



Warwickshire Climate Change Community Newsletter

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/climatechangepartnership

September 09 Issue 21

Low Carbon Communities Challenge Launched

The Government has launched a £10 million Low Carbon Communities Challenge – a two year programme which will allow communities to build on existing low carbon schemes.

The challenge will cover England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and offers the chance to be in the forefront of moving to a low carbon economy. 20 successful communities will each receive support of up to £500,000 to pay for measures selected by the local residents themselves. This could range from a local biomass plant to electric car charge points.

In return for technical and financial assistance, people living and working in the area will work alongside government and contribute to finding low carbon solutions from which the whole country will benefit. The 20 communities will act as national blueprints that will be used to inform government policy development and delivery, and pave the way for a national roll out of proven measures.

For towns to be eligible they must demonstrate they are already making changes and are committed to developing both infrastructure and behaviour change that results in carbon reduction such as wind farms, electric car infrastructure or home energy refurbishments. A specialist support squad made up of partners with funding and expertise from inside and outside government, including Energy Saving Trust, The Carbon Trust, WRAP and the third sector, will work together with each community to offer help on anything from negotiating in planning debates to identifying personalised low carbon answers.

The challenge is seeking a broad 40:60 split between first mover communities – already recognised as exemplars for their carbon reduction plans - and second movers, with less experience but clear intentions and emerging plans of action for cutting carbon emissions and increasing sustainability. Half of the total funding, £5 million, must be spent within this financial year, and the remaining £5 million within the next financial year. Therefore, funding for this financial year will target approximately eight first

mover exemplars that are already in a position to submit funding applications immediately. This group will already have a track record in developing integrated plans. This will give more time for the second mover communities to develop their plans for funding in the next financial year. Since this group is likely to be larger, they are likely to get a slightly smaller share of overall funding.

Deadlines for applications to the two phases as follows:

Phase 1 deadline: 27 November 2009

Phase 2 deadline: 30 December 2009

All applicants are requested to register their interest by noon on 28 October

For more information please go to www.decc.gov.uk

Host a Green Communities Training Course



The green communities service is giving community groups the opportunity to host their own Green Communities course. By hosting a training session, Green Communities will be able to provide your group with a bespoke course enabling you to improve your knowledge of energy and develop a community energy project. Not only that, but the course is also free of charge.

Green Communities courses can cover project planning and delivery of a community energy project: how to conduct energy audits for community buildings and old or listed buildings; funding a community energy project; and how to get involved with the local authority planning process. Previous hosts include local community and environmental groups, local authorities and parish councils who themselves host or are involved with local community projects.

On the day Green Communities will provide a trainer, the training resources and manuals. As hosts, all you have to find is a venue and the delegates. Up to £150 towards lunch and refreshments can also be provided. Green Communities is looking to run courses throughout the country and are keen to find new groups and locations to hold future events. To enquire about holding your own Green Communities Partnership Training Course, please call 0844 848 0077 or email greencommunities@est.org.uk

Warwickshire Climate Change Partnership Community Conference

On Saturday the 19th September Warwickshire Climate Change Partnership hosted its first community conference at Brandon Marsh Nature Centre. Delegates from Parish and town councils were present along with some of Warwickshire's established environmental community groups. The event had four excellent presentations from..

John Husband, Act on Energy – Presentation on energy efficiency in community buildings.
Dr Andy Tasker, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust – Presentation on climate change, adaptation and biodiversity
Matthew Rhodes, Encraft – Presentation on using renewables to catalyse community action
Bernard Perkins, Leamington Transition Town – Presentation on transition: climate change, peak oil, sustainability and us.

Presentations will be available soon on the Warwickshire Climate Change Partnership web pages.

Switch It Off 2009

The Switch It Off (SIO) campaign is due to take place this year on the week commencing the 9th of November and ending with the Big Switch Off on Friday the 13th 4:30pm - 6:30pm

The SIO campaign covers Coventry, Warwickshire and Worcestershire with the aim of highlighting just how much energy is wasted when things are left on when they're not needed. If the 1.5 million people in the three areas stopped leaving appliances on stand-by in their homes, in one year it would save more than £23 million pounds and prevent over 86,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide being emitted into the atmosphere.

Please see www.warwickshire.gov.uk/switchitoff to see a full list of activities taking place during the week.

News Love Food – Hate Waste Produce Show

Kenilworth School and Sports College – Upper School
Saturday 10th October 11am – 2pm

Kenilworth School and Sports College are hosting a Love Food – Hate Waste event in the upper school from 11am to 2pm as part of their School Eco Programme. Having already achieved their Bronze and Silver Eco certificates they are now working towards their Green Flag which is nationally recognised award for schools.

This event is being held in conjunction with WCC and WDC and is aimed at highlighting food miles, carbon footprint and sustainability. The exhibitors who have been invited are all known for their responsibly sourced or fair trade food and include: The Almanack, Farmers Fayre, National Beekeepers Association, Action 21, Master Composter amongst many others.

As well as the stands there will be games and local Primary School children have been invited to take part in colouring competition, design a miniature garden and create an animal from a vegetable.

Refreshments will be available – supplied by the Duchy who are the school caterers.

Admission to the event is free – please come along and join us. Everyone is welcome.

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

Tip Of The Month

Only print when necessary to save energy as well as paper. Make sure the printer is switched off at night and at weekends. Switching off a laser printer overnight and at weekends, instead of leaving it on standby, will save £21 a year and cut emissions by approximately 91kg