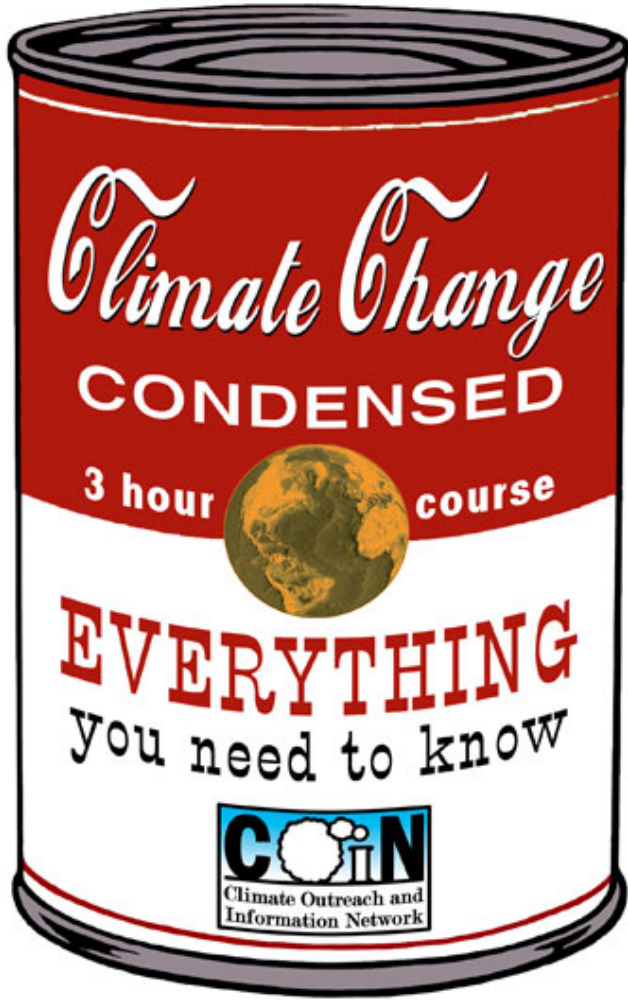


Vision 21 News



A Crash Course on Climate Change

All you ever wanted to know about global warming but were afraid to ask

If the science is so certain, why do so many people remain unconvinced? How will climate change affect the UK and the rest of the world? Can it be stopped and who should do it?

All answered with a recipe mixing expert knowledge, group discussion and pair work. As guides to the issues, the course includes short video presentations featuring popular climate change journalists George Monbiot and Mark Lynas and high profile scientists with a gift for communication. Leave feeling inspired and confident with a personal strategy for tackling climate change.

Places are limited so please book soon:
£12 for individuals (conc.s available),
£24 charities and local authorities,
£35 businesses.

Choose one of these dates / locations that best suits you:

Tewkesbury
Wednesday 18th March, 6pm - 9pm
Tewkesbury Borough Council Offices

Cirencester
Thursday 19th March, 6pm - 9pm
Cotswold District Council Chamber

Forest of Dean (Coleford)
Tuesday 24th March, 6pm - 9pm
Royal Forest of Dean College

Gloucester
Thursday 26th March, 6pm - 9pm
Gloucester Guildhall,
23 Eastgate St

For enquiries and bookings please contact Rebecca at Vision 21
Email: office@vision21.org.uk
Phone: **01242 224321**
Website: www.vision21.org.uk

Organised by Vision 21, in partnership with COIN (www.COINet.org.uk) and supported by Gloucestershire Environment Partnership

Vision 21
GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Gloucestershire Climate Change Condensed Series, March 2009

Events

For events with a sustainability theme [click here](#) to visit our calendar. Please help us to promote this busy calendar to your friends/colleagues and clients.

Date for your diary: Matson's 'Green' Community Fun Day - Saturday 20th June, 12 noon - 4pm

Vision 21 along with Matson & Robinswood Community Partnership and funded by Gloucester City Council Community Fund, are organising a Community Fun Day in Matson, Gloucester, on Saturday 20th June, 12 noon - 4pm, with the theme of climate change. Other groups including Together in Matson, Gloucester City Homes, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and The Gateway Project are helping to shape the event making it a great example of partnership working.

This low carbon but high fun event will include a variety of entertainment, activities and information. A great day out for all the family.

More information will be available soon but if you would like to get involved please contact Vision 21 or Matson and Robinswood Community Partnership.



Vision 21 is now on facebook. Become a fan by [clicking to see our facebook page!](#)

Get up and grow

- Can you lend or donate gardening tools to Vision 21 for our new growing project?
- Learn how to grow vegetables with Vision 21 and/or share in our growing spaces. (Training dates coming soon)
- Would you like to volunteer on this project or one of our other projects.?

Call the office for more info on 01242 224321.



Office to let

Vision 21 has an affordable, medium sized, 1st floor office to let in their central Cheltenham building. The bright room, in this friendly building, is ideal for between three to six persons.

For details contact the office:
01242 224321 / office@vision21.org.uk

THE CASE FOR A GREEN NEW DEAL

Philip Booth, a Green party Stroud District Councillor sets out the case for a Green New Deal.

We now face not just an ecological crisis but recession. A dark time indeed. However as an eminent Kyoto professor said in the Japan Times, "The darkest hour is just before green." It may sound better in Japanese, but the sentiment is entirely apt in any language.

What we need is a major shift in our understanding. We need to forget the false arguments about environment vs. economics, because ultimately the only viable forms of economics will be those that don't compromise our ecological sustainability. We need a Green New Deal (GND).

[Click here for the full article and more details.](#)

Gloucestershire Real Nappy Project....

Has been very busy recently and the number of parents choosing real nappies has risen dramatically. The credit crunch is cited as the reason why most are choosing the washable option, with savings as much as £500 to £600 for the first baby.

www.recycleforgloucestershire.com/nappies
for more information.



Sustainability institute undertakes UNESCO research

Professor Daniella Tilbury and Ingrid Mulà from the newly established International Research Institute in Sustainability (IRIS) at the University of Gloucestershire have been commissioned by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) to undertake research into Education for Sustainable Development policy frameworks.

Many countries around the globe are developing Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) national policies and regional strategies in response to the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD). This UN Decade (2005-2014) seeks to improve opportunities, access and quality of ESD across the globe. This means providing more and better opportunities for people to learn how to bring about changes for a more sustainable future.

UNESCO has a key responsibility in the implementation of the DESD. It has appointed IRIS to undertake research which will review national and policies in ESD from a cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue perspective.

IRIS has been asked to elaborate a framework of analysis which maps the connectivity between ESD and culture. The research will report on levels of integration and benchmark policies from across the globe. The researchers have been asked to provide global, regional and country-specific recommendations and identify pathways to strengthen the cultural components in ESD policies.

The IRIS research will generate a report as well as a research paper to be presented by UNESCO at the UN World Congress of Education for Sustainable Development to be held in Bonn in March 2009.

More information about the work of IRIS can be found at www.glos.ac.uk/iris

Students at the University of Gloucestershire have reaped the rewards of recycling thanks to a new initiative by the Students' Union (SU) and Cheltenham Borough Council.

The council provided clear plastic recycling bags for students which they were able to pick up from SU offices at the University.

SU General Manager Ian Pain said: "We and the University are committed to sustainability and keen to help students recycle more. This initiative in St Paul's is just one of the ways we seek to achieve that and we were delighted with the response."

Beth Boughton, acting operations manager for Cheltenham Borough Council, said: "We are working with the university to encourage students in the St Paul's area to recycle as much as possible, and dispose of their general waste responsibly. We are really pleased that so many students took part the trial recycling scheme, and hope for an even bigger uptake

And Also....

Despite the winter weather, the Student Unions' Allotment Society at the University of Gloucestershire has been braving the elements and preparing for spring.

Potatoes are now chitting in the shed, ready for planting in the next few months, while shallots, rhubarb and broad beans are poking their heads about the surface.

If you have any gardening items gathering dust in a shed or cupboard, then the Allotment Society would be happy to put them to new use. In addition glass doors for cold frames, or any small fruit trees or edibles needing a home are also very welcome.

If you would like to donate any of these or other spare items, please contact sarahtaylor@glos.ac.uk or 07506 731787.



Adrian Skilling of Swindon Village tells us about getting solar water heating in the family home

"Solar water heating is the use of panel on your roof through which water flows and is heated. It is expected to reduce the cost of heating your hot water by about 70%. It generally doesn't help much with your central heating in the winter as there's less strong sun then. We live in Swindon Village, which is a conservation area. This meant that we needed planning permission –this isn't often a requirement, so you should check with the council".

"We asked for quotes with a range of options including; vented or unvented cylinders, different cylinder sizes, different cylinder locations and evacuated or flat panel systems airing cupboard and loft. Two quotes were for evacuated tube systems and the other flat panels. Evacuated tubes are supposed to be a little more efficient in winter particularly, though it's very hard to get good statistics on this. We got our quotes and decided to go with [Eco2Solar](#)."

"Our system cost us £5320 (inc. VAT@5%) in total though this is top-end.

"I would advise you to get several quotes and check your companies thoroughly, particularly how much experience the installers on your job have had. We don't expect the solar panels to help much with our hot water during the winter, but on sunny days the temperature in the panels can get over 35C for much of the day so even in January it should be making a noticeable difference to our hot water costs. Roll on next spring and summer when we reckon we'll use no gas at all!"

National News

Council funding helps launch the scrap shop, a free trade-in scheme for business waste

A new website has been launched to help businesses save money on waste disposal by exchanging their surplus materials – thanks to grant funding from the council's Business Pride initiative.

ScrapShop.co.uk enables local businesses to trade in their excess stock and scrap waste online, to the benefit of other users, right across the county. Potential revenue from the sale of waste stock can then be generated for the businesses, as well as seeing a direct benefit with the reduction of landfill tax payments.

The council's Business Pride initiative provided £2,000 in match funding towards this free service, which is open to all businesses, whether they are an SME (small, medium enterprise) or a multinational firm.

Councillor Steve Jordan, leader of the council, said: "Scrapshop.co.uk aims to save thousands of tonnes of waste going to landfill. This will benefit not only the environment, but also the local economy, as more and more businesses are encouraged to trade with one another."

To register with this scheme and for further information, log on to www.scrapshop.co.uk

To apply for a grant that may help your business visit www.cheltenham.gov.uk/businesspride

SCRAPSHOP

Call us on: 0845 217 8995

Definition of Zero Carbon Homes and Non-Domestic Buildings: Consultation

This consultation proposes a definition of zero carbon new homes, based on high energy efficiency, on or near-site carbon reduction, and allowable solutions for dealing with the remaining emissions. The paper also sets out current Government thinking on zero carbon new non-domestic buildings.

[Click here for more information](#)

Introducing LILI

LILI (Low-Impact Living Initiative) is a non-profit organisation whose mission is to help people reduce their impact on the environment, improve their quality of life, gain new skills, live in a healthier and more satisfying way, have fun and save money.

Visit the website for more information and resources: www.lowimpact.org

Events

Events

Don't forget, there are many events always happening around the County, for listings of environmentally themed events [click here](#) to visit the Vision 21 calendar. Please help us to promote this busy calendar to your friends/colleagues and clients.

Rob Hopkins, founder of the Transition Movement.....

is coming to Holy Trinity Church, Minchinhampton on Wednesday 11th February at 7.30pm to give a talk with slide show, entitled 'Transition Initiatives: from oil dependency to local resilience'. Rob is an engaging and up-lifting speaker. He received the Schumacher Award for 2008 to a standing ovation. Tickets are £5 each (£4 concessions) and can be obtained in advance via from M&B Stores, The Crown or Taylors in Minchinhampton.

Stroud and Newent Transition Towns have been busy planning events and activities, details are on our calendar, take a look to find out about these and many other events.

[Click here to see events and news from the Organic Farm Shop, Cirencester.](#)

ENERGY ROADSHOW

14th February 2009 at Listers Hall, Dursley Time: 10 am to 2 pm Admission free.

If you are worried about rising fuel bills or looking for ways to reduce your carbon footprint in the home, then you will find some answers at the Road show. There will be advice about grant funding to improve the energy efficiency of your home and lots of ideas about ways to save energy. Severn Wye Energy Agency staff will be on hand to give advice and information on grant funding to homeowners, landlords and private tenants for home improvements.

For further information: www.uleygozero.com

Vacancies

For vacancies listed on our website [click here](#)

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Vision 21, 30 St Georges Place, Cheltenham, GL50 3JZ
01242 224321/ office@vision21.org.uk
www.vision21.org.uk
www.glosgreenguide.co.uk