

News Bulletin May 2010

Sustainability West Midlands' [Top 50 Green Leaders Competition](#) is now OPEN! Do you know someone who has shown a professional or personal commitment to creating a sustainable future for the region through influencing and inspiring change? If so, please nominate them using this [entry form and guidance notes](#) or by contacting Sian Thomas at Sustainability West Midlands, Level 4 Millennium Point, Curzon Street, Birmingham, B4 7XG or by email: sian.thomas@swm.org.uk . [Flyer](#)

Encraft a Warwickshire based independent consulting engineering firm has won two of its projects submitted to the Technology Strategy Board Retrofit for the Future competition, one of which being delivered in partnership with Warwick District Council. The project aims to reduce carbon emissions from the existing social housing by 80% through retrofitting a replicable combination of low carbon technologies. These projects focus on delivering these aims with minimum disruption to occupants and maximum opportunity for existing local installation contractors to participate.

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The Switch it Off campaign over it's 4 years has meant the project has gone national through the Eco Schools programme and Energy Savings Trust. People are now asking what are the next steps to saving cash and carbon within the home. The Save Warwickshire A Tonne campaign (SWAT) aims to raise awareness of how simple measures within the home, garden, business , school and travel can save both cash and carbon. SWAT will be a year long campaign and will begin latter this year. It will consist of a number of initiatives, with followers of the campaign being able to monitor progress via the campaigns web pages, through Face Book and Twitter.

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Encraft have launched a new renewables site assessment software tool. The new tool will enable estate managers and landlords with multiple properties to quickly establish where are the best spots in their property portfolio to site solar systems or wind turbines. the tool could save several hours of analysis or consultancy time, and is available on the encraft website for subscribing users.

The Scottish Crop research Institute is part of an EU wide consortium in a project that aims to secure the long term future of the soft fruit industry, including how the berry industry can respond to the threat of climate change. the 4 year project, called Climafruit, has a budget of six million euros, funded by the partner nations and the European Regional Development Fund. For more information go to <http://www.scri.ac.uk/news/climafruit>

On the week commencing the 24th May, Johnson coaches will be running the 1st electric bus trial on it's Stratford Park and Ride route. During the trial a comparison will be made between a standard diesel Solo in service for one week compared to a zero emissions electric Solo in service for one week. The trial will measure emission data, fuel efficiency, operational logistic, including recharging and public perception and social factors.

Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in National Parks` sets out how English National Park Authorities are already responding to the challenges posed by climate change and describes the Park Authorities collective ambitions for the future. These focus on four key areas: sustainable land management; developing low carbon rural communities; being exemplars on landscape-scale adaptation; and communicating climate change issues and solutions to National Park residents and visitors. This document is available to download from http://www.enpaa.org.uk/enpaa/whatsnew/climate_change_statement.htm



A new study of the flight behaviour of insects sheds light on how insects may affect our agriculture in the future. The study illustrates how insects undertake long distance migrations in favourable directions. Climate change is likely to significantly alter the frequency of insect migrants including introducing some agricultural pests, that are completely new to the UK. A better understanding of their migration strategies is increasingly crucial in helping to secure food supplies in the long term. For more information please go to www.metoffice.gov.uk/climatechange/news/latest/insects.html

