



# Warwickshire Climate Change Community Newsletter

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

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## Snitterfield Action Against Climate Change

SACC stands for Snitterfield Actioning Climate Change and is an organisation set up by a group of volunteers from this south Warwickshire village responding to the global challenge of climate change. The aim of SACC is to reduce the Village's carbon footprint by a series of initiatives, education and programmes.

Following its formation in April 2007, SACC started off by trying to get some realistic information regarding the Village's carbon footprint. One in six villagers attended a launch party at which their carbon footprint was measured. This proved that the carbon footprint of the village was, as perhaps suspected, somewhat above the national average. The next step was to think of ways of doing something about that. Regular meetings were convened and ideas worked on.

Since that start, SACC has worked on tree planting, recycling, encouraging green tariff electricity and reducing plastic bag usage. SACC has also encouraged rainwater harvesting, recycling cooking oil and use of solar panels as well as committing to providing education in and around the village.

Tree planting took place in February with 10 mature oak trees being planted, one for each of the village groups such as the WI, Garden Club and Brownies. In the long term SACC would like to plant a tree for each child living in the village.



Recycling is a key issue and a scheme has been introduced at the Village Hall. The aim has been to encourage recycling of items not collected at the kerbside by the Council. More and more is being recycled, especially plastic bottles, tin foil and cardboard and the real results in terms of reduced carbon emissions are being monitored and recorded.

On average the following is collected each week:

- 1: 8.5 large sacks of plastic bottles which is approximately 196 kilos of CO<sub>2</sub>
- 2: 4 large bins and 3 small bins of cardboard which is approximately 54 kilos of CO<sub>2</sub>
- 3: 2.5 bins of tetra-pak cartons which is approximately 16 kilos of CO<sub>2</sub>
- 4: 2 full containers of foil.

SACC appreciated from a survey in the village that there was concern regarding the cost of green tariff electricity. The message that green need not cost more was conveyed by leafleting the entire village (around 500 households) with information on green tariffs and how it can reduce the carbon footprint by changing electricity suppliers to one that supplies energy from renewable sources. Next stop is a Saturday morning sign up to be held at the Village Sports and Social Club in the near future.

Plastic bag usage has also been challenged. Something like 10,000 bags a year, a staggering figure, were being used through the Village shop. The Shop has worked with SACC suggesting a 5p donation for each plastic bag used which has led to a reduction of nearly 70% in the number of bags used. The bag supplier is now supplying biodegradable bags and is sourcing hessian bags. SACC has produced its own cloth bag which is now on sale for £2 at the two shops in the Village.

Educating and engaging the young is seen as a key to a more sustainable way of living long term. SACC has arranged visits to Snitterfield Primary School on a regular basis to promote recycling, switching off and to monitor the eco schools programme. With the support of SACC the School has its own environmental action team made up of 4 children, the headmistress and a parent. The children have been working towards the Eco-schools bronze award. This standard was awarded in January. Work is under way for the Silver award and the action team are looking at Energy consumption in the school. SACC has also talked to Snitterfield Brownie and Rainbow packs on green issues.

To keep everyone up to date with all that has been going on and all that is planned for the future, SACC has its own website: [www.snitterfieldacc.org](http://www.snitterfieldacc.org) This is regularly update providing information and tips and the latest CO<sub>2</sub> savings from the recycling scheme together with news of forthcoming events/initiatives.

## Environmental Art Challenge

Are you a budding artist or feel you have something important to say about the environment?

Participants are being asked to submit an A4 sized piece of art work in any medium, looking at the causes, consequences and solutions to the problems and challenges our environment faces.

Deadline for submission of work is the 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

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

## Climate Change and the Garden



The Royal Horticultural Society has recently updated its website to include a substantial section on climate change and gardens, including recommendations for planting, information about climate-related events and the opportunity to take part in the RHS climate survey. Go to <http://www.rhs.org.uk/climate/>

Are you worried about what climate change will do to your garden?

Have you seen evidence of the climate changing in your garden; if yes how ?

Please email your responses to [emmaclarke@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:emmaclarke@warwickshire.gov.uk)

## News



- ❖ Wind turbines provided by the Stratford-upon-Avon based FuturEnergy are providing emergency power for the world's smallest nation - the independent Principality of Sealand – situated on a remote Second World War North Sea naval fort six miles off the Suffolk coast. For more information go to [www.futureenergy.co.uk](http://www.futureenergy.co.uk)
- ❖ The Switch It Off campaign has recently been shortlisted for two national awards. The campaign came in the top three entries in the 'Sustainability' category of the Sustainable Cities award and has been shortlisted for the 'Environment' category of the SDUK Awards, scheduled to be announced on Thur 6 March.
- ❖ Good luck to Rugby-based inventor, Andrew Blee, who is heading for the finals of Energy Lab, E-on's green design competition, after his successful showing at the Birmingham heats. Andrew will compete for a cash prize of £10,000 in the finals due to be held in London's Tate Modern on Thurs 13 March. Energy Lab invited entrants from all walks of life to come up with an invention or innovation that will change the way energy is used. Andrew's eco-kettle invention looks like a normal kettle, but its ridged handle means it can be easily filled with the right amount of water, thus reducing the amount of energy used to boil the kettle. For more information go to [www.energysavingkettle.com/](http://www.energysavingkettle.com/)

## B&Q Better Neighbour Grant Scheme

B&Q stores want to form partnerships within the local community. Through their Better Neighbourhood Grant Scheme, schools, community groups and charitable organisations can apply to their local B&Q store for funding to support a local community project.

The B&Q Grant Scheme provides £50 - £500 of funding in the way of materials. Stores have a limited annual funding and all applications must meet the criteria of the Better Neighbour Hood Grant

For more information go to [www.diy.com/socialresponsability](http://www.diy.com/socialresponsability)

## 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.uk](mailto:emmaclarke@warwickshire.gov.uk)

## Tip of the Month

Drive with the windows up, this reduces drag, thus increasing your fuel consumption efficiency and lowering your emissions. Drag can also be lessened by removing heavy items and roof racks from the vehicle when they are not required.

Don't idle, an idling engine produces 80% more pollution than when a vehicle is in motion.

