



# Warwickshire Climate Change Community Newsletter

[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/climatechangepartnership](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/climatechangepartnership)

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## Power Learning

As part of a growing movement to educate youngsters of the practical steps they can take to reduce their impact on the environment, the Stratford upon Avon-based wind power innovator FuturEnergy is enjoying strong demand for its low-cost high-power wind turbines from schools and colleges around the country.

At the Emmanuel College in Bradford, specialist electrical contractors John Wilkinson & Sons, have installed a one-kilowatt FuturEnergy wind turbine and two photovoltaic solar panels coupled to a battery bank, to provide the sole form of power to a self-contained Eco-Pod - a valuable ecologically-oriented hands-on learning resource for both the school's students and the wider community. The Eco-Pod is designed to be as environmentally friendly as practically possible incorporating a cantilever roof to harvest rainwater for handwashing and a series of compost toilets.

At the Northamptonshire Grammar School, the installation of a FuturEnergy wind turbine mounted on the exterior of the gym building not only provides students with a practical insight into the technology available to help counter climate change but also marks a first step in the school's drive towards energy self-sufficiency heralding the future installation of a larger, more powerful turbine and other renewable energy measures.



## Stratford Eco Fair

Stratford Climate Change Action Network is organising an Eco-Fair on 10<sup>th</sup> May at the Wesley Hall, Methodist Church, Stratford-upon-Avon. The Fair will be opened by Mrs Donna Barker, the Mayor of Stratford-upon-Avon at 10:30am. There will be 20 exhibitions from the local authority, campaign groups, commercial companies and local environmental projects.

Visitors can find out about the new arrangements for waste and recycling in the District, the facilities available in sustainable transport locally, valuable advice on energy saving at home. Visitors can not only learn more about climate change campaigns in our region and world-wide, they can also find out what is available from local companies for setting up renewable energy generation at home, how not to use chemicals for household cleaning, the availability of cotton nappies and how to have a good supply of local organic farm produce. Green action in this area will be presented by Eco-Congregation of Stratford Methodist Church, Eco-School of Shottery Primary School, Snitterfield Climate Change Group, Loft Workshop and Orbit, Heart of England Green Team.

A lecture entitled "The future – green or grim" will be delivered by Canon Kenyon Wright, CBE at 11:00am. As the Director of Vision 21 and of Kairo (Centre for a Sustainable Society) in Scotland, he will share his thoughts on the hope for a better future. Our concern for the effects of climate change on developing countries will be discussed in the workshop at 12:30pm. Ms Khodeza Rume of Oxfam Bangladesh Office will inform the audience what is happening in Bangladesh due to climate change and Ms Melanie Frew of Christian Aid Birmingham Office will talk about the UK campaign on behalf of the developing countries. The second workshop at 2:30pm will discuss Transition Town (planning for a low-carbon local economy) led by Mr Bernard Perkins of the Leamington Project team. The Eco-Fair will run from 10:30 to 4:30pm. Refreshments will be served by a team of volunteers from the Methodist Church and Stratford Soroptimists throughout the day.

On Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May an Eco-Business Trail will be launched. A number of shops including M&S, Co-op, Lakeland, the Body Shop, Oxfam, Costa Coffee and Revital will promote their eco-friendly products.

The Stratford Eco-Fair is sponsored by MidCounties Co-operative, Friends of the Earth and Stratford-upon-Avon Methodist Church.

## Environmental Art Challenge

Are you a budding artist or feel you have something to say about the environment? If you answered yes, then why not enter the Environmental Art Challenge.

Entries are now coming in, so don't forget to you're your entry in soon. Prizes include a Nintendo Wii and electric save meter.

Deadline date 2<sup>nd</sup> June

For further information contact [emmaclarke@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:emmaclarke@warwickshire.gov.uk) or log onto the event pages [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/environmentalartchallenge](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/environmentalartchallenge)

## News



The world's glaciers are continuing to melt away with the latest official figures showing record losses, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has announced. Data from close to 30 reference glaciers in nine mountain ranges indicate that between the years 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 the average rate of melting and thinning more than doubled. The findings come from the World Glacier Monitoring Service (WGMS), a centre based at the University of Zurich in Switzerland and that is supported by UNEP. Professor Wilfried Haeberli, Director of the Service, said: "The latest figures are part of what appears to be an accelerating trend with no apparent end in sight". To read the full report log onto:

<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=530&ArticleID=5760&I=en>

## Café

**Do you have an interest in community energy projects, then joining the café network could be for you.**

The Community Action for Energy (CAFÉ) is a programme available from the Energy Saving Trust, that is designed to promote and facilitate local community based projects.

Membership to café is free and by joining you will have access to a number of resources to help and guide you in setting up your own community based energy project. Resources include up to date information on community based energy initiatives through over 50 sustainable energy project case studies to provide you with ideas, best practice and lessons learnt. An on line funding data base is also available as well as free training and event opportunities.

For further information please call the café help line on 08701 261 444 or log on to the Energy Saving Trust website at [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/cafe](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/cafe)

## Funding

The Community Sustainable Energy Programme has been set up to help community based organisations in England to reduce their energy bills and environmental impact. The scheme is also designed to raise public awareness of the social and environmental advantages to reducing energy consumption and carbon emissions to combat climate change. Two grants are available capital grants for purchases and installation of renewable technologies along with various energy efficiency measures and project development grant for investigating installing technologies. Max capital grant available is £50,000 or 50% of project cost. Max project development grant available £5000 of 75% of study cost. For more information please visit

[www.communitysustainable.org.uk](http://www.communitysustainable.org.uk)

## Have your say



This is your newsletter and your opportunity to publicise any events you may be holding, and let other groups know what you are currently up to sharing your experiences. What do you want to see in future editions?

Please send all comments or enquiries about this newsletter and suggestions, for news items, case studies, details of events etc to [emmaclarke@warwickshire.gov](mailto:emmaclarke@warwickshire.gov)

## Tip of the Month

Wash your windows with vinegar – most window cleaning fluids contain synthetic compounds that are harmful to rivers. Replace them with a bucket of water, to which add a few spoonfuls of vinegar. Apply this with a cloth or newspaper or paper towel.

