



SusWot QUARTERLY

SusWot Using less living more

Eco-Fiesta edition

September 2010

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Something to think about...

Recycling plastic is a good thing. The weekly collections by the local authority will make it much easier for everyone.

This recycling avoids landfill costs and reduces CO₂ emissions.

But does washing food containers with tap water increase the pollution that the water companies will have to treat at an additional cost?

ecojam.org

Your local, green and ethical scene
Green Directory, Green Jobs, Free Stuff, Interaction

Welcome to SusWot

Welcome to our first newsletter that we will endeavor to produce four times a year. We want to keep everyone who is interested in making Westbury a more sustainable village aware of what SusWot is planning and doing. We will include news about the Transition scene in Bristol and beyond. While the newsletter will be emailed to members, a limited number of hard copies will be available in Westbury library. It is not really desirable to print copies but we recognize that not everyone has access to email.

SusWot is totally run by volunteers and we are always looking to expand our numbers and broaden our areas of interest.

We have a number working groups: transport; recycling; growing food; biodiversity; local produce market; energy; planning next year's Eco Fiesta; and making the centre of the village more people friendly. We are also looking for a wide range of skills such as newsletter writing; graphic design; fund raising; web design; public speaking; and specialist environmental interests to help SusWot grow and become a more effective organisation. If you would like to know more about SusWot, come on to the mailing list or take an active part please contact us.

We are especially looking for assistance with our planned major energy auditing initiative. energy

Leading the way with the Energy Saving

Westbury has been chosen by the Energy Saving Trust as the community with whom they would like to work on a new and exciting project called 'Green Communities'. Over the last few months, SusWot and the Trust are continue to worktogether to help everyone in Westbury-on-Trym lower their carbon emissions, while helping to create warmer, more comfortable homes with lower fuel bills.

A number of home energy check lists have been delivered around Westbury, and survey results should be available shortly. It is not too late to complete a survey form. Further copies of the check list are still available on the www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Home-improvements-and-products/Online-tools.

Once you've completed the check list, you will receive a free, personalised energy report telling you how to make your home more energy efficient, save money on fuel, and keep warmer this winter.

It will also help the Green Communities team understand what changes can be made to achieve our goal of a cleaner, greener Westbury-on-Trym for

everybody.

SusWot is receiving general guidance from the Energy Saving Trust and help in identifying those improvements that should give the most beneficial savings for the households in Westbury. This will enable us to focus on providing information and support in the priority areas such as insulation and central heating



(photo by Phil Crabbe)

About Transition Bristol

Transition Bristol is run by volunteers and acts as a hub for a network of Transition Neighbourhoods across the city. It is working to raise awareness of **Climate Change** and **Peak Oil** and the impacts both will have on our lives.

Transition Bristol is not offering the solution – rather it believes that there are many solutions and that the skills, knowledge, **creativity** and experience of the community is where they can be found. The aim: to

end up with an Energy Descent Action Plan – a timetabled, well thought out plan for Bristol's transition from an energy dependent system to a locally resilient, **sustainable**, productive and vibrant city. By decreasing dependency on fossil fuels this could be an opportunity to create a **better standard of living** than we have now, where community is more important than consuming.

There are ten **Transition Neighbourhoods**, including SusWot - community led local initiatives.

The Transition process is constantly evolving, as more of us take up the challenge and run with it, flexibly adapting to the situations around us.

There is more work to do before we can truly "unleash the collective genius" of the whole of Bristol



Clean Energy Cashback

Is the new name for the Feed in Tariffs scheme that will pay 41.3p for every unit of electricity produced by a Photovoltaic solar system. An investment of £10,000-12,000 will amount to a return of around 8-10% for the guaranteed 25 years of the scheme. This will be continued by the new coalition Government. The system, with no moving parts is maintenance free and the panels are estimated to have a life of 50 to 60 years. Planning permission is now much easier unless you live in a listed building. UV radiation, rather than sunshine, provides the energy and the South West is the best region in the UK, so living in Westbury-on-Trym has another advantage.

The capital outlay required is quite considerable for many

people. As sales of cells increase prices will fall. There are advances in technology using electronic inks that are likely to reduce the cost of converting the solar energy.

However, the scheme reduces the 41.3 pence paid back each year as installation costs should be lower.

Watson Family Solar House, Lexington, MA, USA .<http://256.com/solar/>



For more information visit www.regensw.co.uk.

"The use of solar energy has not been opened up because the oil industry does not own the sun."

— **Ralph Nader**

Did You Know.....

- ◆ Recycling 1 ton of paper saves 17 trees, 2 barrels of oil (enough to run the average car for 1,260 miles), 4,100 kilowatts of energy (more than enough power for the average home for 6 months), 3.2 cubic yards of landfill space, and 60 pounds of air pollution. *Trash to Cash*
- ◆ The U.S. is 5% of the world's population but uses 25% of its natural resources. *Environmental Protection Agency*
- ◆ Recycling just one aluminum can saves enough energy to operate a TV for 3 hours. *Eco-Cycle*

Diary Dates

Local Produce Market-Westbury on Trym 4th Saturday of Every Month, 10 am to 1pm The Car Park, Westbury-on-Trym Primary Care Centre (GP Surgery)

Zero Carbon Britian -16th October. Schumacher Conference, Council house College Green. www.schumacher.org.ukSaturday

Make Your Home Eco- 5th October. A Tuesday evening course for 6 Evenings £85/£60 Concessions. Create Environment Centre. www.greenregister.org.uk

Eco Film screenings and discussion-24th September 7-10pm Stoke Bishop Village Hall Admission free, donations towards costs appreciated. SustainableStokeBishop@phonecoop.coop