

BOVEYCLIMATEACTION

Issue 5 February 08

Energy saving bulbs now come in every size and fitting. No excuses left.



Lighting up time - free light bulbs for everyone!

There's so much we can all do to reduce our use of energy. Whether it's turning down the heating thermostat, saying no to standby buttons or switching to low energy light bulbs - every little helps. It really does! And it helps save money as well as carbon emissions.

BOVEYCLIMATEACTION is launching a campaign in the town to help do just that. We are offering a free low energy light bulb to every household on Bovey (you just have to complete a short form about your energy use).

If you have not yet switched from old fashioned bulbs, now is your chance. New types and sizes of bulbs mean that there are low energy equivalents for almost all styles of bulb. They

are brighter, faster and cleaner than ever. To help you decide, we have a free factsheet which tells you all you need to know about choosing and using low energy bulbs. Pick one up with your free bulb.

But there's more to life than bulbs. The Energy Team have now completed almost 60 household audits and are mapping this information onto the town as a whole - so we will soon know just how energy hungry



Bovey is. Another success is the number of people who have switched to our preferred green energy supplier - Ecotricity. Over 40 people have now switched - adding £600 to the BCA Renewable Energy Fund.

Your free bulb is available at any of the following events:

23rd February - **Seedy Saturday**, Bovey Tracey Town Hall

15th March - **Producers' Market**

29th March - **Producers' Market**

or from **Cottage Books**, on Fore Street.

You will also be able to get a bulb at some of our local clubs and societies.

If you would like to know any more about the light bulb campaign or any of our other work on reducing energy, ring 0845 4786311 or visit our website:

www.boveyclimateaction.org.uk

Food, Glorious Food

- there's miles more we can do

It seems that there's a growing interest in food - judging by the number of people who 'signed up' to help the Food Group at a recent **BOVEYCLIMATEACTION** meeting.

Food is one of the biggest source of household carbon emissions - the transportation, distribution and collection of food produces almost twice the emissions from our heating, lighting and daily car use. No wonder, then, that the Food Group is aiming to tackle all these issues.

One of the first campaigns is to encourage more people to grow their own - fruit, vegetables and herbs. And to kick it all off, they have organised **Seedy Saturday** on the 23rd February at the Town Hall. Get along between 11 and 3 to buy and swap seeds; pick up tips and share in some locally sourced refreshments.



Another aim is to reduce food miles and encourage more people to buy local produce. There is now a **BOVEYCLIMATEACTION fact sheet** on the carbon impact of different foods and a Local Food Directory is being compiled. You can find out more from Audrey - audrey@boveyclimateaction.org.uk

A third part of the Food Group's work is to try and develop community gardening. We are looking at land locally to try and establish a **community orchard and garden**. And, of course, the Council already offers allotments at Furzleigh Lane, near the Hospital, which have a healthy waiting list.

This will be followed by a '**Get Going Growing**' workshop on Saturday 12th April. The workshop will be a great opportunity to learn how to get a vegetable garden started or just share ideas.



In the know

It is not always easy keeping up with all the information about climate change. We are learning more each month about the science - and of course the responses from government, business and communities are also changing.

BOVEYCLIMATEACTION has helped to establish a Climate Change Corner in the Library which is a good start to finding out more. Meanwhile, if you are online, try some of these leads:

Royal Society's guide to climate controversies.

<http://royalsociety.org/page.asp?id=6229>

The Met Office publishes a range of useful documents

<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/hadleycentre/pubs/brochures/>

For tips on what you can do

<http://www.climatechallenge.gov.uk/>
<http://www.grownupgreen.org.uk/>
<http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/>

If you feel like getting more involved in campaigning for change

<http://www.fairsharesfairchoice.com/>
<http://www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/climate/>

And if you want to see what the future might look like

<http://www.marklynas.org/>
<http://www.hardrainproject.com/home.htm>

BCA Dates

You will see from the newsletter that there is a lot going on in **BOVEYCLIMATEACTION** at the moment. Try and keep these dates in your diary:

19th Feb. Speaker event at 7.30 with Jeff Ridley of the Met Office; Methodist Hall.

23rd February. Seedy Saturday - from 11 till 3 in the Town Hall.

15th and 29th March. Free light bulbs at Producers' Market.

18th March. Members meeting at 7.30 with Ben Bryant, the Teignbridge Recycling Officer. Methodist Hall.

Coming soon (late April). Speaker event with Alastair Sawday (publisher of Special Places to Stay Guides) on How to Choose a Green Holiday.

The Green Hornet

The Green Hornet (and his side kick - Kyoto) will be tough on climate change, and tough on the causes of climate change. The Green Hornet is dedicated to sorting out climate change myths.



Kyoto was having trouble getting his head around why sometimes you see carbon footprints expressed as 'Tonnes of CO₂' and sometimes a smaller number, 'Tonnes of Carbon Equivalent' - so what does all this really mean?

The Green Hornet was quick to explain. "Remember your school chemistry, Kyoto. Carbon is an atom. CO₂ is a molecule. The CO₂ molecule consists of one carbon atom + two oxygen atoms so it weighs more. While the rest of the world expresses emissions in CO₂ equivalents (CO₂e), some U.S. sources express emissions data in terms of carbon equivalents (CE). So this means they only count the weight of the carbon atom in the CO₂ molecule, rather than the weight of the whole molecule."

"I got it!" Kyoto beamed, "but why do they keep talking about weight - when CO₂ is just a gas?"

"Back to your chemistry, Kyoto. Carbon has weight. It's the same stuff that is in pencil lead or think of it as soot from a fire. We have effectively been filling the atmosphere with soot for the past 100 years - and are continuing to do so at an alarming rate.

For the first time Kyoto started to see where all this was leading and he looked very uncomfortable.

The Green Hornet simply said, "Time to take action! Kyoto".

10 MORE IDEAS TO HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Join a car share scheme

Make the switch to green electricity

Fit secondary glazing

Vote for low carbon candidates at the elections

Reusing is better than recycling

Holiday at home this year

Grow plants from seed

Wear jumpers instead of putting the heating on

Buy an OWL to see what energy you are using

Get involved - and build a stronger community

Log onto the BCA website for other Top Tips.

News from the outside - another point of view

Coming - ready or not

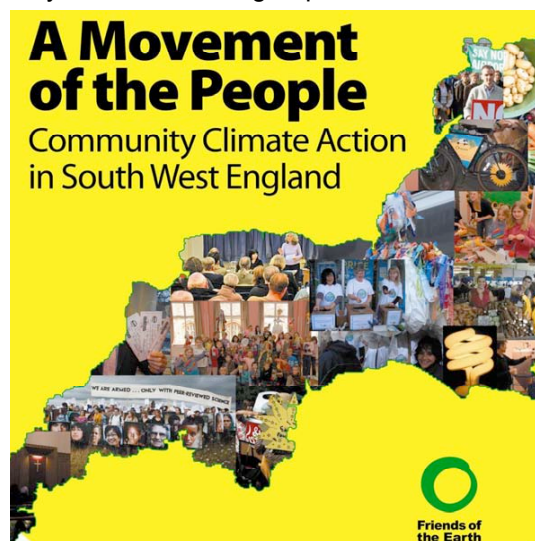
If you have been keeping up with the news lately, you will have noticed that our government, and even the the EU, are starting to pass laws about climate change. They have tried persuasion (a bit), they have tried incentives (barely), and now they want to force us and businesses to change our behaviour. And not before time.

But if you read the new climate change bill carefully, it really is a case of too little, too late. There are good things in the bill - but we were hoping for bolder steps - like banning incandescent bulbs and plastic bags.

But perhaps the biggest change will be felt when the carbon trading scheme really gets going. Then all that we buy will have the environmental cost built in - and that will surely influence our choices.

Across the region

Friends of the Earth in the South West have been trying to check out just what is going on in communities across the region. Incredibly, they found over 250 groups that are active in



dealing with climate change. Some are new, some are small and some have been making quite a splash - but it adds up to the beginnings of a powerful movement of people who are saying "enough is enough".

www.foe.co.uk/england/news/south_west_climate_activity

British Sea Power

It seems that we are finally waking up to the almost limitless power that can be got from the sea that surrounds our tiny island. With the Regional Development Agency getting permission for their Wave Hub project off the Cornwall coast; with plans for a huge

offshore wind farm in the Bristol Channel and the controversial proposals for a Severn Barrage - we might have the beginnings of a new industry. One that could provide cleaner power from waves, tides and wind.

Seale Hayne

There's been controversy around Seale Hayne before - but now there's a group trying to do the 'right' thing. With a varied group of influential backers, the group is aiming to set up a Climate Change Solutions Centre at the former agricultural college. It's a big ask and will require financial and political support on a grand scale. But then, it's a big problem we face - so why not support it?

www.climatechangecentre.co.uk



The Business Case

Are big businesses finally getting the message? First the CBI issue a report that clearly recognises climate change as a major risk for business - and asks government to deploy "the full range of public policies . . . to create the right incentives" The report also explicitly recognises that "business must become green to grow"

Then, hot on its heels, is the news that 150 of the world's biggest companies are asking governments to put in place comprehensive and binding arrangements to mitigate the risks of climate change.

What a Bali Hoo

More hot air from many of the governments at the recent Climate Change Conference in Bali. And the USA doing its bit behind the scenes to sabotage any agreement to binding cuts in CO₂ - but it doesn't matter how rich you are, you will still be affected by runaway climate change if we don't all reduce now. The final chance to reach a global agreement will come in Copenhagen in 2009 - let's make sure the politicians hear our voices.

THE NEWS STAND

- what's going on with

BOVEYCLIMATEACTION

Bag it for Bovey

The Town Council and the many of the local traders have launched into the **Plastic Bag Free** campaign with real energy. It is great to see more and more people carrying their own bags - and to see many shops switching to corn starch bags.

BOVEYCLIMATEACTION will continue to support the Campaign - both to reduce the shocking amount of waste caused by plastic bags but also because of the amount of carbon emissions created during the manufacturing process.

Speakers Corner

Following the success of the events we put on last year, we are aiming to get a series of interesting and challenging speakers to Bovey Tracey. Over the next couple of months, we are bringing in **Jeff Ridley** (from the Hadley Centre at the Met Office) and **Alastair Sawday** (publisher of Special Places to Stay Guides). These events are normally free and are a great way to find out more about BOVEYCLIMATEACTION.

What a great party

A bit like London buses - suddenly three come along at once. Only we are talking about three of the most respected environmentalists in the UK - who all came to help us celebrate our first year in style.

It says something about the importance of climate change and the amazing reputation of BCA - that we could get Mark Edwards, Mark Lynas and Jonathon Porritt to join 200 other partygoers at our **Birthday Bash**. Music, food, debate, films and even a drop of bubbly.

More on MoorCar

A **car-share club** lets members who only need a car from time to time, rent one for a few hours or a day. If they can do this, they are less likely to need a second car, so it can be very good value.

BOVEYCLIMATEACTION are working with Moorcar and Dartmoor National Park to obtain two cars for Bovey. Moorcars are a local community-owned company which helps to set up car-sharing clubs, and looks after the servicing and booking system.

The main thing we need to make this work is somewhere fairly central to park the cars. If anyone has room for one or two cars, off the road, and would like to help, please let us know. We can offer free benefits in exchange for parking spaces!

Waste Not, Want Not

With the Food and Energy Groups now firmly established, we want to turn our attention to waste. Waste processing can produce an awful lot of emissions and what remains goes to landfill, which creates methane - an even more

Pictures: Nigel's Eco Store, Paul Glendell, Pixar, Riverford, FoE, Seale Hayne, Leighton King, Brad Beattie



damaging gas than CO₂. If you would like to help reduce waste and encourage more recycling, please get in touch on info@boveyclimateaction.org.uk or 0845 4786311.

Praise indeed

Tony Juniper, the Executive Director of Friends of the Earth, gave us a bit of a boost while speaking during a recent visit to Plymouth. "I've seen some really inspiring work going on, for example Transition Town Totnes and **Bovey Climate Action**." He had some encouragement for us too. "Change takes a little while. If you're beavering away on a local campaign, you may not notice that things are changing in quite a profound way around you. Over the past two years on the climate change issues, for example, it's utterly transformed."

Out and About

We often get asked to help new climate groups form in other communities. We have recently spoken with groups in Woolacombe, Harbertonford, Bradninch and Somerton. And we have begun working with a group of active climate communities from around the country to explore what we might do together.