



# NEWS RELEASE

## **Bright sparks race to cut future carbon emissions**

10 July 2008

### ***Institution of Mechanical Engineers and Greenpower Essex heats Saturday 12 July***

This Saturday future engineers from 15 schools will be racing their electric-powered cars designed and built from scratch at the Ford Dunton Technical Centre, Basildon, Essex. As the world looks to cut carbon dioxide emissions in half before 2050, the kids will be taking to the track in cars capable of travelling 300 miles on four charges of their electric batteries – costing a mere £2!

The youngsters will be competing in the IMechE Greenpower school electric car races, where teams of up to 12 children aged 11 - 16, including six drivers and six pit crew, are hoping to cover the greatest distance over four hours, beginning at 12noon, using their battery-powered vehicles as they vie for a place at the final, to be held at the famous Goodwood circuit in October.

Stuart McCain, team manager at The Philip Morant School and College, Colchester, who are entering their car 'Frank'n'stein' say's his team are raring to go: "This time of year at the school there are a lot of activities, but it's the car that's taking over. They love it! The skills they learn and the entire teamwork issue around it shows them what they can achieve.

"The competition really brings a team together. In the last couple of years we've focused a lot on the reuse of materials – 'Frank'n'stein' popped out of this. It's championed a whole host of things to do with the school to help the environment."

IMechE Greenpower is a new partnership established to offer schools an exciting insight into sustainable transport and careers in engineering as they design, build and race their own eco-race cars.

John Ling, IMechE Transport programme manager, hopes the competition will get pupils hooked on engineering. He said: "Building and racing an electric car is not only an exciting way for young people to gain an insight into engineering, but it also makes them aware of the energy issues that we all face."

As part of the partnership, the IMechE is working with its members acting as 'mentors' to assist pupils in the event and pass on their expertise. The next step up for schools entering the event is the IMechE's hugely successful Formula Student event which is Europe's largest student motorsport event.

Barry Shears, who founded Greenpower in 1999, said: "IMechE Greenpower inspires young people to take up engineering by designing, building and then racing full-scale electric cars. The teams will experience a wide range of challenges giving them a solid introduction to the exciting variety available from a career in engineering."

The thrilling final endurance race around the Goodwood track lasts for four hours, testing student's design and driving capabilities to their highest. With almost 100 finalists last year this year's teams will be looking to secure their place on the grid.

#### **IMechE Greenpower Essex Heat Schools:**

Belhus Chase School, Aveley, Essex;  
Westcliff High School for Girls, Westcliff on Sea, Essex;  
The Stanway School, Colchester, Essex;  
The Philip Morant School and College, Colchester, Essex;  
Hylands School, Chelmsford, Essex;  
Tendring Technology College, Thorpe-Le-Soken, Essex;  
Air Compressor Centre, Flitwick, Bedfordshire;  
Tabor Science College, Braintree, Essex;  
Colchester Royal Grammar School, Colchester, Essex;  
The Plume School, Maldon, Essex;  
St. Mary's School for Girls, Colchester, Essex;  
Claydon High School, Ipswich, Suffolk;  
The Leigh Technology Academy, Dartford, Kent;  
Thomas Lord Audley School, Colchester, Essex;  
St. Paul's Catholic College, Burgess Hill, Sussex.



**Wheel-to-wheel:** Contestants at a previous heat

## **ENDS**

- The Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) is one of the world's leading engineering institutions. Established in 1847 it has some of the world's greatest engineers in its history books. It currently has around 80,000 members in 120 countries representing mechanical engineers working in groundbreaking areas such as automotive, rail, aerospace, medical, power and construction industries to name a few. Visit [www.imeche.org](http://www.imeche.org) or contact the press office on [media@imeche.org](mailto:media@imeche.org) or call 0207 304 6888 for more information.
- Greenpower is a company dedicated to promoting engineering and technology as careers to pupils throughout their school life, through an exciting hands-on project to design, build and race an electric racing car. For more information visit [www.greenpower.co.uk](http://www.greenpower.co.uk)