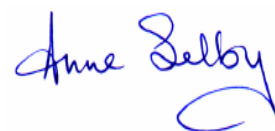


Climate Change Activity in Lancashire

Welcome... to the winter edition of 'essence', the newsletter for the Lancashire Environment Forum.

This New Year will bring many new challenges to the Lancashire Environment Forum. The Forum has been offered a place on the board of the Lancashire Partnership, and so will be well placed to have significant input on environmental issues in Lancashire.

The Forum has developed a business plan, which will help to focus its work over the next year. Important topics will include the Water framework Directive, and Climate Change. In addition, the Forum is in the process of identifying its own environmental priorities to monitor.



Anne Selby, Chair of the Lancashire Environment Forum

Environmental issues have had a high profile over the last year, and this is likely to continue in 2008. Climate change in particular has featured in the news almost every day. Evidence from a range of sources means that the majority of scientist feel that climate change is the greatest threat facing us today.

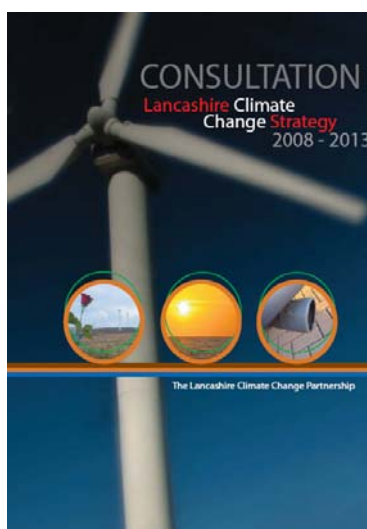
The Lancashire Climate change Partnership has come together to address these concerns, share information, ideas and best practice. The Partnership comprises a range of public, private and third sector agencies, including all local authorities in Lancashire.

The Climate Change Partnership has developed a draft Lancashire Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. This sets out an ambitious framework for action on tackling climate change.

The draft Strategy sets out a vision for the year 2020 together with a range of objectives for the next 5 years.

The proposed target of a 30% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from Lancashire by 2020 is in line with national targets in the Climate Change Bill.

The formal consultation period ended on 14th January. Work is now beginning on incorporating the comments into the Strategy. A key aspect of which will be to strengthen the action plan element, so that actions become more meaningful and partners are clear of their role in delivering the actions.



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National Updates

UK's First Emission Zone Begins

The most heavily polluting Lorries are facing charges of £200 per day to enter Greater London as Britain's first Low Emission Zone (LEZ) comes into force.

The £49m scheme uses cameras to check all Lorries over 12-tonnes entering the zone against a database of vehicles certified as meeting EU exhaust limits. This will be in force 24 hours a day, every day.



<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/london/7225527.stm>

Benn pledges £34 million to implement Pitt review recommendations

Hilary Benn has announced that at least £34.5 million of the £2.15bn total Government flood and coastal erosion spend over the next three years will be allocated to implement the final recommendations from Sir Michael Pitt's report on the summer floods.

Hilary Benn said: "The devastation that was caused by the unprecedented level of rainfall this summer has shown us the awful and lasting impact flooding can have on communities.

<http://www.gnn.gov.uk/Content/Detail.asp?ReleaseID=350058&NewsAreaID=2>

Regional News

Get bogged down in Cumbria for World Wetlands Day

World wetlands day took place on 2nd Feb, and gave an opportunity to celebrate the regions most beautiful wetlands including Wedholme Flow near Carlisle.

Wedholme Flow is a 10,000 year old peat bog covering more than 790 hectares. The bog provides an increasingly rare environmental habitat for a range of wildlife including carnivorous plants, dragonflies, damselflies, curlew and snipe.

World Wetlands Day marks the date of the Convention of Wetlands, signed in Ramsar, Iran, back in 1971.

www.gnn.gov.uk/Content/Detail.asp?ReleaseID=349851&NewsAreaID=2

Blackpool Environmental Action Team Awards

The Environment Agency won a Blackpool Environmental Action Team (BEAT) award at its annual awards ceremony for Blackpool's Lawson Road habitat and recreation project.

The Environment Agency has been working with the Pond Conservation Trust and Blackpool Council to transform Lawson's Lower Field, Lawson Road, Blackpool into a nature conservation area.

Work included creation of new ponds, habitat for Great Crested Newts, reinstating hedgerows and planting new woodland. To compliment this a new all weather footpath has been installed for all the whole community to enjoy this new area



Lancashire Updates

Car Journeys Slashed in South Ribble

Householders in South Ribble have proved their green credentials by choosing greener and healthier transport options, following a campaign carried out under the CIVITAS SUCCESS banner. This involved making direct contact with over 10,700 households to offer personalised information and advice on the best ways to travel.

Evaluation of the project has shown that local people increased their walking by up to 45%, cycling by 75% and public transport use by 10% - resulting in a 13% per year reduction in car driver trips.

Residents switched an average of 76 car trips per person per year to other forms of transport.

www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/news

Environment Forum Website Up and Running

The Lancashire Environment Forum website is now up and running and can be found at: www.environmentforum.lancshires.org

The website has information on the dates and agendas of forthcoming meetings, and the actions, papers and presentations from previous meetings.

There are also links to current consultations that are of relevance to the Environment Forum, and links to current and past editions of 'essence'! If you would like to see any additional information on the website, please email: environmentalpolicy@lancashire.gov.uk

Focus – Lancashire’s Kitchen Waste Food Trial

Lancashire’s kitchen food waste pilot learns valuable lessons for the future, Andrea Cox, Waste Minimisation Officer at Lancashire County Council explains.

Lancashire County Council’s nationally recognised Kitchen Waste Composting Trail has completed a two-year run in a part of Preston where, traditionally, recycling and composting has proved difficult.

Funding for the trail was secured under the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme (now the Landfill Communities Fund), through Lancashire Environmental Fund, Lancashire County Council and Preston City Council and was completed in July 2007. The trail aimed to look at the social, operational and technical composting aspects of the collection and composting of domestic food waste within an urban setting.



The project, (originally inspired by a kitchen waste collection scheme established in Monza, Northern Italy by a gentleman called Enzo Favoino), targeted an area of culturally mixed population occupying 7569 terraced houses in the Deepdale area of Preston.

Participation began at around 56% and in some areas was as high as 77%. Contamination was initially high, but reduced to a very low level in a short space of time, through ongoing education work.

Collections were considered to be highly efficient and the operational benefits of collecting bagged waste are now far better understood as a result of the trial project.



Over 850 tonnes of food waste has been collected, and a lot of valuable lessons learned. These included the quantifying of waste produced by households with different cooking habits and the fact that religious obligation towards recycling are a cultural aspect identified as a key issue during the project.

Over 200 visitors, including elected members, collection staff, and supervisors from other local authorities, and consultants from many aspects of the waste management industry have seen the scheme first hand.

The trail was unable to produce its own compost fit for purpose, due to the constraints in the Animal By-Products Regulations (ABPR) 2003.

Even so, by going through the process of attempting to achieve ABPR 2003, a great deal has been learnt about the technology involved in in-vessel composting of food waste.

In January 2007, the trial switched from using a County Council operated Vertical Composting Unit (VCU) to a local waste management company based in Preston called TEG Environmental PLC.

This enabled the trial to contribute to a feedstock which produced compost, used within both the agricultural and horticultural industries.

Sue Proctor, Waste Management Group Head said *“Lancashire County Council and Preston City Council have both committed to continue the scheme after the funding had finished in July, and are looking to extend it to other parts of the Country”.*



For the full report, please go to:

<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/web/view.asp?siteid=3722&pageid=12301&e=e>



In this article, Emma Staniforth, Community Development Project Officer at Groundwork describes the places for people project that has taken place in Skelmersdale

Groundwork has obtained 3 years funding from the Safer Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF) to deliver an environmental improvement project. The project is based in the Moorside, Digmoor and Tanhouse areas of Skelmersdale.

The main aims of the Safer Stronger Communities Fund's are to: reduce crime and fear of crime; make the area cleaner, safer and greener, increase community engagement and improve the quality of life. So with Groundwork's purpose being: "to build sustainable communities in areas of need through joint environmental action", you can see why we are involved in the partnership of the area.

The Places for People project through the Skelmersdale Safer Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF) kicked off in October 2006, and since then there has been a number of positive activities going on in the community, from open information event days, community bulb planting days, and Clough clean ups. These activities got residents involved in the ethos of the SSCF, and helped them to help us decide how our windfall of £300,000 capital funds was to be spent.

One of our multi partnership working events was the Community Beat Sweep Week held over a week long period in October 2007. It involved a number of agencies including: West Lancashire District Council, Lancashire Police, Lancashire Fire and Rescue, Groundwork and local schools, who all worked together with the local community and the Safer Stronger Community Board to blitz the area of Skelmersdale.



The week involved fire safety talks and litter picks. 17 community skips were provided, and these collected and removed over 100 tonnes of rubbish. Additionally, over 3000 daffodil bulbs were planted with community groups, over 30 bird feeders and hanging baskets were made to encourage local wildlife and wild birds into the area. Cycle safety workshops were delivered in schools, and the area benefited from extra shrub clearing and bulk waste removal.

As a result of the week's activities, Little Digmoor Primary School has been involved in designing some anti-litter posters to go onto some bins that have been installed in the area. This has been a great way to involve the school in activities in the wider community, and has enabled us to carry forward our ethos of cleaner and greener environments.



The week proved to be a success and has been a useful tool in carrying out community consultation as to what projects are to be carried forward within the Places for People Project. A number of these projects have been completed, Digmoor Community Resource Centre has gained a new footpath leading up to a new seating area, there have been a number of raised flower beds removed from the housing court yards, and new planters put in place for the community to be involved in maintaining.

The Digmoor health centre frontage and square has been targeted for improvement, resulting in the removal of the flagged area and greened over, and has benefited from the installation of new footpaths and seating to make it a more inviting seating/meeting area.

The community feedback has been positive to the projects that have been put in to date, and our remaining programmed capital projects are due to commence next month.

For further information on this project, please contact Emma Staniforth on: 01942 821444 or emma.staniforth@groundwork.org.uk

If you have any project news or forthcoming events you would like to publicise in *essence* then please contact us by telephone on: 01772 531257 or by email on: environmentalpolicy@lancashire.gov.uk

Editorial

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Essence is distributed electronically to conserve resources.