

News Bulletin

June 2008

It is nearly two years since the launch of the Climate Change Strategy and a good time to review the progress that the Partnership has made. You are therefore invited to give us your honest views on what, if anything, needs changing or adding to. Your feedback is invaluable and will help to shape the future direction of the group. Review documents include the cover letter, background, an evidence based scoring sheet and a partnership satisfaction questionnaire. Please send any completed questionnaires or any comments back to the Climate Change Team at climatechange@warwickshire.gov.uk by the end of June 2008. Many thanks for your time and support.



Wolseley Sustainable Building Centre in Leamington has won a prestigious Institute of Civil Engineers (ICE) West Midlands Innovation award for its Sustainable Building Centre in Leamington Spa. The centre is due to officially open on 11 June. Further information is available on the SBC website at:

<http://www.wolseleysbc.co.uk/index.html>

The US administration officially declared the polar bear a threatened species on 14 May 2008, concluding that the loss of Arctic sea ice has put the future of the iconic species in peril. To find out more, log on to Environment New web page at

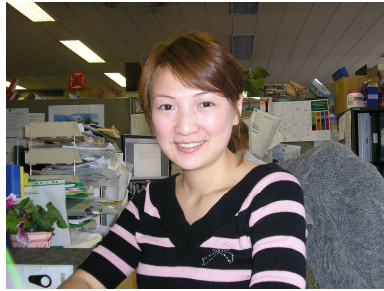
<http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/may2008/2008-05-14-10.asp>

Complimentary places are available to (public sector) Warwickshire Climate Change partners for the following Public Events conferences on a first-come first-served basis: Consumption & Production – Building Awareness, Changing Behaviour, London (18 June) and Climate Change 08 – Creating a Low Carbon Economy, London (Wed 9 July). For further information visit the Public Events website at:

<http://www.publicserviceevents.co.uk/>

WEEAC (Warwickshire Energy Efficiency Advice Centre) currently has two job vacancies - an Events Co-ordinator and an Energy Adviser who will assist in the promotion and delivery of local energy saving activities. Please note that the closing date for applications is Friday 13 June.





Lili Fu, a Master's student from the University of Warwick, has just started at Warwickshire County Council on a 12 week project to establish a Local Climate Impact Profile (LCLIP) for Warwickshire. The aim of the project is to identify past local exposure to weather and climate in the county, build a clear picture of the extreme weather events that have happened in the last five to ten years and identify the impacts (including associated costs) of these extreme weather events. The project will help inform risk management and short to medium-term emergency planning. It will also prove useful in the development of a climate change adaptation strategy for Warwickshire.



The Warburton family from Dunchurch, Rugby, have successfully completed their Sustainability Challenge laid down by Warwickshire County Council last Christmas. The family of Mum (Caroline), Dad (Dave) and children (Martin and Helen) bravely put their shopping, eating, recycling, energy use and travelling habits under the microscope in an attempt to see how much they could change over four months. The family agreed that they had enjoyed the challenge and would continue living a 'green' lifestyle. Their biggest successes were reducing their electricity bills by £5 a month and becoming compost converts. For further information log on to www.warwickshire.gov.uk/thechallenge

The date has been set for this year's Switch It Off campaign and local groups and businesses are being invited to take part. The campaign will run during the week beginning Monday 20 October, with the Big Switch Off scheduled for Friday 24 between 4.30-6.30pm. The campaign is continuing to attract national interest with, most recently, an invitation being extended by the Energy Institute of Directors to present a case study at their national forum in July.

The Coventry Evening Telegraph is launching its 'Go Green' environmental supplement on 23 June. The publication will encourage readers, schools, colleges, universities, businesses and community groups to get involved to help protect the



environment and tackle climate change. For further information please email the Telegraph at: Business_Education@coventry-telegraph.co.uk

The Travel Wise team at Warwickshire County Council has secured £1500 funding from the West Midlands Regional Cycling Project towards a £3000 project working with three schools in deprived areas to improve their cycle skills and encourage cycling to school. The three schools to benefit are Alderman Smith, George Elliot and Manor Park secondary schools in Nuneaton. The project involves a training session to Level 2 and one to Level 3 standard and a led cycle ride around Nuneaton for each school as well as a cycle celebration. The celebration event will be held at Alderman Smith School on 2nd June 2008 and will involve a presentation followed by workshops where children get to ride a variety of different and unusual bikes, including an eight seater bike.

Climate change has figured in two of the targets being set for the Warwickshire Local Area Agreement. The Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), which includes all of the county's local authorities, has been liaising with Government Office on the performance indicators (PIs) being set for the Climate Change & Environment block. PI 186 relates to the carbon dioxide emissions per capita across Warwickshire and PI 188 concentrates on adapting to climate change. It now looks like the final PI 186 target has been set with a 12.7% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions per capita required over three years, with drops of 7.87, 7.55 and 7.2 tonnes required per year for 2008/9, 2009/10 and 2010/11 respectively. The PI 188 target has been set at Level 3 by 2010/11 and requires the LSP to have undertaken a local climate impact profile, identified the most effective adaptation responses and developed an adaptation action plan.

Coventry-based E.on is set to plough £48 million in grants into investigating energy storage technologies. Electric cars which return unused power to the national grid and technology which can store wind energy under the sea are two projects to be awarded funding from the company's ten year Energy Research Initiative. The grants have been awarded to projects at the universities of Nottingham and Strathclyde. Researchers are dealing with different methods of energy storage, ranging from highly efficient batteries and new heat storage devices, to the use of electric vehicles as mobile storage units and compressed-air storage systems on the seabed. For further information read the full press release at: <http://pressreleases.eon-uk.com/blogs/eonukpressreleases/archive/2008/05/23/1224.aspx>



Warwickshire County Council has made progress on its biomass installation at Kingsbury Waterpark in North Warwickshire. The boiler and fuel store unit has now been delivered and placed on the foundation pads; the external timber cladding has helped the unit blend in with its wooded location. Most of the building heating panels have now been installed and the boiler should be providing heat and hot water to all the buildings in the park by the end of June.

Warwickshire Energy Efficiency Advice Centre (WEEAC) has produced a householder's guide to 'An Energy Efficient Home'. The leaflet covers information on insulation, heating, energy performance certificates and renewable energy. Information and advice is also available to local community groups to help them set up projects in their local area.

The government has announced its shortlist of preferred locations for the country's first eco-towns. The fifteen shortlisted locations include Middle Quinton in Warwickshire, where 6,000 homes are planned on a former Royal Engineers depot, which has a rail link to the Worcester-London rail line. For further information log on to the Local Government Association website at:
<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pageId=492497>

The Guardian (15 May 2008) reports that global warming is disrupting wildlife and the environment on every continent, according to a study by the IPCC (International Panel on Climate Change) that reveals the extent to which climate change is already affecting the world's ecosystems. Scientists examined published reports dating back to 1970 and found that at least 90% of environmental damage and disruption around the world could be explained by rising temperatures driven by human activity. Big falls in Antarctic penguin populations, fewer fish in African lakes, shifts in American river flows and earlier flowering and bird migrations in Europe are all likely to be driven by global warming, the study found. To read the full article log on to:
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2008/may/15/climatechange.scienceofclimatechange>

In the recent local elections, a LGA (Local Government Association) survey has found that 62% of respondents said they were more likely to vote for a candidate with policies to tackle climate change. 66% of women said climate change would make it more likely, compared to 57% of men. The age group most likely to be influenced at the elections by climate change were 35-44 year olds (66%) and the least likely were those aged 65 or above (54%). For further information log onto the LGA website at:
<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pageId=471052>

As reported in the Independent (20 May 2008), Drax, the UK and Europe's biggest polluter, signed a landmark deal yesterday that will allow it to produce 10 per cent of its electricity from biomass resources such as peanut husks and wood chips. The company has contracted Alstom, the French engineering giant, to add facilities capable of burning 1.5 million tonnes of sustainable biomass a year to the site of the country's largest coal-fired power station. When it comes on stream in late 2009, it



will generate 400 megawatts of electricity, equivalent to the output of 500 wind turbines. Drax said it plans to burn up to 50 different types of biomass fuels, including corn and sunflower husks and willow pellets. It hopes to source "at least half" of the resources from within the UK. To read the article log on to <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/business/news/drax-seals-16350m-deal-to-produce-10-per-cent-of-its-electricity-from-biomass-831102.html>

The world can reach a significant new climate change pact by the end of 2009 if current talks keep up their momentum, the head of the United Nations climate panel has announced (Reuters, 4 May 2008). The United Nations began negotiations on a sweeping new pact in March after governments agreed last year to work out a treaty to succeed the Kyoto Protocol by the end of next year. Without a deal to cap greenhouse gas emissions around 2015, then halve them by 2050, the world will face ever more droughts, heatwaves, floods and rising seas, according to the U.N. panel. The United Nations hopes to go beyond Kyoto by getting all countries to agree to curbs on emissions of greenhouse gases that fuel global warming. Only 37 rich nations were bound to cut emissions under Kyoto. The next talks, to be held in Germany in June, will address funding technology to mitigate climate change - a key demand from developing countries who say rich countries should foot much of the bill. To read the full article log on to <http://uk.reuters.com/article/homepageCrisis/idUKL04565665.CH.242020080504>

The UK Government has just launched Google Earth Outreach, with new layers in Google Earth that utilise geographical information to show how climate change will affect our planet and its people. The Met Office Hadley Centre has produced a layer which illustrates their future temperature modelling, showing an animation of temperature change over the next hundred years and its impact to particular parts of the world. The scientists of the British Antarctic Survey have developed a layer which details how they monitor and measure the effects of climate change in Antarctica, featuring stunning images that show the retreat of the ice from this environmentally-sensitive continent. Log on to Google Earth Outreach at <http://google-latlong.blogspot.com/2008/05/climate-change-in-our-world.html>

