

## Environmental Action for a Better Leicestershire



## News from the Leicestershire Environment Partnership

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### What's been happening with ENABLE?

The ENABLE Climate Change Action Plan is now available to view on our website at [www.leics.gov.uk/climate\\_change](http://www.leics.gov.uk/climate_change) It has tips and ideas for helping both the public and organisations tackle climate change through every day lifestyle choices and changes in operation. There are many things you can do without spending any money just by changing habits such as turning the thermostat down by 1°C and only boiling enough water needed in the kettle. To view the Action Plan or for further information on climate change, see the website above.

The Leicestershire Together Declaration on Climate Change is now also available to sign by businesses, organisations, schools, Parish Councils, clubs, any organisation who wants to publicly declare their commitment to tackling climate change. To sign the Declaration, contact Hetal Patel Tel. 0116 305 7068 or email [hapatel@leics.gov.uk](mailto:hapatel@leics.gov.uk)

2nd Edition — Strategic Overview of Leicestershire's Environment  
This document was ENABLE's first publication printed in April 2004 and we decided it needed updating. There have been many changes in Climate Change and Waste Management since 2004 and much of the data, publications and policies mentioned are now out of date. We also wanted an up to date version to provide information to help influence the production of the 2008 Leicestershire Local Area Agreement and Sustainable Community Strategy, two publications which will shape the future of Leicestershire over the next few years. All members will receive a copy in April.

### Other News and Announcements

#### Leicester Transition Town

Leicester is looking into becoming a transition town, a new movement sweeping the country for communities looking to address the concept of peak oil and climate change reducing their reliance on cars and the use of fossil fuels for energy.

The Leicester group is looking for new members and is showing an inspiring film – The Convenient Truth showing how the people from Curitiba, Brazil have transformed their city to be less reliant on fossil fuels.

The film is being shown on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February, from 7pm at the Friends Meeting House, 16 Queens Road, Leicester with tea, coffee and discussions after the film. Ben Brangwyn from the Transition Network will be giving a talk at their next meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> February. For further information phone 0116 210 3637 or Email: [transition-city@freeuk.com](mailto:transition-city@freeuk.com)

Market Harborough is already a Transition Town. – For further info see <http://transitiontowns.org/Harborough/Harborough>

#### WHO IS ENABLE?

ENABLE is the Leicestershire Environment Partnership, with members from environmental organisations throughout Leicestershire and members of the public. If you would like to join ENABLE or contribute to the next newsletter call 0116 305 7332 or email [enable@leics.gov.uk](mailto:enable@leics.gov.uk)

### Australia Joins the Kyoto

Australia's new Prime Minister Kevin Rudd signed the Kyoto Protocol immediately after coming into office in early December 2007. This now means that The US is the only developed nation not to have signed the agreement committing to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2012.

### Love Food Hate Waste

A third of all food brought in the UK ends in the bin which has an impact on the environment. When sent to landfill, this rotting food waste produces methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. When all the resources, packaging and transport used to produce this food are factored into the equation, the equivalent of taking 1 in five cars off the road could be saved in carbon dioxide emissions if the food was not thrown away. In order to encourage us to waste less food and save money, WRAP has launched a new campaign – 'Love Food, Hate Waste' with a website packed full of ideas including recipes for using left overs from Celebrity Chefs and the WI, advice on storing food and simple tips such as taking a shopping list when food shopping and being wary of buy one, get one free offers. For further tips and information, see the website at

[www.lovefoodhatewaste.com](http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com)

### Charcoal from the Outwoods

The Outwoods, near Loughborough has recently revived the ancient woodland craft of producing charcoal. It is a practise that has been carried out in UK Woodlands for 1000s of years but more or less died out in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century as demand declined. There is now a greater demand for charcoal for barbeques and chimineas but this is normally imported from South East Asia and produced from tropical hardwoods. Charcoal from the Outwoods is a more sustainable option, produced from non-native trees removed during woodland management and replaced with native species.

The charcoal is produced on site using portable kilns by local arboricultural firm, DM Chainsaws. The process takes 24 hours to produce one tonne of charcoal from five tonnes of timber. To find out where you can buy the charcoal, call DM Chainsaws on 01509 230164. For further information on the Outwoods, see the Charnwood Borough Council website at <http://www.charnwood.gov.uk/leisure/outwoodsinformation.html>

### Access Flood Warnings in advance

The summer floods last year have shown how vulnerable and disruptive flooding can be. To help find out if your area is at risk of flooding The Environment Agency provides national and regional flood warnings updated every 15 minutes on their website. The information can be accessed on a regional, rivers or postcode basis to avoid devastating damages to your property.

The webpage, [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/subjects/flood/floodwarning/](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/subjects/flood/floodwarning/), also provides helpful tips on preparing for a flood and dealing with the aftermath. You can also sign up to Floodline Tel. 0845 988 1188 for free flood warnings direct to your telephone, mobile, fax or pager.

## Connect2 a winner

Watermead Country Park was recently awarded £70,000 National Lottery funding to improve cycle and footpath access throughout the park as part of a National TV, online and phone vote. The scheme should help increase the number of people cycling or walking to work or to local shops by creating better links to villages such as Birstall and Barrow-on-Soar. The bid was part of a national Sustrans scheme to assist 79 communities throughout the UK win a share of £50million and beat off competition from the Eden Project, Sherwood Forest and Black Country Urban Park. Work will start later on this year.



## Cutting your carbon footprint

Despite growing concern about climate change, when it comes to making New Year's resolutions, Britons are more worried about losing weight than saving the planet. According to a YouGov poll, just 15% of Britons have resolved to reduce their carbon footprint in 2008 compared to 38% pledging to lose weight and 20% aiming to make more money. Individuals are responsible for more than 40% of CO2 emissions in the UK – mainly from energy use in the home and travel. For simple tips on reducing your carbon footprint see the ENABLE website

[www.leics.gov.uk/climate\\_change](http://www.leics.gov.uk/climate_change) and sign up for the Climate Change Pledge to cut your carbon footprint by 20%. See our Climate Change Action Plan to tailor make your own plan and start the New Year with a low-carbon lifestyle.

## Green Advice for Leicestershire Businesses

Responsible Solutions, one of ENABLE's newest members, is a Leicestershire based Environmental consultancy, with offices at the Innovation Centre at Loughborough University. They help companies in the East Midlands measure and reduce their environmental impact, advise on Environmental Legislation and help implement Environmental Management systems as well as researching how businesses can be more resource efficient.

Responsible Solutions specialise in the Construction Industry but are branching out to provide advice to a wider range of businesses including manufacturing and more recently Further Education establishments.

Their latest project is a carbon footprint calculator which can be used by a wide range of businesses from those with small offices to large companies which operate a wide range of processes. It is proving to be very popular as more and more companies are wishing to measure their carbon footprint and reduce it.

Responsible Solutions is interested in meeting like minded individuals in business who are interested in Sustainable Development and green issues and are interested in developing a Leicestershire "Green Drinks" network to develop knowledge sharing and networking opportunities for companies interested in environmental and sustainable development issues. If you know of a similar group that already exists or are interested in attending an event if a group is set up contact [chloe@responsible-solutions.co.uk](mailto:chloe@responsible-solutions.co.uk)

To find out more about Responsible Solutions see [www.responsible-solutions.co.uk](http://www.responsible-solutions.co.uk) or [www.carbonfootprintconstruction.co.uk](http://www.carbonfootprintconstruction.co.uk)

# ENABLE

*Uniting Leicestershire to protect and enhance the environment*

Find out more about ENABLE from our website at [www.leics.gov.uk/enable](http://www.leics.gov.uk/enable)

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## New Community Energy Fund

Community Groups can now apply for funding to help improve the energy efficiency of and install renewable energy schemes in community used buildings.

The fund from the BIG Lottery – The Community Sustainable Energy programme can help to pay for:

- Insulation
- solar panels
- solar water heating
- wind turbines
- ground source heat pumps
- wood fuelled boilers
- wood pellet stoves

To be installed in community buildings ranging from village halls, community centres and schools to visitor centres.

Groups eligible to apply for the grant include schools and colleges, charities, parish councils, church or other faith groups and community groups.

The grant is being administered by BRE – (Buildings Research Establishment) and will open for applications in April 2008.

For further information see <http://www.communitysustainable.org.uk> or email [info@communitysustainable.org.uk](mailto:info@communitysustainable.org.uk)

## Freewheels Community Cycle Workshop

FreeWheels, a "friends of group" for young people who have an interest in cycling and cycle mechanics is running a mobile workshop - the Community Cycle Workshop - offering low cost bicycle repairs and services. Qualified cycle mechanics from Groundwork Leicester and Leicestershire's Bikes 4 All project supervise trainees gaining practical work experience whilst working towards NVQ Level 2 in Cycle Maintenance.

There are also sales of low cost bikes and bike accessories and maintenance advice on offer.

The mobile Community Cycle Workshop is now available for hire for the following:-

Cycle Safety Workshop - £300 - This 2-hour introductory workshop is for anyone wanting to improve their skills and knowledge in the basics of cycle mechanics. The session aims to guide you through checks to ensure that your bike is safe to ride, roadside repairs such as flats and tube changes, as well as gear and brake adjustments.

This workshop is ideal for group bookings and corporate events to help raise staff awareness of greener transport alternatives and encourage cycling-to-work schemes.

Event Hire - £500 per day - This package is suitable for community festivals and corporate events, particularly those wanting to promote sustainable transport as an integral part of their social and environmental policies.

For more information contact Dan Clark at Bikes 4 All on 0116 246 0048