

The Edge

Environment and Development in Gloucestershire

Issue 44

Vision 21

Watery Gloucestershire

Ruscombe Brook Action Group
Water 21

Countering Climate Change

One Tonners
EU Energy Strategy...

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"A very useful and informative publication. It helps not only to keep up with local and national sustainability issues but also to spread the message."
 Roger Wade
 Environment Agency

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Welcome to The Edge

Welcome to Issue 44 of The Edge, which has a distinctly watery theme, reflecting the warm, wet winter we've just had: actually, the warmest since records began. As The Edge goes out, large areas of Gloucestershire are flooded. Thames Water has even lifted its hosepipe ban (that's how wet it is!). Topical as ever, we've got reports from the Ruscombe Brook Action Group and from Water 21, part of the Vision 21 umbrella...

Climate change will bring both threats and opportunities. To help businesses prepare, Vision 21 is running a climate change event on 28 June (P.11), with the emphasis on Practical solutions - a theme echoed by Gloucestershire First's Sustainable Energy Strategy. County organisations which join the action plan, will benefit from a range of countywide economic activities - and help the environment.

We hope that you'll find The Edge uplifting and inspirational. Enjoy!

Road pricing

A Vision 21 perspective

There's been a lot of discussion about road pricing recently. Nearly 2 million people signed the 'Downing Street' web-site petition, opposing the charges.

We've got to tackle congestion somehow - even the AA and RAC acknowledge this. Congestion costs the UK £22bn. (£22,000 million) per year*. In Gloucestershire, 'our' share is £200 million - that's £1,000 per household - and it's getting worse! By 2017 we'll have permanent gridlock around Cheltenham and Gloucester...

You might reasonably assume that Vision 21, the county's leading sustainability organisation, would support road pricing. However, we're strongly opposed to it - with good reason!

1. It's misguided! Road pricing will force drivers onto 'quiet' rural roads, and turn residential streets into 'rat runs'. Most road pricing systems target traffic on main roads and motorways. To avoid the charges, many drivers will just choose cheaper 'back road' alternatives - even if journeys then take slightly longer. Sceptical? Just look at our local example: the M4 Severn Crossing. Vehicles travelling west into Wales pay for the privilege: return trips are free. Result? Thousands of cars and lorries travel down the A48 to avoid the tolls.

2. It's antisocial! For many roadside communities, the 'rush hour' will turn into an all-day nightmare. Road tolls, costing around £1.30 per mile during the rush-hour, will reduce to 30p / mile

for 'off peak' journeys. Many commuters, reluctant to pay £10 for an 8-mile journey to work, will delay their journey by an hour or so - making it even harder to organise sensible alternatives to the private car e.g. car-sharing, or improved public transport ...

3. It's complicated! To work effectively, the system will have to track every vehicle on every road, every minute of the day. That means GPS-based satellite tracking systems, roadside cameras, in-car upgrades, a centralised computer system and complex software - plus a small army of people to install, maintain and operate it. Government-designed and implemented computer systems don't have a very good track record. How many have worked properly, or been implemented on time or within budget? None.

4. It's expensive! The new technology required will cost at least £10bn (£10,000 million). This direct cost - borne by motorists and taxpayers - hardly benefits the local economy at all. How many local jobs would it create? While it's true that a few British companies (such as Logica) may benefit, most of the equipment and software will be produced offshore. Wouldn't it be better to spend this money on some more innovative solutions? Let's cure the problem, not just the symptoms!

5. It's intrusive! In recent years, we've (reluctantly) got used to the 'Big Brother' society. Increased surveillance systems are now the norm: CCTV, number-plate recognition systems, biometric passports, ID cards and the rest - but do we really want our every move monitored by an electronic 'spy in the

car', and stored on some vast centralised database?

6. It's unpredictable! Of course, life is uncertain - but most people might reasonably expect to know in advance what their travel costs will be. Variable road-pricing prevents this. When you start your journey, you won't know whether it's going to cost you £5 or £50...

7. It's unfair! Unless the revenue is ring fenced (and there's no suggestion from the Treasury that it would be) it'll just be another tax on motoring. We know that many people and organisations are genuinely interested in finding 'green' alternatives to the car - but those alternatives have to be easy to use and cost-effective - and they must be in place first.

So: should we do nothing? Of course not! Action is required - and quickly. Transport generates around 30% of our greenhouse gases - and within a few years Climate Change will destroy our comfortable lifestyles...

We've already got creative, equitable solutions. We know they work: they've worked elsewhere. If introduced properly, they'll bring about a dramatic reduction in traffic congestion, and an improvement in our quality of life - and they won't bring the economy crashing around our ears. Sadly, they don't include road pricing...

So, just for once, please: let's have clear thinking and coherent policies - and let's have some carrots, to go with the sticks!

Graham Stanley - Vision 21

* CBI figures: annual costs of traffic congestion to the UK economy.

Aluminum Foil Recycling Project



A new aluminium foil recycling project was launched in Cheltenham on 6 December 2006.

The service is run by Cheltenham Integrated Recycling Project (CHIRP) which incorporates several local day services for people with learning disabilities including The Bridge, Oakley, Berkley Court and Greensteps.

CHIRP aims to provide local residents and businesses with a positive environmental service whilst providing meaningful voluntary work for severely disabled people. The volunteers sort the foil at Oakley Adult Opportunity Centre in Whaddon. Once collected and sorted, the foil is compacted by the volunteers into 25kg bales taken to Avon Metals in Gloucester. Here the foil is melted into ingots that are used for producing engine blocks and aluminium trays. Income raised from the service is reinvested into the project.

Foil recycling banks are situated at sites around Cheltenham currently



offering plastic bottle recycling:

1. Bath Terrace, Car Park
2. Caernavon Road, Morrisons
3. Edinburgh Place, Car Park
4. London Road, Sixways Car Park
5. Manor Road, Sainsbury's
6. North Place, Car Park
7. Swindon Road, Recycling Centre
8. Tewkesbury Road, Tesco
9. Prior's Road, Sainsbury's

CHIRP is fully involved with the Aluminium Packaging Recycling Association (ALUPRO) and is supported by Vision 21 and the Cheltenham Centre for Change.

For more information contact:
Jerry Friar (CHIRP Consultant)
Fairtide Recycling, Fairtide Centre,
Naas Lane, Lydney, GL15 5AT
T: 01594 840142
E: jeremy.friar@gloucestershire.gov.uk

£10,000 for Local Charities

Cartridge World (Gloucester) Ltd has reached the £10,000 milestone for donations to charities for collecting empty printer cartridges.

Over 20 local charities are actively collecting cartridges for the scheme, ranging from scouts groups to the Samaritans to the World of Stationary (who collects on behalf of brain injured children). All cartridges collected by the charities are sold on as replacements or spares, saving customers money, reducing waste and preserving resources.

Cartridge World Director, Terry Jeffery, said, "We are proud of both our achievement and that of the people collecting the cartridges. Not only are we helping these charities but also the environment!"

Finalists in both the Gloucestershire Environmental Business awards in 2004 and again in 2006, Cartridge World's motto is "Refill not landfill". The company's long term aim is to eliminate the need for customers to buy new cartridges.

For more information contact:
Terry Jeffery, Cartridge World
T: 01452 413 413

Local Green Blogs

Ruscombe Green

Stroud District councillor Philip Booth has nearly 300 short articles or comments on his online blog. Philip's blog has been listed amongst top Green Blogs and linked to the New Statesman website. The entries cover many local issues and his work as a councillor but also comments on a wide range of Green issues.

See: <http://ruscombegreen.blogspot.com>

One Tonners

Cheltenham-based project exploring how easy it is to live a low carbon life. One Tonners addresses the need to cut our personal carbon emissions by 80% from the average personal household and travel emissions of 5 tonnes/yr.

See: <http://theonetonners.blogspot.com>

Gaian Economics

Dr Molly Scott Cato, Stroud-based Green Party economics speaker: "All other green campaigns become

futile without tackling the economic system and its ideological defenders. Economics is only dismal because there are not enough of us making it our own. Read on and become empowered!"

See: <http://gaianeconomics.blogspot.com>

A brand new 'WIKI' website is helping towns that are designing local strategies for responding to peak oil & gas and climate change. The Stroud project is just starting to look seriously at how to reduce both the energy intensity and carbon footprint of the local community.

See: <http://www.transitiontowns.org>



Green Belt Plans Under Review

Cheltenham Environment Forum welcomes the efforts being made by Cheltenham Borough Council (CBC) to develop a rational approach to possible changes in the green belt around Cheltenham.

CBC has asked consultants AERC to study what parts of the existing green belt are most and least valuable, and also to consider if more land should be included in the green belt. The study is due to be completed by the end of January 2007 and will be used by CBC to prepare their case to present to inspectors who are looking at planning proposals for both this area and for the whole of the South West Region in the draft Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS).

CBC is one of the first councils in the country to take such an initiative and has made significant efforts to involve all interested parties in this process. The first report back to stakeholders of work done so far by AERC took place on 10 Jan 2007 at the Town Hall. It was suggested that the least damaging location for an "urban extension" to Cheltenham in the

current green belt (such an extension is required by the draft RSS) would be to the North West or West of Cheltenham, which is in agreement with earlier studies. AERC are now looking to define the boundaries of such an urban extension. They have also looked at possibilities for adding undeveloped land within the Cheltenham district to the green belt to compensate for loss of green belt elsewhere. Their report on 10 Jan suggested that no area within Cheltenham was very suitable for adding to the green belt. However, a number of stakeholders suggested that the so-called "Leckhampton White Land" should be added to the green belt to protect it.

CBC will decide what proposals to present to the inspectors at the Enquiry In Public (EIP) in May. The inspectors will report their proposals to the Secretary of State for the Environment (currently Ruth Kelly) in October for approval or modification by early 2008(?).

Meanwhile, stakeholders can still make their views known to AERC or to CBC, and should do so as soon as possible!

Kit Braunholtz
Cheltenham Environment Forum



New Home for Gloucestershire Minibus Scheme

The Gloucestershire Minibus Scheme has a new home at Vision 21 in Cheltenham, having recently moved from Gloucestershire County Council. There are also satellite offices in Stroud and Forest Districts. GMS has dedicated staff and is currently recruiting for the role of Development Coordinator.

GMS is a minibus brokerage operating throughout Gloucestershire. It allows community organisations and schools to hire minibuses for much less than standard hire rates. Organisations with minibuses can lend their vehicles and receive a contribution towards running costs.

The scheme was formed in 2002. It aims to take advantage of the under-used resource of minibuses within the county whilst providing affordable transport. With people using a single minibus instead of driving lots of cars for the same trip, the scheme also reduces congestion on the roads and reduces emissions which contribute to global warming.

GMS is free to join and provides free driver training. Fully accessible minibuses are also available for transporting disabled passengers.

For more information contact:
T: 0800 389 0046
E: gms@vision21.org.uk
W: www.gms-v21.org.uk

Keep in Touch Sustainably!

Vision 21 is keen to keep you up to date with sustainable development news in the County. We'd like to keep you updated via e-mail where possible. If you're happy to receive electronic updates please contact Rebecca Dobson at Vision 21 with your e-mail address:

Tel: 01242 224321
E-mail: office@vision21.org.uk



Why Should We Buy Local and Seasonal Food?

Gloucestershire smallholder and environmentalist Chris Wooldridge looks at some of the issues surrounding sustainable food production.

Modern agriculture is a highly industrialised global business relying on huge inputs of energy in the form of oil, pesticides and fertilisers to deliver an overwhelming variety of relatively cheap food and drink to our supermarkets from around the world. The supermarkets for their part have created a perpetual summertime and taken from us the seasonal knowledge and cooking skills of our ancestors.

Global warming has alerted us to the unsustainable nature of a system which imports, for example, Africa's much needed water in the form of mange-tout and sweet corn, relies on cheap labour to pick and process our food for us and trucks refrigerated food up and down Britain's over-crowded motorways. My local supermarket stocks Chilean, South African and New Zealand apples in November - one of the best months for British apples. Luckily there is a way out of this dilemma, a win-win solution which is good for our health, our pocket and the planet's future. The solution is to buy local food.

Here in Gloucestershire we have the climate and soils to produce some of the best food and drink in Britain. Visit one of our regular farmers' markets for

proof. Greengrocers' stalls overflow with choice seasonal fruits and vegetables. We have wonderful local breads, cheeses, wines, ciders and perries, wholesome free-range meats, eggs and freshwater fish.

The Local Food movement started life partly as a reaction to the blandness of supermarket produce but also as an outlet for farmers displaced by globalisation. Farmers' markets and farm shops are only the start of the localisation of our shopping and eating habits. Many greengrocers and restaurants now specialise in local produce; there are several local and regional 'veggie box' schemes and more people now grow their own vegetables. Even the supermarkets are showing an increasing interest in local food.

Along with local food issues is the matter of seasonality. The two are, to my mind, inseparable. To buy fresh local produce is to buy seasonal. Salads are great in summer but who really wants tasteless tomatoes, cucumbers and lettuce in winter when the seasonal alternatives could be delicious roast parsnips and tasty Savoy cabbages to complement robust winter bean or meat stews?

Eating - and cooking - in season gives us new skills and confidence. We can reconnect with the seasons and we can learn again to anticipate and truly appreciate purple-sprouting broccoli in

Local food:

Ensures freshness and maximum nutritional value

Reduces 'food miles'

Encourages regional identity

Encourages varieties based on flavour not shelf life

Re-establishes connections between grower and shopper

Supports small, specialist producers who would otherwise die out

Is cheaper than the supermarket equivalent

March, the first June asparagus and strawberries, September's Discovery apples and December's leeks and kale. Seasonal cooking gives us potentially more, not less choice and we won't get bored with the same old food since another fresh seasonal ingredient always awaits us over the horizon.

And what of the future? Local food supply will become an essential tool in a low-energy environmentally sustainable future. I believe in the next 20 years we will see the emergence of mixed organic farming systems central to local communities providing food, drink and timber and also contributing to local power generation. The alternative is to stumble blindfolded into an uncertain future.

So go on. Go local and seasonal; you know it makes sense.

Vision 21's local and seasonal food guide is in development and will soon be available at www.vision21.org.uk.

Farmers' markets
www.farma.org.uk

Organic gardening
www.gardenorganic.org.uk

Organic farming
www.soilassociation.org

Energy descent planning
www.transitionculture.org

Sustainable Buildings at the Green Shop

Green Shop going from strength to strength

Roger Budgeon, owner of the Green Shop (winner of the 2006 Gloucestershire Environmental Business Award), started selling a few eco-friendly and fair-trade products in his petrol station shop 20 years ago. Many thought him mad, but he was up for the challenge.

In 1997 he turned the car workshop into what is now known as the Green Shop. A new garage workshop was built using energy saving initiatives, good insulation, high levels of natural light and rainwater harvesting for the low flush loo and car washing. During the conversion we used rain harvesting, low flush loos, solar photovoltaics producing grid-connected electricity and a wind and solar charger battery system which supplies energy for use in the shop. Inside, the shop has recycled wood floors and shelving; the recycled pine counter came from a local demolished warehouse. The new and converted buildings were decorated throughout

using natural paints and finishes. With the success of the Green Shop increasing so rapidly the time has come to expand the size of the buildings to accommodate the growing range of products we offer. This is not only good for the business but also a great sign that more and more people are looking for ways to live in a more sustainable manner.

Four years of seeking planning permission to expand in an ecological way finally came to fruition in 2005 and the building of the new extension has now commenced. The concept of the building is to be as near zero carbon in its use as possible. We aim to achieve this with the following plan:

Structure

The building is made using "light weight" construction. Beneath the external timber frame, the internal materials and flooring use solid, heavy materials with a high "thermal mass". This means that heat is stored

and therefore keeps the internal temperature stable.

The building is wrapped in very thick insulation - natural, of course - made from recycled paper. It has lots of super insulated windows on the south side to allow solar energy, light and heat into the building which then keeps the heat in.

The south facing roof is a "green roof" being planted with sedum, grasses and drought resistant plants. The north facing roof is a steel profile roof and is used to collect rainwater for recycling. The link blocks joining to the existing buildings and the entrance foyer roof are "brown roofs". These are growing roofs with drought tolerant pioneer plants that can survive impoverished habitats.

Insulation & Energy

The design has been carefully tailored to shade the windows in the summer to stop the building from overheating. When the sun is high in the sky, simple exterior shading can stop the heat from entering the building but still allows the sun to flood inside when it's low in the winter sky (see www.greenshopsolar.co.uk).

The building must be able to cool itself down in summer so provision is made for secure night time ventilation to allow cool night air to "flush through" the building. This "coolth" will be stored in the thermal mass.

Additional heating, if required, will be supplied by thermal solar panels (heating water) placed vertically on the walls - again, to maximise winter input and minimise summer gains. This heat will be stored in a water filled thermal store and will directly supply the under floor heating if necessary. The hot water demand for the "inmates" will be supplied by this system.

Any extra heating needs will be met



by a log or woodchip boiler into the thermal store. The building will be air tight and air movement throughout will be controlled.

The original concept included a wind turbine but this was left out in the final application because it was considered to be a step too far for the planning department at that time. However, things are changing fast and a separate application will be made for the turbine soon. Photovoltaic roof panels will contribute to some of the buildings electricity requirements.

Interior

Inside, the wall finishes will all be from

natural materials: the ground floor will be made from a concrete and recycled glass mix and the first floor will use oak boards.

The kitchen work surfaces will be made from a mixture of coloured recycled bottles. Other units will use rejected yoghurt pots and vending machine cups, all of which will give stunning finishes!

The carpet in the entrance will be made with a mixture of old tyres and recycled fabric remnants.

This type of building will have many new principles in its development and therefore many of the skills to put

them into practice efficiently have to be learnt. We therefore have decided to test the building for air leakage and monitor this regularly to see if it performs as the design states.

We hope to inspire visitors by what we've achieved in this building and help them find ideas and information on how to reduce carbon emissions in their own homes and businesses.

Jane Powell
The Green Shop, Bisley, Stroud,
GL6 7BX
T: 01452 770629
W: www.greenshop.co.uk

Resource Efficiency Club for Gloucestershire Businesses

The Resource Efficiency Club (REC) has been launched for Gloucestershire businesses. The REC provides on-site support and training for individual businesses as well as regular meetings where businesses can come together for networking and further support.

The purpose of the REC is to address issues including minimising waste, reducing resource consumption, tackling emissions to air and water, transport and energy. It will also focus on providing updates on environmental legislation and will look at opportunities for setting up environmental management systems, getting certification to ISO14001 and achieving cost savings as a result. Businesses which have taken part in these types of programmes previously in Gloucestershire have typically achieved cost savings equivalent to 1% of their annual turnover. Key benefits to joining the programme are cost savings, greater knowledge of environmental legislation, development of new approaches to deal with waste, improved business practices and significant environmental improvements.

Businesses can still apply to join the REC, which runs from March to December 2007. 20 local businesses have already signed up; it is anticipated that the programme will be full by the end of March.

For more information contact:

Alex Steele (Director of Gloucestershire REC)
T: 01242 714563 E: asteele@glos.ac.uk

Voice of the People



Photo: Cardboard recycling was received the most comments. Stroud District Council is working to expand its cardboard recycling service with Smiths Waste Management & Recycling. Left to

right: Sue Hurt (SDC Recycling Officer), Matt Hankins (General Manager, Smiths Waste) and Cllr Nigel Cooper.

Stroud District Council's consultation on the environment has been a resounding success. Following its launch last summer the council received nearly 900 contributions from residents, community groups, businesses, the voluntary sector, town and parish councils, political groups and a host of other agencies. The input has been used to help the council formulate its 20-year Environment Strategy, which has now been adopted!

Feedback (including individual comments), strategy documents and action plans can be viewed at www.stroud.gov.uk/greenpaper.

For more information contact:

Kam Mistry (Principal Marketing Officer)
T: 01453 754385
E: kam.mistry@stroud.gov.uk

The Great Gloucestershire Debate forum is now open to discuss Waste.

"Talking Rubbish" is the latest round in the Great Gloucestershire Debate, a pioneering initiative by the Gloucestershire Strategic Partnership to engage the people of the county directly in discussing big issues.

For more information contact:

Great Gloucestershire Debate
c/o Gloucestershire Strategic Partnership
Shire Hall, Westgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 2TG

E: greatgloucestershiredebate@gloucestershire.gov.uk
W: www.greatgloucestershiredebate.org.uk

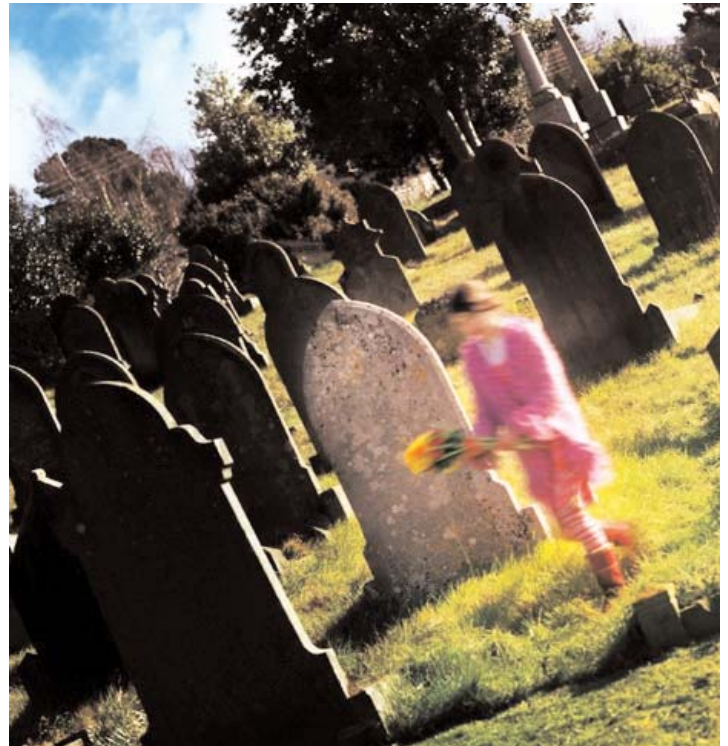
What on Earth is a Green Funeral?

The rising tide of awareness regarding our culture's heavy ecological footprint has begun to affect our attitudes towards death: municipal councils, farmers, the Anglican church - even the Co-op - are quickly developing their own 'natural' burial grounds.

A 'natural' burial is generally where the body is not embalmed, the coffin is bio-degradable and there is no headstone. Wooded sites are popular; in time the site is developed into a wildlife reserve.

While most funeral directors will supply a willow coffin (for example), most green families want further moves towards an environmentally considerate funeral than standard packages offer. This is not something that all funeral companies welcome or encourage. Often, the emphasis remains on selling particular products without due attention to the need for a much deeper connection with the environment; this need is deeply personal and has only recently emerged in mainstream media thinking.

Green Funeral companies are responding to this need by providing environmentally sensitive products and services. If there is not one within reach, be insistent, and patient,



with your local undertaker.

James Showers is co-founder of Family Tree Funeral Company, in Stroud.
T: 01453 767769

EU Energy Strategy

A new plan from the EU aims to tackle greenhouse gas emissions and reduce Europe's reliance on oil and gas imports. The strategy aims to tackle global warming by reducing EU CO₂ emissions by 20% by 2020.

The report highlights the need to source more of Europe's energy from within its borders. The vulnerability of Europe's imported oil supplies was shown recently when a row between Russia and Belarus left Germany without oil.

The 20% reduction in CO₂ will be achieved through a variety of measures. These include increased use of renewable energy technologies, and reducing CO₂ emissions from residential and commercial buildings. Importantly, the

report claims to be economically and technically practical. It emphasises findings from the recent Stern report: there will be billions of pounds worth of damage unless action is taken now. Much of Europe is at risk from drought, fires and other climate change related threats.

Some environmental groups are concerned that while wind and solar are truly clean energy forms and offer real emission cuts, the energy plan contains no specific mechanism to support them. Nor does it suggest any credible ways of reducing energy demand, despite highlighting the growing demand for energy. Mandatory targets are proposed only for biofuels, yet biofuels linked to deforestation and peat drainage can have far higher carbon emissions than the fossil fuels they replace.

Environmental groups have also argued that the EU report does not set high enough targets. The report proposes a global agreement to reduce CO₂ emissions by 30% in order to prevent global temperatures rising by more than 2°C and so avoid

the worst effects of global warming. This target falls far short of the reductions that the science says is now needed to limit the earth to this 2°C level. The reduction for the EU would then need to be 90% by 2030.

The Kyoto Protocol was the first binding framework between countries to reduce global emissions. However, its targets expire in 2012 and must be replaced by further international agreements. The EU says other countries such as the USA - the world's largest polluter - would also have to play their part.

Nick Boase
Vision 21

V21 Energy Saving Tips

For hints on saving energy and money check out Vision 21's Energy Saving Tips leaflet 'Get Smart Think Environment' at www.vision21.org.uk.

To request a hard copy contact:
T: 01242 224321
E: office@vision21.org.uk



Events in Gloucestershire

Spring Walks

From Humphrey's Close

Sat 10 March, 10am - 12 noon

Ivi Szaboova-Baxendale

Stroud Valleys Project 01453 753358



An Inconvenient Truth

Film showing - FREE

Sat 24 Mar, 7pm

Victoria Hall, Bourton-on-the-Water

Free - donations appreciated.

Diana Ray, Living Green Centre

01451 820942

Parish-wide Pond Survey

March - April

Stroud Valleys Project 01453 753358



Introduction to Gardening on Organic Principles

Thu 3 May, 11am - 1pm

Snowhill Manor, Gloucestershire

Contact: 01386 852410 or

snowhillmanor@nationaltrust.org.uk

HUMAN : NATURE exhibition

15 May - 24 June, Nature in Art

Wallsworth Hall, Main A38, Twigworth,

Gloucester, GL2 9PA. UK.

Contact: 01452 731422 or

enquiries@nature-in-art.org.uk

Pond Fair

Thu 24 May, 10am - 12noon

Foxmoor Primary School

Advice on making your own pond!

Bookings: 01453 753358

Cheltenham Science Festival

7 - 11 June

www.cheltenhamfestivals.com

Contact: 01242 227979

National Bike Week

16 - 24 June

Info stalls, inspirational roadshows, Doctor

Bike surgeries for businesses, schools

and community groups... book now!

Life Cycle www.bikeweek.org.uk

Vision 21's Climate Change Event

Thu 28 June, 9.45am - 4pm

Gloucester City Council,

Gloucester Docks

An event for businesses to learn about their contribution to climate change and to hear about ways to reduce this whilst saving money and raising their profile.

Organised by Vision 21, for details and booking contact Rebecca on 01242 224321 or office@vision21.org.uk.

Environmental Exhibitions

Greener Homes & Buildings Exhibition

Powys, Wales

19 - 20 May

01654 703064 or 0845 458 5973

info@greenerhomesandbuildings.co.uk

www.greenhomesandbuildings.co.uk

The Green Roadshow

Various dates

Shepton Mallet, Somerset 01749 343953,

info@greenroadshow.co.uk.

www.greenroadshow.co.uk

All Energy '07 Exhibition & Conference

May

The Renewables Show, Aberdeen

Exhibition & Conference Centre (AECC),

020 8241 1912, info@all-energy.co.uk,

www.all-energy.co.uk

Kingston Green Fair

28 May

020 8974 8608,

enquire@kingstongreenfair.org.uk,

www.kingstongreenfair.org.uk

Soil Association's Organic Food Festival

Bristol

1-16 September

nmoseley@soilassociation.org

Camden Green Fair

1st week in June

Kirsteen Harrison 020 7974 6756

camdengreenfair@googlemail.com

Stroud Valleys Project

Since 1988, Stroud Valleys Project has worked with local people to protect and enhance the greenspaces of this special area. We have also worked to promote renewable energy and community composting schemes. Our work is not just about the environment - we are also building community and providing opportunities for people to get involved, work together and learn new skills. Some events listed above and more are available - contact SVP on 01453 753358.





Ruscombe Brook:

Building a partnership, fighting the fat and more!

Stroud District Councillor and Secretary of Ruscombe Brook Action Group (RBAG) Philip Booth takes a look at local water and sewage issues.

I am still surprised by how much I am learning about water since I discovered two years ago that raw sewage was repeatedly overflowing from local sewers into our brook and surrounding farmland. Ruscombe Brook, near Stroud, is less than two miles long; I thought that the Ruscombe Brook Action Group (RBAG) we set up might quickly tackle these problems.

Improvements have been made but the issues are far more complex than just fixing the sewers. Most other streams in the country face a similar situation including other problems like the runoff of pesticides and herbicides. Amazingly, sewage can often be legally discharged into brooks and rivers and there is no proper public health standard of water quality for local brooks.

Our first challenge was to establish the causes of the poor water quality. The sewage was one cause but there were others. As we moved forward - consulting, talking and listening - the group seemed to take on a life of its own. A clean-up day produced mountains of rubbish including two buckets of sanitary wear. We photographed and mapped the sewage incidents, distributed leaflets and talked to local groups and schools. One group did some water

testing while another painted a 15 metre mural of the brook.

RBAG has also launched a campaign to stop people putting cooking fats down the sewer and use more environmentally friendly detergents or detergent-free laundry balls. We organised a specialist seminar on the brook and a conference which was attended by 70 local people and various local authorities.

The group has worked with British Waterways and councils over plans to dredge a lake and improve the water quality before it goes into the canal. We've started to consider the impact of cattle and salt grit bins; cattle can add to the silt problems by churning up the brook and the grit bins have been regularly overturned, leading to additional contamination of the brook. RBAG has worked with Severn Trent to see how the local sewer system can be improved. Already, pipes have been replaced, roots cut in sewers and pipe misconnections are being tackled. More work is planned and Severn Trent has agreed to do a joint leaflet later this year to raise awareness of issues locally.

Next steps

Perhaps the most important step we are taking at the moment is to set up a more formal partnership of stakeholders to find lasting solutions for the brook. RBAG has always believed a partnership approach is the best way to achieve our aims to

improve water quality and biodiversity.

We recently had a generous offer of £3,000 seed funding from Water21, a local group that promotes and provides sustainable solutions for water and sewage. If other parties agree, they will embark on an initial project with us to assess the best options available for the brook and to look at some estimated costs. We hope to consider the suitability of reed beds, restoring mill ponds and the potential to improve private sewer outflows. We will also look at sewer capacity, how best to encourage householders to stop roof and other surface run-off from going into sewers, and whether it might be possible to treat some householder sewage locally.

Wider picture

Looking to the future, we plan to focus our priorities and seek funding for particular projects. RBAG is hoping to develop solutions to some of the problems in our area and to use these experiences as a model for improving other local river courses.

Climate change will bring more challenges. Extreme weather conditions and sea level rise will lead to more flooding, while we also need to reduce the very significant amount of fossil fuels currently used to pump and treat water and sewage. Sustainable solutions like reed beds not only give a biomass crop each year but can produce water of higher

quality than most sewage treatment plants. It is vital we start to use these cost effective, well-proven techniques or we will see problems worsening.

RBAG has written to Government ministers as plans to develop sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS) more widely seem to have stalled. Severn Trent report that each year 4% more of their region is covered with hard standing areas. This can only lead to further flooding and other problems in the future.

The health implications of raw sewage in our waterways is another challenge. Last year the Environment Agency found a third of male fish in English rivers are changing sex due to pollution from the contraceptive pill and HRT. According to the investigating Research Professor, this could potentially lead to a "marked effect" in humans.

Surfers Against Sewage has also drawn our attention to some of the potential dangers of sewage but too readily such concerns have been cast aside as not important. A local university research project has been established to investigate the issue further. Some senior doctors have recently suggested that sewage could be responsible for many more serious illnesses than it has been given credit for in the past.

For more information contact:

Philip Booth
Lark Rise, Bread Street, Ruscombe,
Stroud, Glos. GL6 6EL
T: 01453 755451
E: philip.booth2@virgin.net
www.rbag.org.uk
<http://ruscombegreen.blogspot.com>



Above: A reedbed-biomass-lake system for sewage treatment, costing less than 10% of conventional sewerage costs and producing a major (biomass) energy byproduct. Such systems have now been constructed in other countries very successfully, treating over 8 million gallons of waste per day at single sites. In the UK they are not presently permitted by the water industry regulators! They are an ideal approach for community based groups like RBAG.

Right: This local sewer was condemned as inadequate over 30 years ago. Like many others, it can no longer cope with increasing urban development and rain run-off.

WATER21

Promoting local action for sustainable water solutions in Gloucestershire

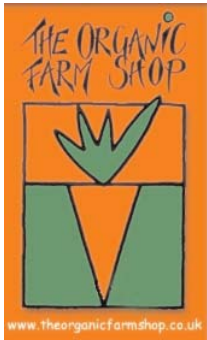
River and water action groups like Ruscombe Brook Action Group offer a very exciting way to protect the environment and guard against the effects of climate change. Water21 exists to support and promote these community based groups.

Water is truly the 'life-blood' of our ecosystem, yet our watercourses so often suffer from neglect and damage. Agricultural and urban development, dumped rubbish and increasing flood and drought are all increasing the strain on our water resources. It is up to us to reverse this neglect. Local solutions bring (mainly) local benefits, and probably will depend on you taking some action to help bring this about. How about a biomass plantation to take your wastewater? It could give a neighbouring farmer some extra income, produce a major proportion of your domestic energy, provide a haven for wildlife and so much more. Or that weir on your nearby river - how about forming a community group to install a water turbine to produce some handy 'clean' electricity? Or a local composting scheme to save on landfill and produce some useful soil conditioner to help better retain rainfall?

Contact Water 21 for advice/help in forming a local water action group:

T: 01242 224321
E: support@water21.org.uk
www.water21.org.uk





Organic Farm Shop Update

The Organic Farm Shop is based at Abby Home Farm near Cirencester. We offer seasonal and organic fruit and vegetables through our shop and café, where

visitors are welcome to peruse the garden or take a wooded wildlife walk around the farm.

The wood chip boiler has really come into its own this winter, we have got to grips with the size and moisture content of the chip necessary to keep it happy and the green room, etc. are nice and warm. The aim is to become self sufficient in energy and plans are afoot to take it to the next stage... We are now in the first real year of publicising our teaching kitchen and

our eco yurt camp, which sleeps about 18. We are looking for partners who would benefit from the fresh air, great organic local food and space to play and learn about where food comes from and maybe even cook some! Do get in touch if you know of groups/schools who might be interested. Businesses who might like a tailor made away day here are also welcome. We are a simple living, friendly place, passionate about the connection between our food and the land.

For more information contact:

The Organic Farm Shop
Abby Home Farm, Burford Road,
Cirencester, GL7 5HF

T: 01285 640441

W: www.theorganicfarmshop.co.uk

The Green Kitchen @ The Organic Farm Shop

Courses in Spring 2007:

SAT 24 MARCH: 10 - 2pm
Back to Basics - Cooking with Tofu & Tempeh

SAT 28 APRIL: 10 - 2pm
Back to Basics - Cooking with Grains

SAT 19 MAY: 10 - 2pm
Wheat and Dairy Free Home Cooking



For more information or to book, please contact the Organic Farm Shop or visit our

Green Kitchen web pages:

www.theorganicfarmshop.co.uk/organic2.htm

Eco Centre status for the Wilderness and Plump Hill Centres

The Forest of Dean is celebrating having the county's first official Eco Centre. Young people from Steam Mills School and the Royal Forest of Dean College helped to raise the flag on Friday 26th January to celebrate the award.

The outdoor and environmental centres facilities were awarded with Eco Centre status for reducing their

impact on the environment. Working towards a more sustainable future is a key thread that runs throughout the ethos of the centre and its programmes for schools and youth groups.

Changes at the Wilderness Centre include the installation of a biofuel boiler, creation of a sensory garden, installation of double glazing and water saving taps, and the development of habitat plans to protect the nature reserve.

Plump Hill has new toilets and a new local stone lobby with energy-saving measures including low-energy lighting, sunpipes and solar panels on the roof to heat water and produce electricity.

Steam Mills headteacher Janet Williams said: "Members of our school council attended the event. "We have got bronze Eco status and the Wilderness Centre are going to help us achieve silver status. We try to conserve water and take part in recycling schemes at the school."

Counsellor Alan Pearce, county

council cabinet member for young people, said: "When I visited these two centres recently, I was very impressed and encouraged by everything they have been doing.

"The grant of Eco Centre status is a very welcome development and I congratulate everyone who has made this possible."

To receive the Eco Centre award, the process of involving staff and young people and changing attitudes is key.

The centres have been working towards the award since 2004 and staff have played a big part.

Young people have also been involved in the changes, adding to displays and producing an Eco-code. If you would like more information about how your school can become an Eco-school please see the website <http://www.eco-schools.org.uk>.

For more information contact:

Sharon Hockey
The Wilderness Centre
T: 01594 542687
sharon.hockey@gloucestershire.gov.uk



Gloucestershire's environmental partnership

Gloucestershire's voluntary and community organisations are meeting in March to develop a countywide environmental partnership.

Establishing an environmental partnership for Gloucestershire is a key outcome of Natural and Built Environment Block which forms part of Gloucestershire's Local Area Agreement (LAA). LAAs set out a contract between local authorities and local organisations to help them work in partnership to develop sustainable communities.

The environmental partnership is being led and developed by the voluntary sector. The Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Environment Strategy Group's first meeting will be hosted by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and is open to interested voluntary and community organisations within Gloucestershire:

Wednesday 14 March
2pm - 4.30pm
Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust,
Robinswood Hill Country Park,
Gloucester

Issues covered include:

- wildlife conservation/nature reserves
- parks/green spaces and corridors,
- community environmental initiatives,
- energy conservation/generation,
- climate change issues,
- environmental and countryside planning & policy,
- environmental leisure,
- built environment/housing,
- 'green' volunteering

We are keen to involve as many and diverse CVS organisations as possible at this early stage. Clearly the public and private sector will also be key to a future environment partnership and part of the scoping project will be to involve all likely stakeholders in what shape



an environmental partnership should take and how it should be governed.

Natalie Beecham
Deputy Chief Executive
Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust

To attend the meeting or for more information contact:

Lorraine Kapp
Partnership and Participation Project
01452 332424
lorraine.k@gavca.org.uk

Are YOU concerned about climate change?

Do you wish you could do more about it but don't know where to start?

Come and find out about **low carbon lifestyles!**



The aim of the meeting is to show you how to slash your personal emissions by 80% as quickly as possible by reducing your personal carbon footprint from a UK average of 5 tonnes a year to only **1 TONNE** a year.

...How low can you go?

COME AND FIND OUT HOW TO BE A ONE TONNER!

Monday 2nd April at 7pm
Bethesda Church
Great Norwood Street, Cheltenham

Saturday 5th May at 4pm
One World Festival
Park Campus, University of Gloucestershire, The Park, Cheltenham

<http://theonetonners.blogspot.com>

Going Somewhere?

Congestion and global warning vs using and investing in public transport!

UK Traveline

The UK's no.1 source for planning your journey by public transport... by bus, coach or rail... or a combination!

0870 608 2608

www.traveline.org.uk

Liftshare: Car Share Gloucestershire

Get a lift and cut your carbon emissions.

0870 011 1199

www.carsharegloucestershire.com

Car Clubs: Stroud Valley Car Club

Pooled car ownership - saving money and reducing environmental impact.

01453 750348

www.svccc.co.uk

An Inconvenient Truth: free film hire

Vision 21 has two copies of Al Gore's provoking film to lend for free. A deposit is required.

Contact: office@vision21.org.uk or 01242 224321

We also recommend **Ice Age 2: The Meltdown** for kids!

Sustainable Development at Cheltenham Borough Council

At Cheltenham Borough Council, we're unusual in having a dedicated sustainability team within the policy division. This is staffed by two part time officers, Carol Rabbette (Sustainability Manager) and Gill Morris (Sustainability Officer). We have an ongoing agenda that's always growing!

Sustainable construction: We are working with the Built Environment division on sustainable construction issues, including looking at training for planning and building control officers and developing a sustainability checklist to be used with planning applications. Our team is also advising on sustainability issues in relation to the Midwinter allotment site, which is to be sold for development.

Sustainable procurement: We are working with our procurement officers on improving the sustainability of our procurement processes, including developing a 'Cheltenham Minimum Standards' document to inform procurement decisions.

Climate change and sustainable energy: We're producing the first annual report on Cheltenham's Climate Change Strategy for spring 2007. We have been analysing energy consumption data for the council's key operational buildings to identify priority areas for energy saving action. Additionally, the team is working with Severn Wye Energy Agency to raise awareness of energy efficiency issues at work and at home. There has been a

huge amount of interest in renewable energy recently and we have been looking at ways we can encourage renewable energy via the planning system and in our own property stock.

Staff awareness of sustainability issues: We're investigating ways to include sustainability in induction training for council staff.

Partnerships: The sustainability team coordinates Cheltenham Sustainability Partnership, which is made up of representatives from local organisations with an interest and expertise in sustainable development. Their role is to provide a scrutiny function for the council and local strategic partnership. We also work with Forum for the Future, the leading national sustainable development charity which is based in Cheltenham, and Cheltenham Centre for Change. We are also part of Cheltenham Environment Forum.

In 2007 we hope to start work on Sustainable Tourism and will be reviewing the council's environmental management strategy and developing a set of corporate sustainability indicators once the community plan for Cheltenham has been agreed.

Gill Morris
Sustainability Officer
Cheltenham Borough Council



Farm visits for schools Over Farm, nr Gloucester

FREE visits available for some schools. Phone to enquire.

Would you like children to:

- Know where their food comes from?
- Have an understanding of farming and food production?
- Learn about wildlife and the countryside on a real working farm?

A visit to Over Farm can:

- Provide a fun, hands-on curriculum-linked experience
- Include a learning walk and tractor trailer ride around the farm, pick and taste seasonal crops, feed the animals
- Promote healthy eating and local food production
- Explore environmental and sustainable development issues



Suitable for pre-school, primary and secondary school pupils. Visits are led by an experienced, qualified teacher. We can adapt activities to suit your needs and curriculum areas you wish to cover.

Over Farm is a member of 'Farms for Schools', which ensures necessary health & safety requirements are met.

For more information contact Mo Braham:

T: 01531 820808 or 07970 619850

E: Davidandmo.topp@ukgateway.net

www.over-farm-market.com



Local and Global Footsteps

During 6-15th July 2007, Moneague Teacher Training College in St Ann, Jamaica will be hosting Footstep 11, the eleventh Global Footsteps International Youth Conference. The main theme for Footstep 11 will be 'consumerism and the environment'. International youth will take part in workshops, dialogues, field study trips and public awareness-raising during the week-long environmental event.

Footstep 11 is being organised by UK educational charity The Rendezvous Society and its Global Footsteps programme partners in Kenya, Russia, Gottingen and Jamaica. It is open to all environmentally-minded youth aged 18 - 25. Young people from Gloucestershire who are interested in attending the conference should contact Glenn Standish by email: glennstandish@yahoo.com.

The deadline for all entries is 30th April 2007.

A major outcome will be establishing Local Footsteps groups in each of the communities represented at the Footstep 11 conference. These will focus on tackling local environmental problems and on

addressing the desire for material wealth which lies at the heart of all environmental problems. On the 15th of February 2007 the first of these, Local Footsteps Gloucestershire (LF GLOS), met for the first time. This group, although linked to Footstep 11, is largely independent and open to all young adults aged 18-40 in Gloucestershire. The group will aim to tackle sustainability and international development issues using a fresh, cutting edge approach that is currently being developed at the University of Gloucestershire. The focus will be on a critique of consumerist, materialistic culture, which lies at the heart of most environmental problems.

For more information or to join LF GLOS please contact:

Morgan Phillips
E: s0311296@glos.ac.uk
T: 07967828063
www.global-footsteps.com
www.myspace.com/globalfootsteps



Green Business Survey

Vision 21 - in partnership with Parklife, Cheltenham Borough Council and the University of Gloucestershire - has secured a grant from the Council's Second Homes Fund. Using this money the organisation has just commenced a survey of waste and energy use in businesses on industrial estates in Cheltenham. We have employed a team of six canvassers who will visit all the companies and help them complete a questionnaire.

Very little information is available about how companies manage their waste and energy consumption in Cheltenham. Only 100 companies are members of the Green Business Club run by Alex Steele at the University. No agency has any data on current practice across the business community in the town.

The objectives of the survey are to:

- Survey current practice on waste and energy management by businesses in 5 industrial estates in

Cheltenham

- Promote sustainable alternatives
- Put businesses in touch with sources of help and information to change practice
- Sign businesses up to become members of the Green Business Club

The information gathered by the survey will mean that we have improved knowledge and awareness of business practice in waste management and energy consumption by businesses in the town. We also hope to identify a number of green champions and to increase engagement of the business community in waste and energy reduction measures.

Early indications are that there is a great deal of interest in the green agenda from companies and that they are eager to do more to improve their

performance in this area. The results of the survey will be available on the Vision 21 website at the end of April and will be used by the partners to provide targeted assistance to companies wishing to make further progress.

For more information contact:

Chris Hickey - 01242 254466
Rebecca Dobson - 01242 224321
www.vision21.org.uk

Job Opportunity

Green Tourism Officer

Cotswold Conservation Board
£23,869 - £25,448
Fixed term contract to 30 Sep 2008
Closing date: 14 March
Interview date: 30 March

Contact: John Mills, Project Development Officer, 01451 862000
www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

Younger Vision

Climate change and Arctic Animals

Some people still believe that climate change is something that will happen far in the future, but for the animals in the Arctic it is happening now.

According to the WWF the polar bear is under great threat of becoming extinct and is now classed as endangered.

Why is the polar bear threatened?

The main source of food for the polar bear is seals. They hunt during the winter when the ice is thick enough for them to reach the Seals.

The polar bears store as much food in their bodies as they can to help them survive through the summer when they cannot hunt.

Because the temperature in the Arctic is rising, the summer is now longer and the polar bears do not have as much time to find food.

If they don't store enough food the polar bears become weak.

What happens if the polar bears become weak?

It will be much harder for them to hunt.

If they are weak the females won't be able to have cubs

The mothers who do have cubs won't produce enough milk for their cubs to survive

Weak polar bears become desperate for food and are willing to take greater risks which endanger their lives. Already many are wandering into villages in north Canada and Russia scavenging for something to eat.

What can we do?

The best way to help save the polar bears is to stop the ice in the Arctic melting even more. The ice is melting



because the energy we use releases CO₂ (carbon dioxide) into the atmosphere, causing the Earth to warm up. We can cut down on the energy we use by doing very simple things:

1. Turn off lights when you leave a room.
2. Don't leave appliances like mobile phone chargers on unnecessarily.
3. Put energy saving light bulbs in the rooms you use most often.
4. Take a shower rather than a bath. It uses approximately 1/4 of the water.
5. Close your curtains at dusk to stop heat escaping through windows.
6. Don't leave appliances like TVs and computer monitors on standby as this can use as much energy as when they are on.

You can also support the work the WWF is doing by organising things like sponsored events to raise money which will help them to help the polar bears.

One of the best ways to save the polar bears is to tell people about what is happening. The more people who know, the more people can help!

If you would like to learn more about climate change and the polar bears you can visit the following sites:

- www.wwf.org
- www.ecokids.ca
- www.epa.gov/climatechange/kids
- www.polarbearsinternational.org
- www.climate.org

Wordsearch

Below is a list of 10 animals that live in the Arctic who are under threat because of climate change. Can you find them all?

- arctic fox
- caribou
- hare
- lemming
- penguin
- polar bear
- sea lion
- seal
- walrus
- wolf

B	U	O	B	I	R	A	C	F	P
A	G	H	F	G	H	H	L	H	O
N	R	X	S	A	B	E	K	G	L
N	S	C	R	U	M	U	N	B	A
I	E	E	T	M	R	O	U	Y	R
U	A	B	I	I	I	L	L	D	B
G	L	N	F	L	C	N	A	T	E
N	G	C	A	P	N	F	G	W	A
E	G	E	W	O	L	F	O	P	R
P	S	P	B	B	C	E	P	X	R

Quick Reference

Agenda 21 - The Vision 21 Office

Graham Stanley - Director
Rebecca Dobson - Co-ordinator
Ruth Cole - Development Administrator
Tel: 01242 224321 Fax: 01242 260258
office@vision21.org.co.uk
www.vision21.org.uk
Vision 21 Cheltenham Consultant:
Chris Hickey
c.hickey@talk21.com
Both Vision 21 contacts are based at
30 St Georges Place Cheltenham
Gloucestershire GL50 3JZ

Other Local Agenda 21 Contacts

Gloucestershire County Council
Peter Wiggins - 01452 425189
Cheltenham Borough Council
Carol Rabbette - 01242 264166
www.cheltenham.gov.uk
Cotswold District Council
Gary Packer - 01285 623428
www.cotswold.gov.uk
Forest of Dean District Council
Alastair Chapman - 01594 812329
www.fweb.org.uk/dean
Gloucester City Council
Meyrick Brentnall - 01452 396829
Stephen McDonnell - 01452 396209
www.gloucester.gov.uk
Tewkesbury Borough Council
Chris Bosley - 01684 272185
www.tewkesburybc.gov.uk
Stroud District Council
Sally Daley - (Energy)
Sustainable Energy Officer
01453 754445

Energy

Severn Wye Energy Agency (SWEA)
Unit 6/15, The Mews, Brook Street,
Mitcheldean, Gloucestershire GL17 0SL
Tel: 01594 545 360 Fax: 01594 545 361
www.swea.co.uk

Waste

Get It Sorted
Stefan Wilczak - 0870 241 6206
www.getitsorted.org
Cheltenham Borough Council
01242 774699
Cotswold District Council
John Parkinson, Waste Manager
01285 623618
john.parkinson@cotswold.gov.uk
Gloucester City Council
Trevor Light - 01452 396396

enviro@gloucester.gov.uk
Gloucestershire County Council
Mike Williams - 01452 425835
mike.j.williams@gloucestershire.gov.uk
Forest of Dean District Council
Kim Carpenter - 01594 812432
kim.carpenter@fdean.gov.uk
Stroud District Council
Carlos Novoth - 01453 754412
carlos.novoth@stroud.gov.uk
Tewkesbury Borough Council
Chris Bosley - 01684 272185
chris.bosley@tewkesbury.gov.uk
Gloucestershire County Council - Recycling
Sue Kinsey - 01452 426525
Don't Rubbish Cheltenham Campaign
Jackie Mills - 01242 226276
www.tidycheltenham.co.uk
Cheltenham Reclaim Furniture Recycling
John Mallows - 01242 228823
reclaim@cheltenhamcentreforchange.org.uk
Resourceful Cheltenham
John Mallows - 01242 570111
johnmallows@cheltenhamcentreforchange.org.uk
The Furniture Recycling Project
Ian Ellis - 01452 318976
office@frpglos.org.uk
Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust - Composting
Rosie Woolley & Margaret Westmore -
01452 383333

Green Gardening/ Farming

Gloucestershire Organic Gardening Group
Stella Ellis - 01242 230442
www.gogg.org.uk
Gloucestershire Orchard Group (GOG)
www.orchard-group.uklinux.net/glos
Gloucestershire... It's About Taste Campaign
www.tastegloucestershire.co.uk
Good Gardeners Association
Mathew Adams - 01453 520322
Stroud Community Agriculture
Nick Weir - 01453 840037
nick.weir@freuk.com

Transport

Thumbs Up!
01453 753252
thumbs-up@supanet.com
Stroud Community Car Club
01453 750348
info@svccc.co.uk www.svccc.co.uk
Gloucestershire Integrated Transport Unit
Shire Hall, Gloucester
Tel: 01452 425334 Fax: 01452 425995
communitytransport@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Gloucestershire Minibus Scheme
01242 224321 or 0800 3890046
www.glosminibuscheme.co.uk
gms@vision21.org.uk
Cycle Campaign - Cheltenham
Graham Ricketts 01242 513534
secretary@cyclecheltenham.org.uk

Fairtrade/Global poverty

Gloucestershire Fairtrade Network
Co-ordinator: Nigel Graham
01242 242617 ng@fish.co.uk

Wildlife Conservation

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust
info@gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk
www.gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk
Glos Farming, Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG)
Lindsay Grainger - 01452 627487
Glos Vale Conservation Volunteers
Lorna Scott - 01242 227336
info@gvcv.org.uk

Local Economy: Credit Unions

Gloucester - 01452 371131
Forest of Dean - 01594 837788
Stroud Valleys - 01453 884922
Cheltenham - 01242 584853
Tewkesbury - 01684 295010

Farmers Markets

Gloucestershire Farmers Markets
www.ogfmg.org.uk, www.madeinstroud.org,
www.fresh-n-local.co.uk,
www.severnfarmersmarkets.org.uk
Berkeley Farmers Market
Berkeley Town Hall
3rd Saturday of each month - 9am - 12.30pm
Contact: Judy King - 01453 890383
www.severnfarmersmarkets.org.uk
Bourton on the Water at Country Wide Stores
4th Sunday of each month - 9am - 1.30pm
Contact: Jeremy Benson - 01451 844134
bensonsapplejuice@tiscali.co.uk
www.bensonsapplejuice.co.uk
Cheltenham Long Gardens, Promenade
2nd & last Friday of each month - 9am - 3pm
Contact: Doug Cotton, Grenchurch Ltd
01608 652556
www.cheltenham.gov.uk
Cirencester Market Place
2nd & 4th Saturday of each month - 9am - 1pm
Contact: Simon Smith - 01453 834777
simonsmith@pdcarter.co.uk
Dursley Town Hall
2nd & 4th Saturday of each month - 9am - 1pm
Contact: Judy King - 01453 890383

www.severnfarmersmarkets.org.uk
Gloucester, The Cross & Southgate Street
Every Friday - 9am - 3pm
Contact: Clare Gerbrands, Made in Stroud
01453 758060, info@madeinstroud.org
www.fresh-n-local.co.uk
Stow On The Wold, Market Square
2nd Thursday of each month - 9am - 2pm
Contact: Clare Gerbrands, Made in Stroud
01453 758060 info@madeinstroud.org
www.fresh-n-local.co.uk
Stroud Cornhill Market Place
Every Saturday - 9am - 2pm
Contact: Clare Gerbrands, Made in Stroud
01453 758060 info@madeinstroud.org
www.fresh-n-local.co.uk
Tewkesbury Abbey Car Park
2nd Saturday of each month - 9am - 1pm
Contact: Katie Power - 01684 272249
katie.power@tewkesbury.gov.uk
Wotton under Edge Town Hall
1st Saturday of each month - 9am - 1pm
Contact: Diana 01453 843210
market@wotton-under-edge.com
Yate Shopping Centre
1st Saturday & 3rd Wednesday of each month -
9am - 1.30pm
Contact: Judy King - 01453 890383
www.severnfarmersmarkets.org.uk

Education

GLOSDEC, Gloucestershire Development Education Centre
01242 224311 glos.dec@virgin.net:
Glos Resource Centre
Lin Mathews - 01452 504442
www.grcldt.org
Waste Education Team
Sue Kinsey 01452 426525
The Wilderness Centre
Sharon Hockey - 01594 542551
sharon.hockey@gloucestershire.gov.uk
International Centre for Conservation Education
Mark Boulton - 01242 674839
icce@brocklebank.plus.com
www.icce.org.uk

Sustainable Resource Centres

Cheltenham Centre for Change
30 St George's Place Cheltenham. GL50 3JZ
Tel: 01242 570111
admin@cheltenhamcentreforchange.org.uk

Round Table for Sustainable Development

Chair: Gordon McGlone
Contact via Vision 21 - 01242 224321
office@vision21.demon.co.uk

Volunteers wanted!

Vision 21 is looking for volunteers to assist with some of our activities. These include organising events, communicating with the public and businesses, writing and/or editing newsletters and magazines plus much more. For more information please contact Rebecca on 01242 224321. We'd welcome your interest.



Our Partners

Working with support from Gloucestershire County Council.



Vision 21 is part of Agenda 21, a global action plan for sustainable development in the 21st century. Agenda 21 sets out what needs to be done (and by whom) in order to achieve sustainable development worldwide. It covers issues that range from pollution to poverty and from countryside to crime.

Vision 21 is your local agenda 21 initiative for Gloucestershire. It aims to give everyone in the county the chance to take an active role in building a better future. By tackling issues here in Gloucestershire we can start to have an effect on the even larger global problems.

Vision 21 is supported by various organisations within Gloucestershire, including Gloucestershire County Council and the District and Borough Councils.



Does your group or organisation ever need a minibus?

If you already have a minibus, could you lend it to another GMS member when you are not using it - and get paid?



Join GMS and benefit from low cost minibus travel, lower running costs, free volunteer MiDAS tests, access to a countywide 'pool' of volunteer drivers ...

contact 0800 389 0046 or visit www.glosminibusscheme.co.uk



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