

### Environmental Art Exhibition



Climate change is the greatest environmental challenge facing the world today. Rising global temperatures will bring changes in weather patterns, rising sea levels and increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, such as the 2007 flooding which affected many Warwickshire residents.

The Earth has warmed by  $0.74^{\circ}\text{C}$  over the last 100 years. Around  $0.4^{\circ}\text{C}$  of this warming has occurred since the 1970s. Eleven of the last twelve years are ranked amongst the twelve warmest on record. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change the strong warming of the last 50 years cannot be explained by natural variations alone, but requires the inclusion of the effects of human emissions (Defra 2008).

The main human influence on the global climate is the emission of a number of greenhouse gases, such as Carbon Dioxide, Methane and Nitrous Oxide. The accumulation of these gases in the atmosphere strengthens the greenhouse effect. At present, just over 7 billion tonnes of Carbon Dioxide is emitted globally each year through fossil fuel use, and an additional 1.6 billion tonnes are emitted by land change, predominately by deforestation. For the UK the current changes in the climate means hotter drier summers, milder wetter winters, higher sea levels and increased risk to coastal areas from flooding.

The Environmental Art Challenge hopes to encourage Warwickshire schools and residents to think about the causes, consequences and solutions to the problems and challenges our environment faces, focusing on issues such as travel, energy use and waste minimisation. Through art their ideas/views can be communicated with others across the county.

The work will be displayed at various locations across Warwickshire. Displays at Shire Hall, Warwick, will also include photos of projects currently happening around Warwickshire.

