



Bollington Carbon Revolution Newsletter

May 2008 Issue 2

website www.bollingtoncarbonrevolution.org.uk

The Bollington Carbon Revolution is a small group of local active volunteers who believe that their town can be a part of the new carbon revolution, driven by the voluntary sector at a local level. They have come together with the overarching aim of reducing their town's carbon footprint



Our planet, our choice

Foot print logo designed by Macclesfield Borough Council

Welcome to the first **Bollington Carbon Revolution Newsletter for 2008**. It is published on a quarterly basis with the aim of keeping the residents of Bollington and stakeholders up to date with what we are doing and have planned. Suggestions for content are always welcome.

Water wheel project wins funding for feasibility study

The Bollington Carbon Revolution group have secured £5000 in funding from Cheshire & Warrington Economic Alliance & the North West Development Agency for a feasibility study into the potential for hydropower in Bollington. The study will be conducted by Dr Phil Leigh at the Crichton Carbon Centre.

Bollington was at the heart of the industrial revolution because its

rivers were sufficient to provide power to drive the mills. There are a total of eight drops on the River Dean and Harrop Brook



which run through the town.

The study will focus on the Dean and Harrop Brook, looking at sites on weirs

and derelict civil works. Dr Leigh visited Bollington during February to take measurements of the flow at various points on the river and brook.

A report will be available during Summer 2008, please check our website for details or email us to find out more.

It will include the costs of installing hydropower technologies and an assessment of the most suitable hydropower technologies for

£200 Home Energy Improvement grants scheme extended

The Bollington Carbon Revolution group have again secured £50,000 from Macclesfield Borough Council for grants of a maximum of £200 per home to Bollington residents.

The first scheme is now closed but MBC have extended the offer to a new

scheme running into a second year, 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009!

To stake your Cash Back claim please obtain an application form which defines the conditions - in short, the work must have been carried out since 15th March 2008 and before 1st March 2009, The ap-

plication forms can be obtained from here on the web site, or the Bridgend Centre, Discovery Centre or the Library.

Through the installation of these measures in 2007-2008 a total annual reduction of 21.22 tonnes of carbon dioxide has been achieved.

We used a local contractor to install loft insulation in our roof. It was very easy to arrange, involving a quick phone call, and then a visit by the contractor to provide us with a quote. 2 weeks later we had our loft insulation installed for a total of £150, and we were able to claim the full amount back from Macclesfield Borough Council.

Nicola, Bollington resident



Bollington Civic Society

Ecoteams

The BCR group have started their first two ecoteams. Each month the teams tackle an impact including waste, shopping, energy, transport, water and chemicals, with the aim of

developing new green lifestyle habits. The teams benefit from the loan of an Efergy Meter, which shows the consumption of energy at any one time within their

home, along with a free bag for life, samples of Ecover products, free low energy light bulb and a Counting the Carbon book.

"Ecoteams was a fantastic way to save money, become greener and have fun at the same time. It made us much more aware of what we could change easily and we made a dramatic difference to the amount of power we used, plus reduced the amount of waste. It may sound like common sense, but things like composting, lowering the thermostat and turning things off at night made a big difference. Being in a group and having devices available like energy meters made changing our behaviour simple. Getting to know the other people in the group was probably the best bit, though!"

Liz, Bollington resident

Keep in touch

To receive the quarterly newsletter send an email to:

bollington_carbon_revolution_subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Contact:
revolution@happy-valley.org.uk

Events—what we've been up to

Sir Nicholas Winterton MP visits Carbon Revolution exhibition at Discovery Centre

Sir Nicholas Winterton, our local Member of Parliament, spent more than an hour at the Discovery Centre on Saturday afternoon, 15th March 2008. He took a considerable interest in the Carbon Revolution project, which was on exhibition at the Centre during March and April, and discussed the subject at length with group members.

Film screening a big success

Sixty people turned out to view 'An Inconvenient Truth', Al Gore's award winning film about climate change, put on by the Carbon Revolution Group during February at the Bollington Arts Centre.

Visit to Ellesmere Port Biomass energy generator

Several BCR members visited United Utilities' anaerobic biomass digester during January 2008.

The group members attended a tour of the site and a presentation that outlined how the digester works as a renewable source of energy.

Eco refurbishment course—book your place now!

The group will be running an Eco refurbishment course on Sat 8th November at the Arts Centre.

Can I really make a 100-year-old house perform like a new one? How much will it cost? What materials will I have to use? Where can I find out more?

This one-day course will cover how to insulate (particularly in 'hard-to-treat' solid-walled houses), how to improve air-tightness, how to appraise and choose materials for least environmental impact.

If you book on the course, later in November the BCR group will offer to take a

thermal image of your house (more details on next page).

The course will be run by an expert from the Centre for Alternative Technology (www.cat.org.uk)

For details contact Sonia Mysko on 01625 266018 or myskos@ntlworld.com





Bollington Civic Society

Thermal imaging camera—coming soon to Bollington

The group have arranged to borrow a Thermal Imaging camera to look at buildings in Bollington and show up where they are losing heat.

They will have the camera during November, if you would like the group to take a thermal image of your house please contact us.

Please see our website for some example images.

Tree planting

An update on the tree planting scheme reported in the last issue: Over 50 have now been planted, including 15 at a special planting day.

The BCR and Kerridge Ridge Ingersley Vale Countryside and Heritage Landscape Partnership Scheme (KRIV) project teams joined forces to provide the local community with a tree-planting scheme. For £10 residents can purchase a tree to be planted in one of four trees to be planted within the local conservation area.

Tree planting—the experience

"The tree planting day was a huge success with lots of fun spent digging holes, getting mucky and the best bit for our little boy Dan - driving

in the tractor.

The organizers were fantastic, making us feel really welcome and it was a lovely way to make some new friends, having just moved into the area.

At the end of the day, Dan was made an honorary tree warden which was the icing on the cake. "I've got a real badge to prove it", he said with a grin. "That means I get to look after our trees forever."

As someone pointed out, as the youngest member of the group Dan would probably be the only person still around to see the smallest trees grow to full height, and this made him feel very special.

The day was a really

enjoyable, hands-on way of teaching the children about the importance of looking after the environment and will be remembered for a very long time."

Richard, and two children, Dan and Carrie

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We'd like to hear from you

Send us your ideas !

The Bollington Carbon Revolution group would like to hear from you.

We are always looking for new members, old or young. You don't necessarily need to have any background on

the topic area, just lots of enthusiasm.

Do you have any energy saving ideas you'd like to share with the residents of Bollington? Please send us any innovative ideas and details of ways to save energy in the home.

Would you and or your family be willing to be featured as a case study?

Contact us at :
revolution@happy-valley.org.uk