



# Warwickshire Climate Change Community Newsletter

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

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## Community Action On Climate Change

On 1st February 2010, groups and organisations from Warwickshire and from Coventry met to discuss how to develop community action in response to climate change. The meeting identified a number of reasons for looking to community action as part of a general response to climate change: in particular, people need to be empowered to play their part in responding to climate change.

This initial meeting was followed up by a workshop for Warwickshire organisations, which was held on 27th May 2010. This looked in more detail at **how** we could grow community action on climate change. There were two main sessions. In the first, participants discussed what community action might involve and how the organisations they represented might support it. In the second, participants how Warwickshire County Council's Save Warwickshire A Tonne (SWAT) campaign might be developed to foster community action: these discussions generated a wide range of ideas which have been added to the SWAT development plan.

### Key themes

Five ideas emerged from these discussions.

#### 1. Communicating with all community organisations about climate change

There are a large number of community organisations in Warwickshire, many of which do not have climate change as a focus for their work. But all community organisations – whether residents' associations, carers' groups, sports and social clubs - will be affected by climate change, and they all have the potential to communicate with people about climate change and ways to respond. Organisations whose main purpose is responding to climate change will need to find ways to communicate systematically with local community organisations, providing messages that are tailored and appropriate to their circumstances.

#### 2. Sharing information and best practice

Many local organisations are already working to respond to climate change – and there are also examples of good and interesting practice outside the county. Arrangements should be made to share information about what local groups are doing and to provide examples of ways of doing things through well presented case studies.

#### 3. Working with local businesses

Local businesses can provide goods and services which help people and communities respond to climate change. Helping communities respond to climate change is not just the job of the public and voluntary sector. But appropriate incentives are needed to encourage business involvement.

#### 4. Public sector partnerships

There are many public sector organisations which have regular contact with large numbers of the public – schools would be a good example. These provide potential opportunities for work on climate change – indeed many schools already undertake projects and activities on climate change and related topics. The public sector also runs initiatives focused on issues of importance to the response to climate change – for example, on affordable warmth. These might provide opportunities for joint working with local community groups. Are there ways to improve formal links between public sector organisations and community groups here?

#### 5. Consistent messages

Given the wide range of organisations which can work together in developing responses to climate change, it is important that people see a clear and consistent set of messages. The challenge is to achieve a sense of coherence without losing the individual identities which are an important part of the appeal of local community organisations.

### Next steps

A further meeting will be held to map out how these ideas can be implemented, setting out practical steps, responsibilities and timetables. The resulting action plan will then be circulated for further comment and amendment before being adopted by the Warwickshire Climate Change Partnership.

## NEWS



The central Warwickshire villages LEADER programme aims to create a strong sense of place and identity within rural villages of central Warwickshire by bringing people together to create stronger communities with a shared vision for the future.

£1.2 million is now available, for events and activities that encourage community cohesion and participation, over the next three years.

The LEADER programme supports projects under three broad categories:

- ❖ Events and activities that encourage communities to come together to create artworks and performance.
- ❖ Communities wanting to develop their own local food production through community growing projects e.g. community orchards
- ❖ Developing links between communities and the land based industries

If you have a great idea and would like to know more about LEADER funding opportunities, please contact the Project Management Team on 024 7621 7741 or visit the website [www.warwickshireleader.net](http://www.warwickshireleader.net)



### Get on your bike this summer

Family Cycle Training Kingsbury Water Park 11th August 3-4:30pm  
Pooley Country Park 18th August 3-4:30pm  
Ryton Pools 25th August 3-4:30pm

Adult Cycle Training Kingsbury Water Park 11th August 5:30- 6:30pm  
Pooley Country Park 18th August 5:30- 6:30pm  
Ryton Pools 25th August 5:30- 6:30pm

To brush up your skills and increase your confidence call 01827 872660 to book a place



Action 21 now has bees!

Bees are an important part of our sustainable world– take our bee quiz and see how much you know!

1. How many queens live in the hive? 1, 2 or 5?
2. Which bees forage for pollen? Worker bees or drone bees?
3. Which is right: wiggle dance, waggle dance or woggle dance?
4. What's the furthest a bee might travel for pollen? 4 metres or 4 miles?

Email [info@action21.co.uk](mailto:info@action21.co.uk) with your answers. The person to submit first completely correct answer will be invited to come and see Action 21's bees at East Lodge!

How about adopting a bee? email [Eleanor@action21.co.uk](mailto:Eleanor@action21.co.uk) to register your interest.

### 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 share 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

Flies can be a pest in hot months, but you can keep them at bay without resorting to pesticide fly sprays. Look for non-toxic fly-paper strips that attract the insects with a sweet coating which they will become stuck to. Also, fit bead curtains to doorways to keep flies from entering the house and cover the lid of your compost heap with fly screen material to keep them from breeding inside.

Taken from Friends of the Earth tip of the day