7 students learning about 'Sustainability'.

Delays caused by these changes meant that a guest visit by a manager from Severn Trent became impossible. However, student work was sent across to Severn Trent Water and reviewed by two education officers, who responded with an email including specific feedback about the work of individual students.

The feedback presented to students was produced as a memo to remove contact details but also to emphasise that it really had come from Severn Trent Water.

Benefits for the Students

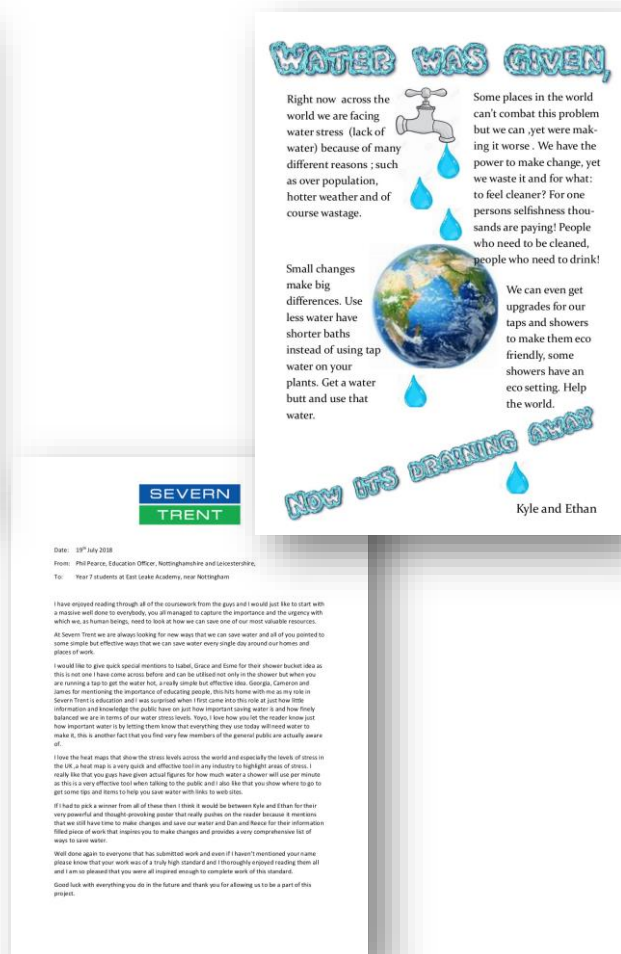
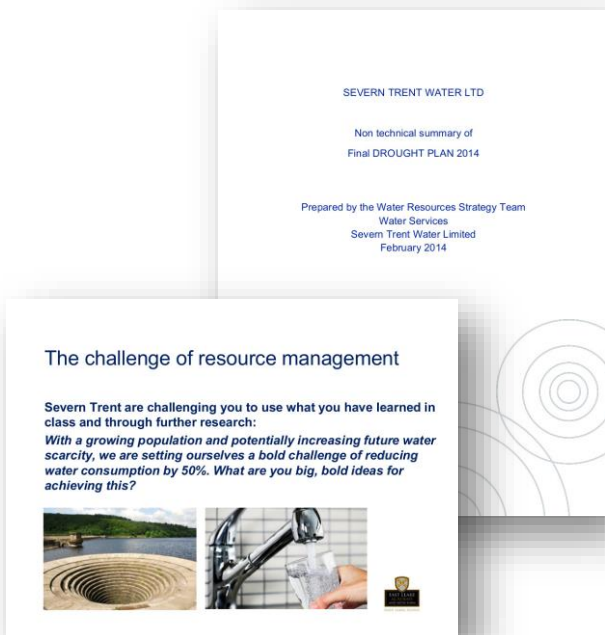
- *'Thank you for your kind words. The students will be thrilled to hear what you have to say'*
- By chance, the end of the project coincided with a prolonged period of hot weather and lack of rain, making the challenge particularly topical and purposeful
- *'I would like to give quick special mentions to Isabel, Grace and Esme for their shower bucket idea'* – is one example of personalised feedback that had a powerful impact on the students because it came from the local water resource specialists

Benefits for the School

- Although the challenge was adapted for delivery with year 7 students, the end-result was a project that could then be used to support Geography learning in both Key Stages 3 and 4
- Both of the managers who provided feedback from Severn Trent are employed as education officers, providing the basis for a natural ongoing link with East Leake Academy
- The school has a good reputation for developing partnerships with local employers, but they had not worked with Severn Trent, who were also invited to attend a careers fair

Benefits for the Employer

- *'I have enjoyed reading through all of the coursework and I would just like to start with a massive well done to everybody, you all managed to capture the importance and the urgency with which we, as human beings, need to look at how we can save one of our most valuable resources'*
- *'If I had to pick a winner, I would go for Ethan and Kyle. The passion and knowledge that comes through their poster is just superb and truly inspiring ... Thank you East Lake Academy for making my day!'*



Year 7 students learning about the challenge of resource management were asked by Severn Trent Water to come up with bold ideas for reducing water consumption. They received feedback from two senior managers in the company, identifying students who responded best to the brief.