



Warwickshire Climate Change Community Newsletter

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/climatechangepartnership

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Get Switched On To Street Lighting

Did you know that Warwickshire County Council (WCC) has been greening its street lighting reducing costs and emissions?

Warwickshire County Council spent £2.4 million on street lighting during the past year, with the amount of carbon being emitted by the lights estimated at around 13,200 tonnes

Street lighting currently makes up 35% of the council's use of electricity, including its use in schools. As this is a high area of consumption, a variety of efficiency measures have been carried out over the years in order to reduce energy consumption, saving cash and carbon.

From 1996 3W photocells (or the device that sits on top of a street light and turns it on and off which also uses electricity) were replaced with 1W photocells to approximately 50,000 street lights which gave an annual saving of around 875,000kWh.

From 2003 gradual replacement of all but one or two of the Belisha Beacons with LED units that save around 104,000 kWh. We have around 139 LED Beacons which also reduce CO2 emissions by being virtually maintenance free and only require electrical testing every six years and equipment replaced approximately every 12 years.

In 2005 new technology was available reducing the 1W photocells to 0.25W. To date WCC have replaced 11,850 of these photocells providing a further annual saving of around 78,000kWh. These are being replaced as and when photocells fail to improve the cost effectiveness.

WCC are continually looking at new and innovative ways to maintain the quality for street lighting whilst improving efficiency.



The success of the Switch It Off campaign over its 4 years has meant the project has gone national through the Eco Schools programme and the 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 aims to raise awareness of how simple measures within the home, garden, business, school and travel can save both carbon and money. We hope to achieve a reduction of one tonne per person of CO2 across Warwickshire. This is an ambitious target but by working together and taking small steps we can achieve it.

SWAT will be a year long campaign and will begin later this year. It will consist of a number of initiatives, with followers being able to follow progress of savings made through Facebook, Twitter or by going to the website.

Initiatives

Libraries – 8 of Warwickshire's main libraries will be loaning out Owl energy monitors for local residents to investigate their domestic energy consumption

Street Challenge – Individuals across Warwickshire will be challenged to see how much CO2 they can save by completing a number of sustainability based challenges including cycle training, composting, monitoring energy use etc.

Give-aways – look out for SWAT teams at local events handing out information on what you can do in your home, garden, and whilst travelling to save money and save the environment.

Keep an eye out in local papers and this newsletter for events, promotions, competitions and progress.

If you, your local school or community group are interested in taking more part in the SWAT campaign or would like to find out more about other initiatives being planned please contact emmaclarke@warwickshire.gov.uk or call 01926 418036



Transition Stratford Update

Garden Share Scheme – aims to link up people who want to grow their own food but have no garden with those with spare space in their garden. Team of four organisers established, who interview would be gardeners and garden owners and broker matches. Launched February, now have 12 growers and 8 gardens to date and 1 agreement signed.

Allotments – working with Stratford upon Avon Town Council on ways to bring unused land into temporary use of food growing.

Sustainable energy for historic buildings workshop - To take place on the 18th May in Stratford Town Hall. Jointly organised by Stratford upon Avon Town Council, Stratford Society and Transition Stratford. Speakers from Building Research Establishment, English Heritage, Marches Energy agency and Stratford DC. Aim of the event is to raise awareness of sustainable energy solutions for older and historic buildings.

Energy champions scheme – consulting with act on Energy and Transition Shipston on setting up a network of trained volunteers who can carry out simple home energy checks and offer basic advice (with the technical back up from Act on Energy)

Energy from food waste – group looking at feasibility of using anaerobic digestion fed by commercial food waste to generate energy

Act local – Think global – formal link has been established with Practical Action to showcase the impact of climate change in developing countries and Practical Action's work in these areas.

Johnsons Coach and Bus Travel – Zero Emission Vehicle Trial in Stratford Upon Avon

On the week commencing the week of 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 emission electric Solo in service for one week. The trail will measure emission data, fuel efficiency, operational logistic, including recharging and public perception and social factors.

There are a variety of pros and cons to this type of vehicle for a coach company. Pros include Zero drive line emissions, considerably lower noise levels, fuel cost likely to be 50% lower, lower maintenance service and operational costs and longer operating life however these need to be weighed up against the cons which include vehicle costs twice as much to buy as diesel equivalent, limited range of 60 miles before recharging required, battery capacity is expensive and life if finite.

If successful, Johnson coaches have but in a bid to The Green Bus Fund (which offers funding towards the purchasing of low carbon vehicles) to purchase 4 electric buses.

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

Carpet stains

Manufactured cleaning products are expensive and contain toxic ingredients. When you get a spill on your carpet, pour soda water or sparkling water to help remove the stain.