



Hello! And welcome to the July issue of the Climate Change newsletter.

This month we take a look at the Budget announcements for the Environment.

We also talk to Transition Malvern Hills about their group 'Unleashing' and get an update on WPEG's State of the Environment report.

We really hope you enjoy this issue.

June 2010 Budget – key announcements for Environment

The Prime Minister has pledged to make this the greenest government ever. The Government believes that climate change is one of the most serious threats that the world faces. This includes reducing the Government's own emissions by ten per cent between mid-May 2010 and mid-May 2011.

The Government is committed to playing its part in moving to a low-carbon economy. This transition will change the shape of industry, growth and jobs in the future. As part of this, the UK needs £200 billion of investment to 2020 to provide secure low-carbon energy. This will require reform of the energy market and action to attract additional private sector funding.

The Budget sets out key steps towards this goal:

- Assessing how the energy tax framework can provide the right incentives for investment, alongside wider market reforms. In the autumn, the Government will publish proposals to reform the climate change levy in order to provide more certainty and support to the carbon price. Subject to consultation, the Government intends to bring forward relevant legislation in Finance Bill 2011.
- Putting forward detailed proposals on the creation of a Green Investment Bank, following the Spending Review, to help the UK meet the low-carbon investment challenge. The Government is considering a range of options for the scope and structure of the Green Investment Bank; and
- Establishing a Green Deal for households through legislation in the Energy Security and Green Economy Bill, to help individuals invest in home energy efficiency improvements that can pay for themselves from the savings in energy bills. The Government will also continue to progress work on creating green financial products to provide individuals with opportunities to invest in the infrastructure necessary to support the green economy.

More information about the key announcements for the environment can be found at: <http://ww2.defra.gov.uk/2010/06/23/june-2010-budget-key-announcements-for-environment/>

500 attend the 'unleashing' of Transition Malvern Hills

Transition Malvern Hills took a big gamble with their 'unleashing' event 'People Make Transition Happen' on Thursday 27 May. Not content with hiring a small hall, they booked Malvern's largest venue, The Forum Theatre. A week before the event, with 100 tickets sold, there were some sleepless nights but, as they say, it'll be alright on the night, and in the end, over 500 people came.



The line-up included: local choir Voices Unlimited; Brigit Strawbridge, of TV's 'It's Not Easy Being Green'; Laura Spiers, a local young environmentalist and climate change campaigner; local magician Ollie Mealing; music from Downside Up, a two-piece who also play with the Malvern based English Symphony Orchestra; local farmer Russell Carrington; Powick Community Choir and local singer Sam Eden.

Asked to give some thoughts at the end of the event, Rob Hopkins said 'it felt entirely feasible to me that in 10 years time, if the energy of this event were harnessed, and the connections with other local organisations demonstrated were built on, a blue plaque would be put up outside the theatre to this evening'.

Transition Malvern Hills felt well and truly unleashed, with an evening that spoke to the head, the heart and the hands. For more information about Transition Malvern Hills visit: www.transitionmalvern hills.org.uk

Report highlights the state of our environment

Worcestershire's environment is recognised as one of its key assets, and a new report indicates that its condition is improving.



The latest annual update of the State of the Environment report highlights some real areas of concern, particularly around biodiversity and the cleanliness of public land. However, there is good news in other areas such as waste, EcoSchools, public perceptions, standards of parks and open spaces all indicate continued strong performance.

A new indicator for 2010 is the Environment Agency's single measure of water quality, which replaces the two separate indicators from previous reports; this provides a single reference point that shows the overall chemical and ecological quality of the county's water bodies. This year, water bodies are showing only 'reasonable' performance, but with strong prospects for improvement.

The State of the Environment report is an online resource that reveals the condition of the County's natural and historic environment at a glance. The 2010 update includes 21 indicators, focussing on:

- Biodiversity
- Cleaner and Greener (looking at the state of the County's public spaces)
- Climate Change
- Historic Environment
- Landscape/Land Use
- Waste
- Water
- Public Behaviour/Perception

The report is the result of partnership working between experts in the Worcestershire Partnership Environment Group (WPEG). It helps inform WPEG's priorities, and provides part of the evidence base to inform the plans and strategies of the Partnership and other organisations.

The report itself, along with plenty of useful background information (including a selection of film clips exploring the key issues) is available at: www.worcestershirepartnership.org.uk/wpeg/soe

For any enquiries on the State of the Environment, please telephone 01905 766097, or email bhorovitz@worcestershire.gov.uk

Upcoming events...

West Malvern Community Market
Fri 9 July 2010, 3.30pm at St James C of E Primary, West Malvern Road

An opportunity for West Malvern residents to sell home grown produce (and anything else) to each other.

The market will be open to all Malvern residents, but particularly those in the West Malvern community. Contact Emma
Mobile: 07711 396742, Email: emma@key-iq.com

Climate Change Concert
Sat 10 July 2010, 7.30pm at The Angel Centre, The Butts, Worcester

Worcester Oxfam Campaign group are holding their Climate Change Concert featuring Andy Watts, Mystics, Makale and The Compost Band.

Non-alcoholic refreshments available (but feel free to bring your own alcoholic refreshments) + Traidcraft Stall + Update on Oxfam's Climate Change Campaign.

Entrance: £5.00 / £3.00 under 14
TICKETS on the door / or available in advance at Worcester Oxfam shop.
Contact Anthony Wood on 01905 351025 for more info.

ALL PROFITS TO OXFAM'S WORK WITH PEOPLE AFFECTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE

Got something to shout about?

We'd love to hear about your news, events and general musings. Contact the Sustainability Team by email sustainability@worcestershire.gov.uk or phone us on 01905 822029.

Planning for a low carbon future

Worcestershire County Council has successfully re-joined the Carbon Trust's Local Authority Carbon Management Programme and will be taking further steps towards a low carbon future during the ten months of the programme.

The agreed actions between now and March 2011 include a workshop about opportunities to reduce emissions, finalising baseline data for measuring reductions and preparing a longer term Carbon Management Plan for 2011-16.

The Carbon Trust has helped public sector organisations to identify two million tonnes per year of CO₂ savings so far. Our main reasons for re-joining the programme, which we last completed in 2003-04, are the environmental benefits of tackling climate change, to act as a leader and inspire our communities to change their behaviour and to reduce the financial impact of having to pay for every tonne of emissions.

For more information about the County Council's work to reduce carbon emissions, including their role in the national 10:10 initiative, please contact Katie Morrow, Senior Sustainability Officer, on 01905 766061 or email kmorrow@worcestershire.gov.uk