

News Bulletin

April 2009

Work has started on a multi million pound centre to train workers in environmental technologies in Warwickshire. This centre will be built in Rugby with funding from the regional development agency Advantage West Midlands. The Power Academy is part of the new Warwickshire College Rugby Centre and will focus on developing training in green and carbon friendly power sources. The Power Academy will be closely linked to Converteam and Alstom Power and will be at the heart of training technicians for the new generation of power stations, with a focus on turbines and carbon friendly power generation.

Warwickshire Climate Change Partnership is currently undertaking talks to around twenty Parish Councils with the aim of engaging these groups and encouraging community action against climate change. The talks last for around thirty minutes and provide the attendees with examples of what is currently going on within Warwickshire and advice on support.

Nine talks have currently taken place in areas all across the county. The response from the Parish/Town councils have been extremely positive with Austrey Parish Council requesting Switch It Off leaflets and energy efficient bulbs in order to distribute across parish. A full list of questions received at these talks can be found on Warwickshire Climate Change Partnership pages.

The mapping of local food webs is taking place in Kenilworth. A workshop entitled "Your view on Local Food" was held on the 23rd February to explore local attitudes to local food and what challenges may be. The event produced some interesting debate on the potential impacts and benefits, and the group is pulling together information to see what themes emerged, to improve understanding of the local food web in and around Kenilworth.

Following on from this the team will trace key food products back down the supply chain, interviewing distributors, processors and producers, to gain an understanding of the social, environmental and economic impacts of these businesses. All this information will then be analysed and pulled together in a report which can be used to inform development and policy relating to local food in Kenilworth, then regionally and also nationally. It may also result in members of the community deciding to set up their own projects or initiatives to improve access to local food in your area.

The Nelmes family from Kenilworth have taken up this years Sustainability Challenge in order to demonstrate that it is possible to change your life to a greener way of living with very little effort. The family have been asked to complete fifteen sustainability based challenges including recycling, using less water and energy and finding alternative modes of transport, once completing the challenge the family will share their experiences via an internet diary. the coop has donated a fair trade hamper as a prize for this challenge. This is the fourth year of the challenge which is run as part of the Switch It Off campaign.

Warwickshire County Council is hoping to reduce its own energy consumption by recruiting volunteers to act as Energy Champions. It is hoped that the champions will monitor energy consumption within their area and communicate ways to fellow employees what they can do to save in at home and within the workplace.

On the 4th March Year 10 pupils at Kenilworth school spent the day working with Warwickshire Education Business Partnership looking at the planning and funding of a wildlife garden and allotment for the school grounds. Pupils were split into groups and were asked to design their features to scale selecting layout and what should be planted, pupils were then asked to put together a communications strategy in order to locate funding. A fun day was had by all with the ideas now being look at by the schools eco committee.

The top school brains from Coventry, Worcestershire and Warwickshire have clashed in the grand final of 'Universally Challenged' held at the University of Warwick on Thursday 26th March. In a closely fought competition the trophy went to Chantry High School from Worcestershire, victors over Kenilworth School in Warwickshire and Stoke Park School in Coventry. Six Warwickshire secondary schools - Kenilworth School, Aylesford School, Polesworth International Language College, Southam College, Rugby High School, and Shipston High School - competed late last year to decide who would go forward to represent the county in the sustainability-based quiz. And in a tense final the Warwickshire team were at times neck and neck with Chantry, but a couple of excellent finals rounds saw Chantry win with 76 - 71.5 to Kenilworth and 64 to Stoke.



In February 2009, the Climate Change Strategy web pages received 2,652 external web hits, the Switch it Off web pages received 3,893 web hits and the partnership pages received 7,243 web hits. This represents a total of 13,788 web hits.

