



Hello! Welcome to the Spring issue of the Climate Change newsletter.

This season we will look at some of the national campaigns which are coming up and what came out of the Cancun climate change summit in December 2010.

We really hope you enjoy this issue.

International Climate Change Agreement

December 2010 saw the fourth year of international climate change talks to reach an agreement on the continuation of the Kyoto Protocol, which is due to end in 2012. The aim of these talks has been to agree a legally binding carbon emission reduction target. While no official target has been set, progress continues to be made towards an international agreement.

The key points from the Cancun summit include;

- Formal recognition that reduction targets need to rise and global temperature increase should be limited to 2°C.
- The Green Climate Fund will be established to channel money from the West to developing nations to aid low carbon development and prepare for the impacts of climate change. By 2020 this fund is expected to raise and disperse £64 billion per year!
- Agreement to slow, halt and reverse deforestation. This will include a framework for paying countries not to cut down forests.
- All major emitters are to have their reduction plans inspected.
- Some nations have agreed to wording that will allow them to back out if a legally binding agreement is reached although they still agreed to reduce emissions.

The next climate change conference will be held in South Africa later in 2011. This will be the last opportunity to reach an international, legally binding agreement on carbon emission reduction targets before the end of the Kyoto Protocol.

Climate Week 2011



Climate Week (21-27 March 2011) is a national occasion to highlight what we are all doing to tackle climate change. The week will offer the opportunity to shine a spotlight on the positive steps being taken all across the UK. Throughout the week, people in business, at school and in communities will hold events to show what can be done, share ideas and encourage more action in the years ahead.

A challenge will be released from the Climate Week team at 9am, Monday, March 21 for a variety of age ranges. Each registered team will have until 2pm that afternoon to complete the challenge and send their proposal to the national judging panel.

Worcestershire County Council is one of 180 organisations signed up to support Climate Week. The [Worcestershire County Council web page](#) will host a list of activities taking place across the county including a severe weather impact and business continuity seminar for local businesses at the start of climate week.

If you are organising an event for Climate Week which you would wish to share with us please email the details to sustainability@worcestershire.gov.uk For further information about Climate Week and the Climate Week challenge visit www.climateweek.com

Fairtrade Fortnight 2011

The [Fairtrade Foundation](#) are holding their annual Fairtrade Fortnight from 28 February-13 March 2011.

This year the theme is 'Show Off your Label' to encourage everyone to show off the Fairtrade label on the products they buy.

There are many ways to get involved including a World Record attempt for the longest bunting display to show off Fairtrade cotton.

Fairtrade now supports over 7.5 million people in the developing world for a more secure future.

Worcester Diocese Environment Strategy

Worcester Diocese has published their Environment Strategy, *Caring for The Earth*, which suggests actions for Church Councils and individuals around six key themes.

The six themes include;

- Land
- Food
- Energy
- Design, Construction and Development
- Waste and Water
- Transport

There are also three cross cutting themes which are theology and liturgy, communication and education and measuring progress.

The full Environment Strategy and new DVD can be found on the [Worcester Diocese web page](#).



Upcoming events...

Transition Worcester Point to Point for Climate Week, 26th March

Run or walk the designated route on the Malvern Hills to raise money for Bike Ambulance Unit. More information will shortly be available via the [Transition Worcester Web Page](#)

Women Reaching Women, Saturday 5th March, 10am-4pm, The Guild Hall, Worcester

Part of a three year project by the Nation Federation of Women's Institutes and Partners to raise awareness about world poverty, inequality and climate change highlighting how women are affected.

Relieving data burdens

The Coalition Government will no longer require Local Strategic Partnerships to report on the set of National Indicators which were signed up to through Local Area Agreements. The National Indicator set contained a number of climate change related indicators which the Worcestershire Partnership selected as a priority. These included, NI186 (per capita emissions for the local area), NI187 (fuel poverty) and NI188 (planning to adapt to climate change).

A single list of data requirements will be published and come in to effect 1st April 2011. This data list is expected to include a requirement for Local Authorities to report to government on CO₂e emissions from their operations. The Department for Energy and Climate Change will continue to provide the per capita CO₂ emissions data for local authority areas but will not request information from the Worcestershire Partnership.

Design for Future Climate Competition

Worcestershire County Council's Property Services have been awarded £100,000 by the Technology Strategy Board for work to develop strategies for adapting buildings to withstand the effects of climate change. The award is the result of their successful entry to the national Design for Future Climate Competition, and work will be focussed on the design of the new Wyre Forest primary schools.

There were 69 entries to the competition, and 26 awards have been made to a variety of design projects throughout the Country. Property Services' architects and engineers will undertake the work in conjunction with external consultants who have been selected for their experience in climate change adaptation.

The award complements Worcestershire County Council's continuing work as a Beacon Authority in tackling climate change, and provides an opportunity to undertake further funded research and publish the results nationally, to increase understanding and knowledge throughout the country.

Although the work will be based on the new Wyre Forest Primary Schools, the results could benefit all of Worcestershire's buildings, both old and new.