



## Winter Solstice edition

December 2011

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### Welcome to the December Quarterly edition

SusWot is a thriving and growing organisation. We have an open meeting every other month when anyone can suggest ideas for a new environmental project or join an existing one. More information about this on page 3.  
M Crabbe

### Diary Dates

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2<sup>nd</sup>  
SusWot Quiz night

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January  
Local Produce Market

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January  
Energy Advice

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February  
SusWot Open Evening

All photographs in this edition by  
[crabchick](#)

## Reducing your energy bill Advice for householders

The certainties in this world used to be death and taxes but unfortunately we are now experiencing a third – the ever increasing cost of energy. In association with Sustainable Westbury-on-Trym (SusWot), the Parish Church is taking advantage of a professional energy advice service offered by the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) based in Bedminster.

This CSE advisory service is part of a national initiative to help as many people as possible to reduce their energy costs. The CSE have already delivered some 50 similar events across Bristol and North Somerset since last summer. This is the first event in the BS9 area and is open to anyone interested and will comprise of information, explanations and the opportunity for you to ask questions. The advice ranges over many issues – not just loft and cavity wall insulation.

The CSE can help householders understand their fuel bills and use their heating controls correctly as well as giving advice on switching energy suppliers and/or finding a cheaper tariff. They will highlight the benefits of low energy lighting and appliances such as washing machines and fridges that use less electricity. If damp and condensation is a problem, again advice is available. Sometimes a simple piece of advice can have huge impact. For example, explaining to an elderly and isolated person how to control their heating system properly helps them steer a course between high fuel bills on the one hand and risks of hypothermia on the other.

**Westbury College, College Road, Westbury-on-Trym**  
**Saturday 28 January 10.30 to 2.00 including a light lunch**  
**Price £4 payable on the day**  
**To reserve a place contact**  
**Tracy Stainton: [suswot2050@gmail.com](mailto:suswot2050@gmail.com)**  
**Keith Yeadel: 07881951194**

## Major Green Festival in Bristol June 9th to 17th 2012

The City of Bristol is to host a world-class festival of sustainability in June 2011, bringing together leading global experts and thinkers to share ideas and inspiration on developing a green future.

Bristol's BIG Green Week will include a strong cultural element with music, theatre and comedy performances, a film festival, and new art, all reflecting an environmental theme. Street art and exhibitions will transform the city centre. The week will culminate in the Festival of Nature, Europe's largest free natural history festival.

Bristol is one of the UK's leading cities for sustainable development and Bristol's Big Green Week – the first week of its kind in the UK – will tap into the city's rich resource of green expertise and practical experience. The event is jointly curated by Bristol Green Capital, Forum for the Future, and Bristol Natural History Consortium, and supported by Bristol City Council.

Confirmed speakers include: TV's Grand Designs presenter Kevin McCloud; National Trust chief executive Fiona Reynolds; leading green writer and thinker Jonathon Porritt; the Eden Project's Tim Smit; author and thinker Sara Parkin; campaigner and writer Tony Juniper; and author and activist Andrew Simms.

## and what kind of driver are you?

The Department for Transport has divided the population by type and by percentage according to what kind of driver they are. This was to better understand how the Department can target messages to encourage the population to use transport in a way that reduces their personal emissions of climate-warming gases. The categories are divided into those who own cars and those who don't. So which category do you come under? In the first sector there are six categories:

- 1. Town and rural heavy car use** (13% ). Mostly live in the country but also in towns and own the most - and largest - cars, and travel most. Rate speed/performance and style/design highly in car buying.
- 2. Educated suburban families** (17% ). Of working age, with kids, they travel and drive a lot, and are the most likely to travel by plane. Like the idea of cycling, but distances and safety put them off. Care about climate change but have high travel needs.
- 3. Affluent empty nesters** (9% ) - Older, largely retired, well educated, do the average numbers of car trips. Are most likely segment to buy new cars. Care about the environment but unsure about climate change.
- 4. Less affluent older sceptics** (12% ). Generally older, find it easy to get around but travel less. Not so well educated and even more unsure about climate change.
- 5. Less affluent urban young families** (21% ). While needing to travel less and so less reliant on car use, they aspire to own a larger/faster car but can't afford it. Less well educated, more ambivalent about climate change.
- 6. Older, less mobile car owners** (9% ). Find it hard to get out and about but are heavily reliant on the car.
- 7. Urban low income without cars** (5%). Younger, low earners, low education, high levels of unemployment, they are reliant on walking and public transport. Would like a car but cannot afford one.
- 8. Young urbanites without cars** (7% ). Younger, well educated, big city-dwellers. Heavily reliant on walking and public transport to get around. Don't need a car.
- 9. Elderly without cars** (6% ). Very low travel needs, have difficulty getting around but don't need to travel far, relying on lifts from friends and public transport.

The findings dug up some interesting - if sometimes unsurprising - information, such as:

- higher income groups showed less sustainable transport behaviour, tending to own more - and larger - cars, travel by car more often, and travel further. They are also likely to fly by plane more often
- the better educated tend to hold more 'pro environmental' attitudes
- country-dwellers use cars the most - and like them the most, while disliking public transport and cycling
- this means there is a disparity between their attitudes and behaviour; although higher income, highly educated respondents tended to be more pro-environment, their behaviour is less sustainable in terms of their actual transport use than the lower earning, less well educated

- older people cycled less.

The research unfortunately didn't show up a significant number of voluntary 'down-sizers'.

### Drivers for change

The survey findings highlight the great extent to which car owners travel by car out of habit and how most car buyers, particularly older ones, tend to buy the same type of car each time.

This survey should encourage us to think about what we are currently doing, what behaviour should change, and also helping the design, infrastructure and services in such a way that behavioural changes are encouraged and enabled.

The study recommends that for all nine categories, encouraging trip avoidance and 'fixing' sustainable means of getting from A to B, are the best bets for reducing emissions - offering cost and time savings without significantly impinging on people's lifestyle and habits. Among the car-owners, buying fuel-efficient vehicles and adopting fuel-efficient driving techniques also offer considerable potential. However, The Department notes that these should be the more efficient vehicles rather than the most efficient vehicles because the latter tend to be more expensive (e.g. hybrid and electric cars). Looking more closely at the type of driver most likely to be a reader of this news letter, educated suburban families are seen as relatively aware of the impact of transport on climate change and are willing to change their behaviour.

However, they think that it's mostly up to the government to set an example and provide the infrastructure to help them change, rather than to make changes themselves.

When buying a new car, they are the most likely to say that environmental considerations/low CO2 emissions are important to them, and they are among the least likely to select speed/performance. This makes them a priority group for efforts to increase cycling.

As for affluent empty nesters, as they are among the most well-off, and they have, at least in theory, the financial resources and a reasonable degree of flexibility to make changes to the way they travel.

However, this may be limited by where they live – around half of them are in rural areas, meaning that public transport services are less likely to cover the routes travelled.

Walking and cycling may be less of an option. However they may be encouraged to walk some, shorter, journeys, particularly if the health benefits are highlighted.

These people also tend to travel by car out of habit, which suggests that initiatives to encourage them to buy smaller, more fuel efficient vehicles may be most effective.

*The Department of Transport designed these categories to help them work out their differences in terms of the factors relevant to reducing CO2 emissions from personal transport use, in order to develop more targeted and effective sustainable transport schemes.*

*The study was based on 3,923 face-to-face interviews conducted with adults living in England*

People in industrialised countries eat between fourteen and fifteen pounds of food additives every year or over 4 ounces a week

(50 facts that should change the world by Jessica Williams)

## Christmas is the time for Goodwill and Waste

**This festive season, the waste produced by people across the country is predicted to be enough to fill 400,000 double decker buses.**

However, despite the fact that half of the waste could be easily recycled or composted, nearly 80 percent will end up in the dustbin. Remember the environment this Christmas, and trim your bin

**Recycle your Christmas cards...** Save over 250,000 trees! Every year we send around 800 million Christmas cards in the UK. If we managed to recycle them all, we would save over 250,000 trees! Each year the Woodland Trust runs their card recycling campaign throughout January with collection points in every local Tesco, WH Smiths and TK Max stores. Last year they collected over 91 million cards – preventing an amazing 1,813 tonnes of card going into landfill.

**Wrapping** This year we will use enough wrapping paper in the UK to gift-wrap the whole island of Guernsey. You can even buy wrapping paper made from recycled paper.

**Artificial trees** do not score points when it comes to recycling, but on the plus side; they can be used time after time saving both money and natural resources. If you have a fibre-optic tree, change the halogen bulb for a low energy LED replacement bulb.

### New Eco labels from the EU

EU Commission has made decisions on ECO Labeling for:

**HAND DISHWASHING DETERGENTS** - establishing the ecological criteria for the award of the EU Ecolabel to hand dishwashing detergents

**ALL-PURPOSE CLEANER** - establishing the ecological criteria for the award of the EU Ecolabel to all-purpose cleaners and sanitary cleaners

**PERSONAL COMPUTERS** - establishing the ecological criteria for the award of the EU Ecolabel for personal computers

**COPYING AND GRAPHIC PAPER** - establishing the ecological criteria for the award of the EU Ecolabel for copying and graphic paper

**NOTEBOOK COMPUTERS** - establishing the ecological criteria for the award of the EU Ecolabel for notebook computers

### Old clothes can be recycled

There are dozens of uses for recycled clothes- you don't just to hand them in to a charity shop. Some fabrics are woven into industrial-quality blankets that protect equipment in transit, some are made into carpet padding or even in rubberized playgrounds.

It is estimated that only 15 percent of textile materials are being diverted from waste for recycling purposes, of which about 45 percent are sold to other countries and 25 percent into stuffing or insulation

## The Lost Allotment



Also known as the Lost Plot. Many thanks to the volunteers who have given up their time over the last three months to make such good progress.

### How you can help SusWot

SusWot believes that by setting up and running a programme of environmental projects around Westbury this allows people to participate in activities where they can make a contribution. Not everyone will be interested in everything that SusWot does but most people have an environmental issue or idea for an improvement that they would like to pursue. For good ideas that would impact on sustainability in Westbury, SusWot does have some limited funding available.

The starting point for ideas is to come to an open meeting (the next is on 16<sup>th</sup> February 7.30 in the Scout Hall Great Bickeridge) and put forward your proposal. There will also be an opportunity to find out what else is going on and perhaps contribute for example to the 2nd year of the Tomato Project or the helping with the Produce Market, email ideas to [Suswot2050@gmail.com](mailto:Suswot2050@gmail.com)

## The Green Deal Update

The government's ambitious plan to refurbish 14million of the UK's draughty homes is to be kickstarted with £200m of incentives, the Treasury announced in November. Danny Alexander, chief secretary to the Treasury, committed the cash with the aim of encouraging early adopters to take up the energy efficiency scheme and to give confidence to business. From October 2012, it will enable homeowners to take a loan to install insulation or other energy-saving measures. Under the so-called "golden rule", the energy bill savings from the measures will be larger than the loan repayments.

But concerns have been raised as to whether consumers will take up the scheme in large numbers, given that previous free energy efficiency schemes have had limited impact. The green deal proposals allow for up to £150 to be given as a cashback offer to homeowners, but that is added to the loan. The £200m is new cash funding from the Treasury and could be worth hundreds of pounds to people who to take up the deal in its first year. How the incentive is delivered is yet to be decided, but it could be in the form of cashback offers, discounts on council tax or cuts to stamp duty when a home is sold. It could also follow the highly successful model of the now-closed boiler scrappage scheme.

"The scheme will involve time-limited offers to help the early uptake, and give confidence to industry that the government is fully behind the green deal scheme," a DECC official told the Guardian Newspaper. The Consumer group Which? said the most important thing was getting the detail of the green deal right for homeowners. Richard Lloyd, executive director at Which?, said: "It's crucial that the Government gets the fundamentals of the Green Deal right. If it's not good value for consumers overall, short term incentives will not be enough to guarantee that this scheme will be a success."

The green deal is a cornerstone of the government's drive to deliver a secure energy system for the UK, while also cutting the carbon emissions that drive climate change. The UK has some of the least energy-efficient homes in Europe and the deal aims to enable people to keep their homes warm with less energy.

But other concerns have been raised that might affect the take-up of the scheme, including the interest rate at which the loans are charged. If those rate are at commercial levels, observers say, only limited measures will be able to be funded while keeping to the golden rule. A Green Deal finance company has been proposed to pool loans and cut the interest rate, but it has no funding in place at present.

### If you let property did you know .....

It will be illegal from April 2018 for landlords to rent out a house or business property that has less than an E energy efficiency rating. The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) said the deadline would ensure that at least 682,000 properties will have to be improved. Whether this applies to holiday cottages is not yet clear.

## Volunteer event stewards wanted for Bristol Green Doors 2012

Through open homes events, Bristol Green Doors brings together householders and organisations from across the city to celebrate the improvements they have made to their homes. We enable visitors to talk and listen to those who have made their homes energy smart, more comfortable, cleaner for the environment and cheaper to heat. Our next open homes event is on the 17th and 18th March 2012.

Help us promote our event and provide an inspiring visitor experience to enable more people to make their homes fit for the future.

We are looking for volunteers to assist us in two main areas:

- 1) **Volunteer Event Stewards** to support householders at their homes during the weekend of 17-18th March 2012. The role will involve welcoming and admitting visitors, supporting the householder, engaging with the public, handing out case studies and maps, serving refreshments, directing people around the home and answering simple questions. If you have a particular expertise in energy advice this could also be an opportunity for you to engage with the public. This is a really valuable role and volunteers last year had an overwhelmingly positive experience. You can volunteer for either Saturday or Sunday or both. Homes will be open from 12noon-6pm on both days.
- 2) **Promoting the next open homes event** by distributing event fliers, maps and posters to shops, bars, markets, notice boards, faith and community centres in neighbourhoods around Bristol to help us spread the word and get as many visitors as possible. This help is needed now.

For more details please and a role description visit

<http://www.bristolgreendoors.org/volunteers>



### MY NEIGHBOURHOOD

### Neighbourhood Partnership Henleaze, Stoke Bishop and Westbury-on-Trym

SusWot acknowledges, with thanks, the continuing support from the Partnership. This year we have been provided with a grant towards an A3 printer and other office equipment and supplies to improve our communications with the citizens of Westbury

#### Dates for Local Produce Market 2012

Primary Care Centre Car Park

Next to the Methodist Church  
Westbury Hill

9.00am – 1.00pm Please come and support good local produce!

March Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>      January Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>

April Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>      February Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>