



Warwickshire Climate Change Community Newsletter

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/climatechangepartnership

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How to be greener this Christmas

Some Christmas facts 

- ❖ 3 million tonnes of waste are dumped during Christmas in the UK – enough to fill 120 million wheelie bins
- ❖ Around 1 million Christmas cards are thrown away each year.
- ❖ It is estimated that 83 kilometres of wrapping paper end up in our bins each year
- ❖ Christmas tree lights left on for 10 hours a day over the 12 days of Christmas produce enough carbon dioxide to inflate 12 balloons

So a little negative to begin this article with, but a green Christmas is a fun Christmas and a family Christmas, and I hope to show you why.

The Christmas Tree

One of the symbols of Christmas, why not have a day out looking for that special tree, we are very lucky in Warwickshire as I have seen a few Christmas tree farms across the county.

Buy your tree from small scale sustainable growers, check they have forest stewardship council accreditation.

Choose a tree with roots, it can then be used again another year or planted in the garden. But if this isn't an option just make sure you recycle your tree at the end of Christmas.

Lights

No I'm not going to tell you, you can't have your Christmas tree lights but I can recommend LED lights, which are around 90% more efficient than their counterparts. LEDs can also be up to 3 times brighter than traditional lights offering greater impact. They also last 10 times longer than traditional bulbs and barely warm up lowering the risk of fire. You can also use timers so your lights only come on when you want them to.

Decorations

If you have children, are crafty or just like getting into that Christmas spirit there is nothing more special than making your own decorations. I'm sure anyone with grown up children still have the toilet roll angels brought home from school and put embarrassingly on display every year.

Why not try popcorn instead of tinsel, salt dough decorations, or seasonal berries or holly to really bring that Christmas feeling into the home.

Food

It is estimated that ten million turkeys were sold in the UK last year, weighing around 55,000 tonnes. We also bought 175 million mince pies from the supermarket, think of all that wasted packaging. So top tips

- ❖ Order fresh, free range turkeys from local farms or markets
- ❖ Buy loose vegetables – this saves on wrapping
- ❖ Why not try baking your own mince pies – they always taste better when you know you made them

Presents

There are a lot of green gift ideas available such as organic hampers, wind up radios and for that person who has everything how about a donation to charity. Below are a few web sites to get you thinking.

www.oxfamunwrapped.com – for more unusual gifts such as purchasing a loo school dinners for children living in poor communities for £6 or a couple of goats for £50

www.reducereuserecycle.co.uk – Green gift ideas for kids

www.ethicalsuperstore.co.uk - A mixture of green gift ideas for everyone

Well I hope I have provided you with some ideas and from the Climate Change Team

Merry Christmas

Events: Climate Change Film Festival

Pura Vida? 1st December, 7pm -9pm, Stratford Upon Avon College. This film exposes the devastating effects that agrochemicals used on Costa Rica's pineapple and banana plantations have had on workers, communities and the environment.

The End of Suburbia: Oil depletion and the collapse of the American Dream, 4th December, 7pm – 9pm, Stratford Upon Avon College. This film explores the American way of life and its prospects as the planet approaches a critical era, as global demand for fossil fuel begins to outstrip supply.



News

Royal Leamington Spa Town Council has resolved to work towards the objectives of a Transition Town. This means the taking of small but significant steps to reduce reliance on oil and other fossil fuels and making the local economy and community more self reliant. To find out how you can get involved see the web site <http://www.leamingtonspatowncouncil.gov.uk/?c=62>



January Brings The Snow

January brings the snow, Makes our feet and fingers glow.
February brings the rain, Thaws the frozen lake again.
March brings breezes sharp and shrill, Shakes the dancing daffodil.
April brings the primrose sweet, Scatters daisies at our feet.
May brings flocks of pretty lambs, Skipping by their fleecy dams.
June brings tulips, lillies, roses, Fills the children's hands with posies.
Hot July brings cooling showers, Apricots and gillyflowers.
August brings the sheaves of corn, Then the harvest home is borne.
Warm September brings the fruit, Sportsmen then begin to shoot.
Brown October brings the pheasant, Then to gather nuts is pleasant.
Dull November brings the blast, Then the leaves go whirling past.
Chill December brings the sleet, Blazing fire and Christmas treat.

Free Home Energy Report

Giving your home a check up could save around £340 per year. To get your free home energy report, all you need to do is spend a few minutes completing the questions on the Energy Saving Trust web site.

www.energysavingtrust.org.uk

For a paper version of the home energy check call 0800 512012

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

Tip of the Month

In winter turn night time heating down to a minimum – To moderate your energy consumption as well as reducing your electricity bills, turn your night time heating down to a temperature of around 16 C which is sufficient for a bedroom. To sleep healthily, as well as economically and ecologically, turn your heating down and sleep under a good soft blanket or duvet

