

Environmental Action for a Better Leicestershire



News from the Leicestershire Environment Partnership

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Spring 2010

What's been happening with ENABLE?

The ENABLE Steering Group has been very busy with The Big Switch Off over the past 6 months planning projects and developing campaign materials. There has recently been a review to think about how we can run an even better campaign for 2010. During 2009 campaign took place between 12-18th October and successfully helped to save £60,000 electricity during that time. For further information see the Big Switch Off article later on.

ENABLE Review

We are looking at how ENABLE can become a better known organisation with a wider membership. All existing ENABLE members will be sent a postal questionnaire to gather views on how we can develop as a partnership. We would like as many people to reply as possible to help us with this. We are also working with the Effective Partnerships Project to find out how we can work better with our partners.

New Facebook Page

ENABLE is now on Facebook. Become a Fan of ENABLE and find out more about local and national environmental news, events and training sessions. See www.facebook.com/EnableLeicestershire and become a fan of ENABLE for regular updates.

Leicestershire Freeuse

A new website launched recently by the Leicestershire Waste Partnership is helping residents to give away their unwanted items such as furniture, computers and televisions to avoid waste being sent to landfill. The website is easy to use. Simply register at www.freeuseit.org. You will be given a user name and password and you can start giving or taking away items that have been listed on the site.

Freeuse was originally developed by North West Leicestershire District Council in June 2008. It proved so popular that other Councils within the Waste Partnership wanted to be part of the Freeuse success and so Freeuse has undergone a thorough makeover.

Take a look today to find out what unwanted treasures you can find. Remember if you don't use it ... freeuse it!



Other News and Announcements

New boiler scrappage scheme

A new scrappage scheme has been launched to help householders buy new energy efficient boilers.

The scheme is for boilers rated G or worse and householders can get up to £400 off the price of a new A rated energy efficient boiler when scrapping their old, inefficient boiler.

To take part, firstly get a quote from your nominated installer then apply for a £400 cash back voucher via the Energy Saving Trust website at <http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Home-improvements-and-products/Heating-and-hot-water/Boiler-Scrappage-Scheme/Application-form> or call 0800 512 012.

You need to provide your

- Your full name
- The address of the property you wish to claim the voucher for
- The make and name of the boiler being scrapped
- The company name, address and contact details of the installer carrying out the work
- The type of replacement boiler to be installed e.g. gas, biomass

Vouchers are valid for 12 weeks from date of issue. If the voucher is not redeemed within this time, it will be cancelled and reallocated. There will be only one voucher per household, but if the voucher expires, it will be possible to apply for another if funds are available.

Energy efficient boilers have an efficiency rating of 90% or more meaning they use less fuel, reduce fuel costs and carbon dioxide emissions.

WHO IS ENABLE?

ENABLE is the Leicestershire Environment Partnership, with members from environmental organisations throughout Leicestershire and members of the public. If you would like to join ENABLE or contribute to the next newsletter call 0116 305 7332 or email enable@leics.gov.uk

Cash payments for domestic low carbon electricity and heating

From 1st April 2010 the government introduces a feed in tariff for small scale low carbon technologies.

Households and communities with small scale solar panels and wind turbines up to 5 megawatts will be able to claim payments for the low carbon electricity they produce even if they use it themselves. They will also get further payments for any electricity they feed into the national grid. Payments are available also for hydro, anaerobic digesters and micro combined heat and power.

The scheme will apply to installations commissioned since July 2008 when the policy was announced. A typical 2.5kW well sited solar pv installation could offer a homeowner a reward of up to £900 and save them £140 a year on their electricity bill.

This will help to increase the amount of renewable energy produced locally. The UK has a target to meet 15% of all energy needs from renewables by 2020. Currently around 5.5% electricity is generated from renewable technologies.

From April 2011 a similar scheme will be introduced for renewable heating technologies such as ground source heat pumps, biomass boilers and air source heat pumps known as the Renewable Heat Incentive.

Under the proposed tariffs the installation of a ground source heat pump in an average semi-detached house with adequate insulation levels could be rewarded with £1,000 a year and lead to savings of £200 per year if used instead of heating oil so could help thousands of consumers off the gas network.

For further information and for feed in tariffs see the press release on the Department of Energy and Climate Change website - www.decc.gov.uk and read the response to the consultation on renewable electricity financial incentives at http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/elec_financial/elec_financial.aspx

Copenhagen Accord

The outcome of the Copenhagen Climate Change conference in December was disappointing with no binding targets but at least global talks have started

The Accord which countries agreed to sign up to is an international agreement which recognises that climate change is happening and there is a need to cut emissions to prevent a 2°C rise in global temperatures.

Countries had until the end of January 2009 to submit their individual targets for reducing carbon dioxide emissions. Australia and the USA who have been slow to come on board have set good targets whilst the European Union collective for which the UK is part of have agreed to change their target to a 30% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2020.

Tilton Green Update

Tilton Green has done a fantastic amount of work since becoming a Climate Friendly Community in the summer of 2008.

It has set up a recycling centre in the Village Hall, given away £50 grants for insulation to 40 families, carried out a carbon footprinting exercise for the village, investigated how the Village Hall can become more energy efficient, signed up to the 10:10 campaign to pledge to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in the village by 10% by 2010 as well as encouraging Tugby Primary School to become an Eco School.

It won the Best Village in Leicestershire and Best Sustainable Village in the Midlands categories in the Calor Best Village competition. More recently Tilton Green has been selected as one of six 'Green Communities' in the East Midlands and will be getting further help from the Energy Saving Trust to become even greener. ENABLE had a stall at the 2nd Tilton Green Fair on Saturday 23rd January 2010.

The day was very well attended with stalls including the Energy Saving Trust, Eco Freak, Leicestershire County Council Waste Management, Mark Insulation, Rural Housing Enabler, Transport Simulator, Rural Community Council, Intelligent Energy Solutions Ltd and WRAP as well as a childrens zone, pizza making and home-made cakes. ENABLE provided a wind up radio as a prize for the children's environmental poster competition. In February, Tilton Green will be launching their StayWarm insulation scheme supported by the Energy Saving Trust to help even more households become better insulated.

For further information on Tilton Green see www.leicestershirevillages.com/tiltononthehill/tiltongreen

Tilton Green and Councillor Simon Gaulton



Successful Big Switch Off 2009

The Big Switch Off 2009 managed to successfully reduce energy use across the campaign area during 12th – 18th October 2009. Central Networks, part of E-On UK, measured electricity use across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland to be 0.5% lower than to be expected for the time of year, making a saving of nearly £50,000 which would equate to nearly £2.6million if saved throughout the year.

A big thank you to everyone who joined in – residents, community and faith groups, schools and businesses switching off unnecessary electrical equipment and lighting.

Competition Winners

The Big Switch Off Team ran competitions for schools, colleges and families to encourage people to save energy.

Energy Detectives – Schools

Schools were set a challenge to reduce their energy use and were asked to read their meters before and after The Big Switch Off to find out how much energy they saved. Pupils read the meters and carried out secret energy checks in classrooms to spot equipment left on unnecessarily during break time.

Primary School Winners

1st – Thringstone Primary – 38.58% (130 kwh) reduction
2nd – Packington Primary – 34.09% (120 kwh) reduction

Secondary School Winners

1st – Stonehill High School – 0.62% (26 kwh) reduction
2nd – Castle Donington Community College – 0.21% (7kwh) reduction

All winning schools have received a renewable energy education kit comprising a miniature wind turbine, solar panel and solar thermal hot water tube with fan, LED and buzzer.

Film Competition

Upper schools and colleges were invited to make a short film to convey the Big Switch Off message. Winning entries were received from Stephenson College and Ashby School for their inventive messages to reduce energy. The films can be viewed on You Tube via the Big Switch Off website.

Upper School Winner – Jade Bakewell, Lewis Smith, Jake Bowley, Jordan Barry and Thomas Smith, Ashby School
College Winner - Dean Pell, Stephenson College
Highly Commended - Derek Cooper and Lucy McDowell, both from Stephenson College

All winning pupils received tickets to Alton Towers Resort donated by Alton Towers Resort Ltd.

Family and Community Challenge

16 families and 5 community groups in Leicestershire and Rutland were set a challenge to reduce their energy use by 20% over a year. All have had OWL energy monitors to help them identify where they are wasting energy in their buildings.

The Big Switch Off is a partnership campaign between all local councils in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, Groundwork Leicester and Leicestershire, Rural Community Council and Central Networks.

Look out for the 2010 campaign later on this year and updates through the Big Switch Off website –

www.leics.gov.uk/bigswitchoff



Adapting to Climate Change in Leicestershire

Since July 2008 all local authorities in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland have been part of a unique regional project that aims to record the impacts of recent extreme weather events, and assess the risks that future climate change may have on service delivery.

New climate scenarios released by the UK Climate Impacts Programme predict that summers are likely to become hotter and drier, winters milder and wetter and we will have more frequent extreme weather events such as heat waves and intense rainfall.

In response to this, the National Indicator (NI) 188 *Planning to Adapt to Climate Change*, helps councils to prepare for managing risks from a changing climate. Since September 2009 two Climate Adaptation Project Officers have been in place, to assess the impacts of climate change on service delivery in all councils and other service providers across the sub-region and help them identify any vulnerabilities.

By identifying areas of vulnerability it is hoped that methods and procedures can be established so services will not be disrupted during extreme weather in the future. The findings will form part of a Leicestershire wide Climate Adaptation Plan to be published next year.

For further information please contact Leicestershire County Council's Climate Change Manager Donna Worship, Tel. 0116 305 7242 (Wed-Fri) or Jonathan Cattell, Tel. 0116 305 790 (Mon-Wed). Also see www.climate-em.org.uk

ENABLE

Uniting Leicestershire to protect and enhance the environment

Communities and Climate Change

This year through the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (RIEP) we are delighted to announce that together with partners from Leicestershire County Council, Leicester City Council, Rutland County Council and all District Councils, we have been able to enter into a Knowledge Transfer Partnership with De Montfort University and the Rural Community Council to deliver a Community Climate Change Project.

This is a first for the sub region and recognises the value of all statutory agencies across the sub-region working with the third sector.

Our partners at the Rural Community Council (RCC) have been involved in setting up a number of successful community groups that are working on initiatives to mitigate against climate change.

Last year assisted by the RCC, Tilton Green Group which formed following Tilton Parish Plan were successful in securing help, support and funding from the Climate Friendly Communities project as well as a substantial grant from Government Office East Midlands (GOEM) that is enabling the community to promote a range of measures that will help the community to address the issues of renewable energy, energy efficiency and recycling and to convey the benefits to other communities. Two further communities joined with partners to stage Big Switch Off events.

The new Community Climate Change Officer (a recent graduate with a PHD in Energy and Sustainable Development) will be based at the Rural Community Council and will work closely with the RCC Officers and District officers to identify and work with 10 community groups – one in each District, Leicester City and Rutland as well as one community interest group. The Officer will help community groups to set up projects which raise awareness of climate change and help reduce carbon dioxide emissions. The officer will further be supported by individual officers from each of the partners involved. An associated grant scheme will enable funding to be made available to assist community groups to become involved in the project.

Find out more about the communities involved in the next ENABLE newsletter.

The project is being funded by the Technology Strategy Board, Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, Economic and Social Research Council, Natural Environment Research Council and locally through East Midlands Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership funding.

For further information on this project, please contact Diana Cook, Rural Community Council, Tel. 0116 268 9706 or email dcook@ruralcc.org.uk

Find out more about ENABLE from our website at

www.leics.gov.uk/enable

ENABLE
Room 500
Leicestershire County Council
Glenfield
Leicester
LE3 8TE

Green Footprints Community Network

Do you belong to a community group in North West Leicestershire? Is your group interested in helping make the district a cleaner, greener place to live?

North West Leicestershire District Council is launching a new Green Footprints Community Network to encourage local groups to share ideas and opportunities and help access funding opportunities for green projects across the district.

The network will meet three times a year and could be useful if your group is interested in any of the following:

- saving energy and water
- making your community building more energy efficient
- improving local transport
- recycling
- composting
- allotments
- wildlife projects
- litter picking
- reaching out to your local community
- supporting your local school on environmental projects
- training and networking
- help to access funding
- meeting with like-minded people

If your group is interested in taking part, please contact the Sustainability Team on 01530 454769 or 454771 or email: sustainability@nwleicestershire.gov.uk

