



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

This season we will look at the single Worcestershire Sustainable Community Strategy, the Wychavon Intelligently Green Plan and reducing carbon emissions.

We really hope you enjoy this issue.

David's 30 Green Miles

On Friday 13th May 2011, Worcestershire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust's Environment Officer, David Dowson, ran 30 miles to work from Birmingham to Evesham to raise money for the Campaign for Greener Healthcare. The event coincided with the annual 'Walk to Work week' run by the Charity Living Streets. In the end, it took 6 hours, 45 minutes to complete the trip and he completed a full (slow!) days' work afterwards.

David, who only started running less than a year ago, added, "I hope this run helps to demonstrate that people don't have to be extremely fit or dedicated to think about getting to work actively and sustainably, which is often an imagined, rather than real, problem."

"I also hope that encouraging people to ditch their cars and include travelling by foot, bike or public transport in their daily routine will cut carbon emissions and help them to lead longer, healthier lives. Thank you to all my family, friends and supporters throughout."

The event raised a total of £492 for a very worthy cause. The only problem now is wondering how to travel next year!



Intelligently Green

Wychavon District Council has kicked off the process of developing an Intelligently Green Plan. The council has coined the term 'intelligently green' to describe its future involvement in environmental issues.

In March, members of Transition Evesham Vale facilitated an intelligently green workshop for council staff, managers and key partners. Participants generated a wide range of potential actions to include in the plan under four themes: energy, transport, food and tourism, and construction. Over the next few months the council will work these into a draft plan for consultation and adoption later in the summer.

Deputy Managing Director, Vic Allison, says, "Being intelligently green is about making choices that not only have a positive environmental impact, but also generate a return in financial or community terms. The photovoltaic cells we're planning to install on our Civic Centre building are a good example of this. As well as reducing our reliance on fossil fuels by generating cheap electricity to run the Civic Centre, they will also provide a financial income for us through the feed-in tariffs."

If you want to receive a copy of the draft Intelligently Green Plan please e-mail cherrie.mansfield@wychavon.gov.uk.

Upcoming events...

Energy Festival and green Fair at Bishops Wood Centre, Crossway Green, Sunday 10th July 11am-3pm

Activity includes energy talks, crafts, entertainment, local food stands and much more. Price £4 for adults and £2 for children.

For further information visit www.bishopswoodcentre.org.uk

'Powering the Future' at the Guild Hall, Worcester, Saturday 17th September, 9.30am-4pm

Energy day organised by Worcestershire Transition Town groups including talks and exhibits. Entry is free.

Worcestershire Sustainable Community Strategy

For the first time, County and District Councils in Worcestershire have come together to agree on a common set of priorities. This new draft single Sustainable Community Strategy contains three overarching priorities for Worcestershire with sets of priorities specific to each district.

The vision of the Sustainable Community Strategy will be used to focus the activity of a range of organisations in Worcestershire on improving quality of life for people who visit, live or work here in the County.

The three main priorities are;

1. A skilled and prosperous economy
2. Communities that are empowered
3. An environment that is cherished and resilient

The draft document is open for consultation until 7th July 2011. To view the draft document or comment on the content, visit the [Worcestershire Partnership web page](#).

Getting to grips with carbon emissions

Worcestershire County Council now has a target to reduce CO₂ emissions by 30% by the end of March 2016 (from 2009/10 baseline). This could result in a cumulative reduction of 69,558 tonnes of CO₂ and will help the council to avoid predicted energy and fuel costs of approximately £17.9 million over the next five years.

The Carbon Management Plan was developed with support from the Carbon Trust and was approved by Cabinet on 7th April 2011. The plan outlines current and projected CO₂ emissions from our activities and operations, highlighting carbon saving opportunities that the County Council already has in place, and identifying further opportunities for future projects over the lifetime of the plan.

The Carbon Management Plan includes a number of projects and activities, including further installation of energy efficiency measures in corporate buildings and schools (such as loft and cavity wall insulation, lighting upgrades and equipment timer controls); exploring options for renewable energy installations on our buildings; reducing energy use in street lighting by introducing more efficient lighting technologies, dimming and removal of illuminated signs, where appropriate; and reducing our fleet fuel use and business mileage.

The complete [Carbon Management Plan](#) is available from the Worcestershire County Council web page.

Take part in the challenge and start 'Living for Tomorrow'



Worcestershire County Council is offering residents the chance to start taking steps towards a more sustainable lifestyle with the 'Living for Tomorrow' gardening challenge.

The challenge aims to help residents improve their lifestyle, health and finances through gardening and making a few easy changes to day-to-day routine and leisure time.

There are a variety of challenges on offer, depending on how much time people have to commit, all offering a great opportunity to get outside into the garden this summer.

Amongst the things residents can do for a greener garden are:

- Recycle kitchen and garden waste by making compost, or use peat-free.
- Reduce the use of sprays and herbicides to encourage beneficial birds and wildlife
- Choose sustainably sourced materials for sheds and garden furniture
- Grow fruit and vegetables at home
- Collect rainwater in a water butt

For more information or to request a free Living for Tomorrow pack visit

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/green or contact the sustainability team on 01905 766741 or sustainability@worcestershire.gov.uk.