

BOVEY CLIMATE ACTION

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Simple steps to save energy might start with loft insulation



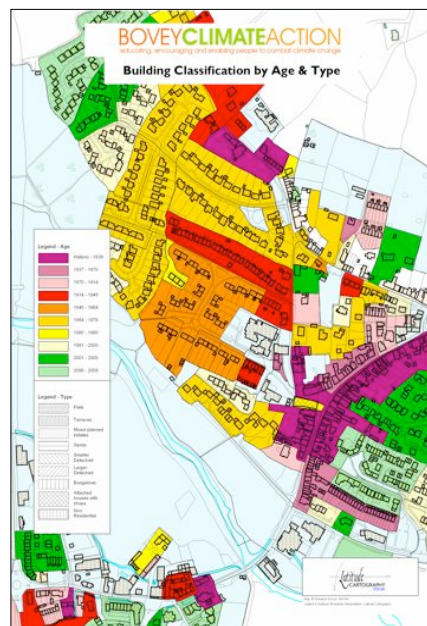
Power mapping putting Bovey on the map

Over 250 Bovey residents have taken home a free energy-saving light bulb - after filling in a home energy form - as part of our Strike a Light campaign.

Using that information, we can build up a picture of Bovey Tracey and its energy use. At this early stage, it is becoming clear that the age and type of house are strong factors - many older houses, for instance, do not have cavity walls; and detached houses emit more heat than terraced ones. Even the age of the main inhabitant makes a difference.

The next stage, for BCA, is to link the home energy data with all our Wastewatchers energy audit information and put it onto maps of house types (see

example) and so build up a better picture of the town. All this will provide us with a baseline so that we can measure changes over time.



Based on the 256 energy reports:

- 92% of houses have less than 250mm of loft insulation, 56% have less than 100mm
- 67% have double glazing
- 73% have fitted some low energy bulbs, 9% have none
- 13% have condensing boilers
- 4% have some sort of solar heating
- 75% are heated by gas, 12% by oil and 10% by electricity.

There is clearly a long way to go - for the town and for many households. Yet saving energy can also save money - and there are now many low cost schemes for insulation run by energy suppliers.

If you would like to know more, or would like your own energy audit, contact the BCA Energy Group: julie@boveyclimateaction.org.uk or ring 0845 4786311

Climate Action Goes National

BOVEYCLIMATEACTION have been active in helping to set up a national network of low carbon communities. The idea is both to learn from each other and to combine the lobbying power of all the different groups around the country. There is a new website for the Low Carbon Communities Network (LCCN): <http://low.communitycarbon.net/>

The network is holding its first conference on Saturday October 4th in Llangollen, at Royal International Pavilion. It will run from 10.30am to 4.00pm, with keynote speakers, workshops and plenty of opportunity to network. Confirmed speakers are Mark Lynas; George Marshall; Paul Kingsnorth; and Penney Poyzer, presenter of BBC's No Waste Like Home. About 150 people are expected. There will also be great evening entertainment on the same evening at Llangollen Town Hall.

The conference is free to low carbon communities and several people will be going from BCA. Book directly at: conference@fireflyuk.net. More information from the LCCN website.



The organisers are trying to set up virtual participation by live video linkup from community groups that don't want to travel and so reach a wider audience. The idea is that some groups will hold their own local event and hook up to the main event for certain keynote speakers.



One switch - three benefits

Marion Crausaz, of Sparkworld Ltd, presenting Cathy King, of Bovey Climate Acton, with £100 in energy efficient appliance vouchers.

The BIG Switch update

Thanks to sponsorship from **Sparkworld Ltd** of Heathfield, four households that have made **The BIG Switch** to one of Ecotricity's green electricity tariffs by 2009 will receive extra energy saving help. This will come in the form of either £100 in vouchers off energy efficient appliances, a saverplug (for fridge or freezer) or one of two sets of energy saving light bulbs.

The BIG Switch has already generated £480 in referral fees from Ecotricity – which BCA will be using to fund energy saving measures in community buildings – and each household that switches adds a further £15. Ecotricity has

consistently invested substantially more per customer in developing renewable electricity (£555 each in 2007) than any other UK supplier so that supporting them is a great way to help build our national renewable generation capacity.

One of the first to make **The BIG Switch** was the Town Council last year who estimated that they would save £160 in so doing. If you have yet to switch, there has never been a better time to do so. Either ring Ecotricity direct on freephone 08000 326 100 – and quote BCA1 (BCA2 for businesses) to trigger the referral fee and add to BCA's community energy saving fund – or switch via the special link on our website: www.boveyclimateaction.org.uk

The Green Hornet

While filling up at the petrol station, Kyoto was watching the Green Hornet tapping away on his calculator, "let's see, at £1.26/litre ... that's £5.85/gallon!" "Good grief!, it sounds a lot more when you think of it that way", exclaimed Kyoto. So here are some top Green Hornet tips to help save petrol.



- 1) Pump up your tyres - Under-inflated tyres have more rolling resistance and so use more fuel.
- 2) Store things in the garage - Clear out the boot. Every extra 50kg will increase your petrol consumption by an average of 2 per cent.
- 3) Reduce your resistance - Roof racks create extra wind resistance and increase fuel consumption. If you do not need it, take it off.
- 4) Open a window - air conditioning can increase consumption by 10 per cent. – If you are hot, and doing less than 60 mph, open your window.
- 5) Take your time - Driving at 70mph uses up to 9 per cent more fuel than at 60mph and up to 15 per cent more than at 50mph.
- 6) Drive Smoothly. Acceleration and deceleration is what uses most fuel – avoid heavy braking and so try to slow down gradually at traffic lights.
- 7) Use your car less. Walk or bike for short trips. It will do a world of good.

It's a Fact

Are you bamboozled by all the talk of energy saving, renewables and food miles? Cut through the jargon and find out the facts with BCA Fact Files. We now have four available:

Food File 1. Food with a small carbon footprint.

Energy File 1. Shedding light on low energy lightbulbs.

Energy File 2. Choosing the best green electricity supplier.

Energy File 3. Loads of energy saving tips - to suit your wallet.

These are all available from the BOVEYCLIMATEACTION website - or at our public meetings.

THE FINAL 10 TIPS FOR YOU TO TRY

Leave your car at home for a day

Try to get an allotment

Only boil what you need in the kettle

Learn some eco-driving techniques

Walk the kids to school - or use the Walking Bus

Put in cavity wall insulation

Calculate your carbon footprint

Become a campaigner - let politicians know your views

Build a compost heap

Enjoy nature - you'll be rewarded every day

Log onto the BCA website for other Top Tips.

News from the outside - an insider's view

Climate Change Bill

It must look very different from the other side of the pond! While the UK Government is hoping to bring it's Climate Change Bill into force by the Summer - giving carbon reduction targets the force of law - over in Washington, George W. takes his usual, thoughtful approach. He has 'slammed' a bi-partisan Bill on climate change being put through the Senate, claiming it would cost too much. Perhaps he should read the Stern Report which shows that acting now on climate change could be many times cheaper.

Monday, Chooseday, Wednesday

There's a great initiative in Bristol which has been amazingly successful in persuading people to leave their cars at home one day a week. Working with the major employers, they have run campaigns in workplaces which are making a real difference. They are planning to test the idea in some other places around the South West - and we hope to work with them to see if it might work in a more rural area. www.chooseday.org



TDC Climate Change Officer

How can it be so difficult? Every political party acknowledges that climate change is the most biggest challenge we face; Teignbridge District Council has signed up to the Nottingham Declaration (to act on climate change); saving energy also saves money - yet some councillors on TDC have tried to block a new Climate Change post. This seems like short-sighted posturing when we need concerted, cross-party ACTION!

The Last Polar Bear

Continuing our ties with Coombeshead College in Newton Abbot, BCA members got involved with a Year 8 project which focussed on climate change and sustainability. The students made a number of short films and animations on the theme -

and it all culminated at a Symposium where the best pieces were shown to an invited audience. A great event - wonderful local



food; challenging speakers and amazing knowledge and enthusiasm from the students.

Moor or Less

The Dartmoor Circle is planning to help Dartmoor National Park reduce its carbon emissions radically over the next 3 years. The Circle is made up of 13 climate change groups around the moor and, of course, **BOVEYCLIMATEACTION** is one of them. It has applied for a grant to show how energy and waste can be cut by householders, businesses and visitors to the moor. The Circle will be involving people every step of the way, coming up with new and exciting ways to reduce emissions - and then putting them into practice. This is a big project - watch this space.

How low can we go?

It's good to know that there are some out there doing some really serious thinking about what the future needs to be like. With more challenging news on climate change (and other environmental issues) coming in every week - the folk at the Centre for Alternative Technology have produced a detailed blueprint for a Zero Carbon Britain. Yes - that's **ZERO CARBON BRITAIN!** www.zerocarbonbritain.com

The report details how Britain can eliminate emissions from fossil fuels in 20 years and break our dependence on imported energy. It demonstrates how we can achieve this by halving energy demand and installing massive renewable energy generation. Paul Allen, from CAT, is confident that if Britain treated this as the serious emergency the climate science is saying it is, we could achieve that aim.



THE NEWS STAND

- what's going on with BOVEYCLIMATEACTION

Big ideas to reduce waste

At a meeting to plan new BCA activities this year, lots of people had good ideas for reducing waste. How about buying a chipper, for example, which people can hire to turn their garden prunings into compost? Or having a roadside collection for recyclable household items? Or a "Mark your Bin" campaign, where people put a line on their landfill bin showing the level they'd like to get their rubbish down to? All these ideas, and many others about food, transport, energy and lobbying, will be looked at over the next two months - and then everyone will have a chance to get involved in them!

Digging for Victory

For the green fingered among you, there will be a chance to help BOVEYCLIMATEACTION and the National Trust restore the walled garden at Parke. The aim is to use it to produce a range of food and, in particular, different sorts of soft fruit. This will be a real community initiative that can benefit the whole town. If you want to help, ring 0845 4786311.

Cafe Society

The BCA Climate Cafe opened its doors on two Saturdays in May to offer advice on saving energy at home over coffee and home-made cake. On hand was expert advice on the latest grants for loft and cavity wall insulation, lighting and renewable sources of energy, with help from Devon Energy Efficiency Advice Centre, EDF Energy and local experts.

Seedy Saturday

The BCA Food Group certainly sowed the seeds of success when they held their first Seedy Saturday. Drawing a crowd all morning in the Town Hall, the event was a great success - especially at encouraging more people to grow their own food, whatever the size of their plot.

Photos: Paul Glendell, S Hooton, Leighton King, North Cornwall District Council, Sawdays, Arne Naevra

BOVEYCLIMATEACTION contacts

Telephone: 0845 4786311

Website: www.boveyclimateaction.org.uk

E mail: info@boveyclimateaction.org.uk

Carbon + Awards

Up against some stiff competition from around the region, BOVEYCLIMATEACTION was runner up in the 2008 Carbon + Positive awards.

The awards, sponsored by the South West RDA, were to showcase the companies and communities who were doing the most to tackle climate change and reduce their carbon footprints.

More info: www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk/



In Praise of Slow

Alastair Sawday, author and publisher, provided some very persuasive arguments for a different approach to travel at a recent speaker event for BCA. His main message was that it is perfectly possible to have a great holiday by relearning the subtle art of 'slow'. There are plenty of wonderful places to visit within the UK and over the channel without always needing to fly to far-flung parts of the world.

10% Club

Did you know there are all sorts of benefits of being a member of BCA - not least the **10% Club** - local businesses who offer 10% discount to BCA members:

1. Arnold's for energy saving lightbulbs
2. Bikus on bike accessories www.bikus.co.uk
3. Gas Power UK on LPG conversions for petrol or diesel cars www.gaspoweruk.co.uk/index.htm
4. Moor Green Energy on solar heating and PV panels and wind turbines. www.moorgreenenergy.co.uk

NEW

Country Heat at 26 Fore Street, Bovey on supply and installation of all their wood burning stoves. www.countryheat.co.uk

NEW