



SUSWOT QUARTERLY

SusWot Using less living more

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Welcome to the March Quarterly edition

We are now able to increase the number of pages. Our intention is to have a mix of items. Some will be about local events, news, information about sustainability and anything environmentally interesting.

Editor M Crabbe -

Diary Dates

Local Produce Market every 4th Saturday

GROFUN SusWot Event 13th April

Westbury Parish Church Community Fair 7th May

City Car Club comes to Westbury

There is an alternative to owning your own car. Why own a car in Bristol when you can hire a locally parked City Car or City Van by the hour? City Car Club was Bristol's first car club and is by far the largest, with cars and vans spread in a dense network right across the city. Westbury now has its own designated bay on Cambridge Crescent, Westbury-on-Trym, (off Westbury Hill). Hiring can be for as little as an hour at a time or for 24 hours a day.

As a member you can book the cars and vans online or by phone any time of the day or night, and access them with your very own smart-enabled membership card

Why join a car club?

Running a private car is very costly with a lot of the costs hidden. Once you consider fuel, tax, insurance, MOT, general wear and tear and depreciation of the value of the vehicle, running a standard 1.2 litre car for a year can cost about £3000

Bristol has one of the largest networks of car club vehicles in the country with nearly 2000 members using 63 cars. There are currently two car club operators in Bristol. City Car Club and Streetcar. They both work in a very similar way. Check online for availability by telephone to a central office or internet for the nearest vehicles, make a booking, then swipe your smartcard against the reader in the vehicle to access. The keys are in the car so you can drive it straight away!

How does it work?

Use the location map below to work out which operator it would be most suitable for you to join then contact either City Car Club or Streetcar.

You then pay an annual membership fee of £50 and an hourly rate depending upon usage, approximately £5 per hour, with varying mileage costs depending upon the operator.

For more information and how to join

For City Car Club call 0845 330 1234 or email membership@citycarclub.co.uk

For Streetcar call 0845 644 8475 or visit www.streetcar.co.uk

Are you a business?

Both car club operators are always looking to work with local businesses. They could provide the solution to getting staff to meetings or keeping your pool car costs down.



1500 tomato seeds sown for Westbury !

The Growing together has begun. Have you ever grown tomatoes at home? Would you like to grow tomatoes from seed but have always bought plants? Do you want to learn about growing seedlings and potting them up to produce plants?

We are looking for experienced gardeners with a little time and space to grow a few seedlings on and new gardeners to take charge of a plant and grow tomatoes for themselves to eat

If you have loads of spare old flower pots, or bags of compost you won't be using? Please tell us, so that we can put them to good use.

If you know somebody, in Westbury, who might have spare ground we could use, or might like to grow tomatoes on a patio? Please tell them about this scheme. If you would like to grow some tomatoes get in touch.

SusWot are initiating the Growing Together project to reduce Westbury's food imports, improve its nutrition and bring people together. We want to help everybody in Westbury grow a little of their own food

Tomatwot@gmail.com



Nuclear energy – can we live without it ?

With the understandable concern raised by the nuclear accident in Japan, remember climate change is not going away. Any substitution of more fossil fuels will lead to yet higher levels of carbon dioxide. If you are one of those people who say we need to have more renewables, or banish nuclear power or have all electric cars, now is your chance see the effect of changing energy supply and consumption The government's target is to reduce carbon emissions by 80%. by 2050.

Go to <http://my2050.decc.gov.uk> where you will find a sort of puzzle where you can explore the various options for yourself.

Did you know? For every tonne of waste we produce in our homes, it is estimated that 5 tonnes of waste has already been created at the manufacturing stage, and 20 tonnes at the point where the raw material was extracted.

Ethical consumers buck the recession

Spending on products that carry a green or ethical label has grown by almost a fifth over the last two years, in spite of the recession, according to the latest report by Co-operative Financial Services. Such goods include eco-friendly travel, food products such as Fairtrade, and other goods.

There have been some winners and losers. Fairtrade has enjoyed significant growth. Organic food has suffered. Some of this can be explained by the increasing move of the Fairtrade label into the mainstream. For instance, over the period covered by the report, companies like Cadbury have introduced Fairtrade standards on mainstream products that are not sold to customers on the basis of the ethical link.

Whether the figures represent the rise of the ethical consumer, or the filtering of higher standards into the mainstream, is an open question. Co-operative Financial Services seems to be in no doubt. Tim Franklin, the company's chief operating officer, said: "This annual report clearly shows that the growth in ethical consumerism continues to outstrip the market as a whole. I have no doubt that this will come as a surprise to those commentators who thought ethical considerations would be the first casualty of an economic downturn."

Household recycling breaks 40% barrier, but rate of increase slows

The proportion of household waste recycled, including composting and reuse, in England has surpassed 40% for the first time. It rose from 39.7% for the financial year 2009/10 to 40.1% in the year July 2009 to June 2010. The rate of the increase has slowed, as has the rate of decrease in the total amount of waste collected by local authorities. Over the last five years this has been 2.2%, but the decrease in the last year was just 0.3%. 89.2% of this waste comes from households. The proportion of all of the waste being recycled, composted and reused is 39%, 1.1% less.

The amount of household waste generated per person has also fallen to 456 kilograms, of which 182kg was recycling, composted or reused, while 273kg was not.

The proportion of waste collected by councils and sent to landfill also continues to fall, from 47% for March 2009 to April 2010 to 46.1% for July 2009 to June 2010. In 2000-2001 this figure was 79%, which represents another success story.

There is a wide discrepancy between the regions' recycling rates. The worst performing region by far is London at 32%, with the next worst being the north-east at 35.1%.

The best performance is in the Eastern region at 46.9%, closely followed by the East Midlands and 45.6% and the south-west at 44.1%

Seeing the Wood from the Trees

The provenance of the source of the 7 million cubic metres of solid wood timber used annually by IKEA has come into question. In 2008, the latest figures available, only 7% will come from forests certified as responsibly managed by 2009.

Ikea's timber claims lag behind other major furniture retailers. Its corporate policy on labelling, which prevents products from bearing FSC or equivalent logos, also makes it hard for customers to choose sustainable products.

In contrast, B&Q, which prides itself on its environmental policies, achieves 100 per cent timber traced back to well managed sources. B&Q claims that it is the first major UK retailer to only buy timber products from proven responsible sources. From February this year, the UK's largest home improvement retailer says that it can ensure that 100 per cent of timber in their products can be traced back to well managed sources. The company's achievement follows a campaign that spans decades when it became a founding partner of the FSC (Forest Stewardship Council). Last year just over 90 per cent of B&Q's timber products were traceable to responsible sources.



FSC is an international, non-government organisation dedicated to promoting responsible forest management, and they have developed a system of forest certification and product labelling that allows timber merchants and domestic customers alike to identify wood from well-managed forests.

To gain the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) stamp of approval, loggers and forestry owners must demonstrate that their activities comply with FSC regulations. These require that:

- ◆ forests are logged in a responsible manner;
- ◆ free and informed consent of the traditional land-owners is obtained;
- ◆ the rights of forest workers and forest communities are respected;
- ◆ endangered species and their habitats are conserved.



The environmental citizen...

1. Believes that environmental sustainability is a common good that will not be achieved by the pursuit of individual self-interest alone. Lying behind this belief is an understanding of the environment as a common-pool resource: no one can be effectively excluded from it, but it is finite and diminishing.

2. Is moved by other self-regarding motivations as well as self-interested ones. That is, the environmental citizen will seek to maintain the integrity of the common-pool resource because of its public benefit, rather than some private, individual, excludable benefit. The environmental citizen says, 'I will even if you won't'.

3. Believes that ethical and moral knowledge is as important as techno-scientific knowledge in the context of pro-environmental behaviour change.

4. Believes that other people's environmental rights engender environmental responsibilities. which the environmental citizen should redeem. In contrast to other forms of citizenship, the relationship between rights and duties in environmental citizenship is less about the rights and duties of citizens vis-à-vis the government, and more about the rights and duties of citizens vis-à-vis each other.

5. Believes that these responsibilities are due not only to one's neighbours or fellow nationals but also to distant strangers (distant in space and even in time). It is well known that environmental problems transcend national boundaries, so any citizenship that speaks only the language of the nation-state territoriality will be a poor fit with the extra-territoriality that environmental citizenship appears to demand.

6. Is aware that private environment-related actions can have public environment-related impacts. This differs from traditional understandings of citizenship in also regarding practices that take place in the private arena – such as recycling – as 'citizenly'.

Did you know? About the evils of the average plastic fork? The typical disposable plastic fork or spoon is made from petroleum and estimates are that it can take somewhere between 10 and 100 years to decompose. And of course when it is decomposing it's releasing toxic substances into the soil and groundwater.

The Renewable Heat Incentive

The RHI has at last been announced previously named the Renewable Heat Initiative. The go-live announcement for the RHI was made on 10th March 2011. these are some of details.

Residential and non-residential systems are being treated separately. Support for residential installations doesn't start until October 2012, though there will be a so-called "RHI Premium Payment" which looks like a capital grant for systems installed before then.

Support for industry, commercial and public sector (non-residential) installations will begin about July 2011.

Not all technologies are supported. The scheme will support biomass heat, geothermal and ground source heat and biogas and solar thermal below 200kW. It also supports biogas injection as originally proposed.

It will not initially support air-source heat pumps, bio-liquids, biogas and solar thermal above 200kW nor waste (apart from MSW). These may be introduced later. Some tariff levels have been published but only for non-residential systems - and many have changed from the initial proposals. The tariffs have been calculated to give a 12% return on investment, except for solar thermal where the figure is much lower (probably about 5%). All tariffs will now run for 20 years.

As for the Feed-In Tariffs, tariff levels will be index-linked to the Retail price Index and degression will be applied for future installations. Systems installed since July 2009 will be able to start claiming tariffs from the appropriate registration date.

Tariffs will be paid by Ofgem from government funds. The scheme will be administered by energy regulator Ofgem, who will make tariff payments quarterly.

The scheme will be introduced in two phases

In the first phase, long-term tariff support will be targeted in the non-domestic sectors, at the big heat users - the industrial, business and public sector - which contribute 38% of the UK's carbon emissions. Under this phase there will also be support of around £15 million for households through the Renewable Heat Premium Payment. This is an interim scheme to support renewable heat installations before the RHI starts for residential installations in 2012

The second phase of the RHI scheme will see households moved to the same form of long-term tariff support offered to the non-domestic sector in the first phase. This transition will be timed to align with the Green Deal which is intended to be introduced in October 2012.

Key aspects of the domestic/household sector

Further details will be published shortly by the government on the eligibility criteria for the Renewable Heat Premium, but will include the following principles:

- ◆ a fair spread of technologies across all regions of Great Britain, including biomass, solar thermal and heat pumps (including air source heat pumps)
- ◆ monitoring to enable government, manufacturers, installers and consumers to better understand how to make sure 'real life' users get the most out of them, and to inform decisions on the tariff levels and other scheme parameters for phase 2
- ◆ a well insulated home based on its energy performance certificate
- ◆ a householder must agree to monitor and record performance
- ◆ a focus on people living off the gas grid, where fossil fuels like heating oil are both more expensive and have a higher carbon content.

SusWot is able to provide sources of further information but cannot give advice on the costs and benefits relating to specific installations, choosing a contractor or the financing of any initiative.

Four is the magic number for plastic bags

The Environment Agency's response to the question, asked by the previous labour government, are reusable plastic bags better for the environment than single use ones? - yes, as long as the reusable ones are used at least four times. But the popular plastic 'bags for life' (low-density polyethylene) provided by many supermarkets need to be used at least four times to ensure they have a lower carbon footprint than these lightweight bags used only once.

Whatever type of bag is used, the key to reducing the impacts is to reuse it as many times as possible and where reuse for shopping is not practicable, other reuse is beneficial. For example, reusing them as bin liners produces greater benefits than recycling bags.

The paper, low density polyethylene film, non-woven polypropylene and cotton bags should be reused at least 3, 4, 11 and 13 times respectively to ensure that they have lower global warming potential than conventional High-density polyethylene carrier bags that are not reused.