



**DIOCESE OF  
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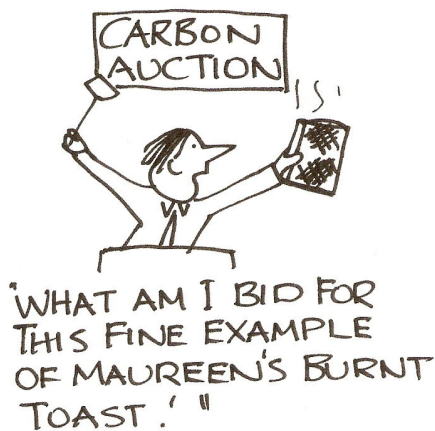
Changing Lives, Changing Churches for Changing Communities

## **Diocesan Environment Link**

*From the Bath & Wells Diocesan Environment Group (DEG)*

Newsletter number 22

July 2009



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## **Shrinking the footprint in every parish**

A senior bishop and a Government minister have spelled out the importance of the Church of England's role in mobilising action on climate change. They were speaking at the unveiling by the Shrinking the Footprint campaign of an energy saving toolkits for every parish in a bid to create the 20% Church by 2050. The event took place at Lambeth Palace in June to mark the third anniversary of the CofE's environmental campaign.

The Bishop of London, the Rt Revd Richard Chartres urged representatives from all dioceses to go one step further in cutting the carbon, reminding them that caring for the planet is a Christian imperative for the sake of future generations. He said by putting its own house in order the Church could then take an even stronger lead in campaigning for change; at a local level in parishes and in the international arena in the run-up to the important climate change talks at Copenhagen in December.

Joan Ruddock MP Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Energy and Climate Change backed the bishop's call at Lambeth Palace. "The Church of England and other faith communities are to be commended for taking the lead in the fight against climate change, both through reducing their own emissions and highlighting the issue with their parishioners. Today's event is another significant step, helping to build public support for a global deal on climate change in Copenhagen"

Bishop Chartres who chairs the Shrinking the Footprint campaign added: "The two year anniversary of the campaign provides us with an opportunity to celebrate the measures taken in Dioceses across the country, to reflect on the further steps that the Church needs to take to become fully carbon neutral and to call on our political leaders to do more to safeguard the future of the planet."

New toolkits and resources with energy saving tips and guidance for the CofE's churches, cathedrals, schools and clergy homes now available at [www.shrinkingthefootprint.org](http://www.shrinkingthefootprint.org) include downloadable action plans and checklists along with advice on considering the appropriate use of renewable energy in church buildings.

These resources are part of the CofE's Carbon Management Programme (CMP), undertaken by AECOM (formerly Faber Maunsel) on behalf of the Carbon Trust which looked at the institutional footprint of the Church estimated to be around a third of a million tonnes. The CMP report shows that by ensuring energy is used efficiently in cathedrals and church buildings the Church of England could reduce this footprint by as much as 12% or almost 27,000 tCO<sub>2e</sub>,.(tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent)

## **Ready Steady Slow .... the countdown begins!!**

You are invited to ponder the planet with the Church of England's 2009 Advent campaign and enjoy some creation time-out. The online Advent calendar [www.whywearewaiting.com](http://www.whywearewaiting.com) (operating from November 29 but take a look now and sign up) will have daily videos, podcasts, thoughts and challenges on environmental issues linking with the vital UN Climate Change talks in Copenhagen this December.

## Remember the 5<sup>th</sup> of December

Concerning the Copenhagen summit, CEL's Ruth Jarman writes:

'I know it seems ages away, but we have to start mobilising our friends and contacts to come to the Stop Climate Chaos coalition's march in London on the eve of the Copenhagen negotiations. We have to make this the biggest demonstration ever. CEL (Christian Ecology Link) is helping to organise a service to start it off. Put it in your diaries in pen and start encouraging others to come. SCC has a load of materials to help support you at [www.stopclimatechaos.org](http://www.stopclimatechaos.org).'

## A Rocha has a new Living Lightly website

A Rocha say: 'Living Lightly comes from our belief that God loves this world and has given us the privilege of looking after it. But to do so involves every area of our lives, from our own daily choices, through to campaigning and what happens in our churches and workplaces and sometimes we need help to do that most effectively.

'Living Lightly aims to encourage and motivate us to make practical changes in all these areas through giving us ideas of things we can do, further information on key issues, links to useful websites and resources, stimulating guest articles and an on-line community where like-minded people can meet one another, exchange ideas, have their questions discussed and be encouraged to move further down the road of living lightly in God's world.'

Go to <<http://www.arocha.org.uk/livinglightly>

## Last chance to comment on Bristol airport plans says SBAC

This could be the last chance to express concerns about Bristol airport's expansion campaigners warned towards the end of last month at the start of the six week public consultation on the airport's plan to increase passenger numbers by 60% by 2016.

Bristol International Airport (BIA) has applied to North Somerset Council for planning permission for a development that could allow it to increase its passengers from 6.2 million in 2008 to 10 million by 2016, increase passenger flights by 40%, summer night flights by 50%, and carbon emissions by at least 40%.

The Stop Bristol Airport Expansion group (SBAE) said the airport's plans have raised major concerns for local people. Spokesperson Hilary Burn said: "The airport's plans will have major impacts on the quality of life for local residents – it is crucial that they know about this six week consultation so that North Somerset Council (NSC) can hear how worried they are.

Residents can find details of how to respond on the SBAE website at: [www.stopbia.com](http://www.stopbia.com) and can also respond directly to the council at [dcomments@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:dcomments@n-somerset.gov.uk), quoting application number 09/P/1020/OT2 or write to: Neil Underhay, North Somerset Council, Somerset House, Oxford Street, Weston-super-Mare BS23 1TG, again quoting the application number.

'We have not yet been able to comment fully on BIA's planning documents, however from the information we know already, we do not believe that any of their suggested mitigation measures will go far enough to reduce traffic problems, aircraft noise and greenhouse gases from flights to acceptable levels. Local MP Liam Fox has also expressed grave concerns over any expansion of the airport at present.'

The public consultation on the airport's plans began on Monday 29 June, and will last for six weeks until 7 August.

### **Somerset Community Food Organisation – Food Co-op training day**

The Somerset Community Food Organisation has now set dates for its final food co-op training sessions: *Taunton, Monday 13th of July, Temple Methodist Church meeting rooms, 9:30-3:30pm; Sedgmoor, Tuesday June 30th,; Burtle Village Hall 10-4pm.*

This course is designed to introduce participants to different food co-op models and many aspects of preparing, planning, running and evaluating a food co-op project. For existing co-ops the course serves as a refresher and an opportunity to review current practices as well as share learning. It aims to:

- Provide an overview of how to set up a food co-op / food sharing enterprise:
- Inform on the knowledge and skills required for running a food sharing enterprise:
- Highlight food sharing project pitfalls and ways to overcome them
- Increase participants' confidence in relaying learning to other staff and volunteers.

More details from Linda Hull and Caroline Lewis, Food Co-op Officers, Somerset Community Food, Making Local Food Work. 01458 832983.

[http://www.somersetcommunityfood.org.uk/?Sharing\\_%26amp%3B\\_Buying\\_Food](http://www.somersetcommunityfood.org.uk/?Sharing_%26amp%3B_Buying_Food)

Also see the new food co-op toolkit site - [www.foodcoops.org](http://www.foodcoops.org)

### **CO2 reaches highest level in two million years**

Atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO2) levels have reached their highest in more than 2.1 million years, according to a new study of the earth's heating and cooling cycles. Researchers from Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory in New York confirmed that periods of high CO2 concentrations coincided with noticeable temperature rises.

Publishing their findings in the journal *Science*, the scientists found that today's peak CO2 level is 38 percent above an average taken over the past 2.1 million years. Lead researcher Barbel Honisch and her team were able to reconstruct CO2 data by looking at the shells of single-celled plankton buried under the Atlantic Ocean. This allowed them to look much further back than studies of polar ice cores, which are only 800,000 years old.

"Previous studies indicated that CO2 did not change much over the past 20 million years, but the resolution wasn't high enough to be definitive," said Professor Honisch. "This study tells us that CO2 was not the main trigger, though our data continues to suggest that greenhouse gases and global climate are intimately linked."

[http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2009-06/teia-cht06...](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2009-06/teia-cht06...)

### **Gloucester supermarket to generate green power from cars**

A Sainsbury's store in Gloucester Quays has become the first in Europe to generate green power from kinetic plates that are charged when cars drive over them. The new store, which is set to open on Wednesday 17th June, will be able to produce 30KW of electricity per hour, which will be used to power its checkouts, cutting down its grid usage. Energy is produced every time a vehicle drives over the plates without having

any discernable effect on people driving in or out of the supermarket's car park.

As well as the kinetic plates, the store will also be equipped with a system to capture rainwater and solar thermal panels. It was constructed from re-used and recycled building materials. Alison Austin, environment manager for Sainsbury's, said: "Customers can now play a very active role in helping make their local shop greener, without extra effort or cost. Using amazing technology like this helps us reduce our use of carbon and makes Sainsbury's a leading energy efficient business."

<http://www.jsainsburys.co.uk/cr/index.asp?pageid=60>

### **Campaigners say Peruvian legislation will destroy more rain forest.**

The Peruvian government has pushed through legislation that could allow extractive and large-scale farming companies to rapidly destroy their Amazon rainforest. Indigenous peoples have peacefully protested for two months demanding their lawful say in decrees that will contribute to the devastation of the Amazon's ecology and peoples, and be disastrous for the global climate. But last weekend President Garcia responded: sending in special forces to suppress protests in violent clashes, and labelling the protesters as terrorists.

Giant oil and gas companies, like the Anglo-French Perenco and the North Americans ConocoPhillips and Talisman Energy, have already pledged multi-billionaire investments in the region. These extractive industries are stated to have a very poor record of bringing benefits to local people and preserving the environment in developing countries - which is why indigenous groups are asking for internationally-recognized rights to consultation on the new laws.

For decades the world and indigenous peoples have watched as extractive industries devastated the rainforest that is home to some and a vital treasure to us all (some climate scientists call the Amazon the "lungs of the planet" - breathing in the carbon emissions that cause global warming and producing oxygen). The protests in Peru are the biggest yet and the most desperate, we can't afford to let them fail. Access to a petition designed to bring justice to the indigenous peoples of Peru and prevent further acts of violence at [http://www.avaaz.org/en/peru\\_stop\\_violence](http://www.avaaz.org/en/peru_stop_violence)

### **Government's Copenhagen announcement - Friends of the Earth reaction**

Responding to the Government's announcement of its manifesto for achieving global agreement at Copenhagen, Andy Atkins, Executive Director of Friends of the Earth, said: "The Government's recognition that finance is key to breaking the deadlock in the stalled UN talks offers some hope of progress - but we have no chance of achieving the cuts required through the con of carbon offsetting. Continued support for offsetting through expanding carbon markets will neither tackle climate change nor set Britain on a low carbon path to new green jobs and industries.

"Ministers' fixation with carbon markets to deliver this finance is misplaced and dangerous - they enable rich countries to offset most of their emissions but the science demands that rich countries make big cuts and, in addition, provide finance to develop cleanly in developing countries." Friends of the Earth is demanding that the Government changes its approach to climate change with its Demand Climate Change campaign. The green campaign group is asking everyone to sign its international petition to world leaders at <http://www.demandclimatechange.org/>.

### **Clean tech investment in UK could bring large economic benefits**

The UK could generate up to £70 billion and create almost 250,000 jobs from offshore wind and wave power generation schemes by 2050, it has been claimed. According to a new report by the Carbon Trust, those two renewable energy sources have the potential to deliver 15 percent of the carbon dioxide emissions savings required by the mid-point of the century.

However, it warned that these benefits would only be delivered if the government pursues a policy of increased investment in research and removes regulations that are acting as barriers against renewable energy growth. The report was launched in tandem with the trust's Clean Tech Revolution campaign, which calls for a new strategy on clean energy if Britain is to become a worldwide hub for the low-carbon economy.

Chief executive Tom Delay said: "These technologies are not green 'nice to haves' but are critical to the economic recovery of the UK. To reap the significant rewards from their successful development we must prioritise and comprehensively back the technologies that offer the best chance of securing long term carbon savings, jobs and revenue for Britain."

Meanwhile, the report also indicated that 25 percent of the world's wave technology is currently being developed in the UK.

[http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/News/presscentre/020709\\_Clea...](http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/News/presscentre/020709_Clea...)

## **The Severn Tidal Power Team - Feasibility Study June update**

'The aim of the study is to enable Government to decide whether or not it could support a Severn tidal power scheme and if so on what terms. This decision will be taken in the context of the UK's wider climate and energy goals and will be a question of relative costs, impacts and benefits as compared to the alternative options for achieving these goals. The decision will be taken following a second public consultation (probably in 2010). Further information about the study is available on our website [www.decc.gov.uk/severntidalpower](http://www.decc.gov.uk/severntidalpower) '

### Overview of Progress

#### *First public consultation - considering responses*

The first public consultation closed at the end of April. Over 700 responses have been received and considered over the last couple of months. The Government Response to the consultation (which will include the finalised short-list of schemes that more detailed work will be done on this year) is expected to be published in mid-July. The Response will be available on the severn tidal power website (above).

#### *Severn Embryonic Technology Scheme (SETS)*

In addition to the more detailed work on the short-listed tidal power schemes, the team also announced (in January) £500,000 to support Severn tidal embryonic technologies, such as the tidal reef and tidal fence. Applications for this funding closed in May and seventeen proposals were received from various companies and innovators. Six proposals (including tidal fences, tidal reef and a tidal stream 'farm') met the eligibility requirements and progressed through to the next stage.

This next stage involved working up bids with engineering and environmental consultancy advice funded through the scheme. The revised bids have now been submitted and are being reviewed again by the SETs Programme Board. A final decision on which schemes the funding will support is expected alongside the publication of the Government Response to Consultation.

The next Severn Tidal Power stakeholder event is planned for 23rd July at the Cardiff School of Engineering, Cardiff University, Queen's Building, The Parade, Cardiff, CF24 3AA, commencing at 10.45am. The main purpose of this event will to provide an update on the Government's response to the recent public consultation.

### **Bradford on Avon aims to be carbon neutral**

According to Greenbathnews Bradford on Avon's climate action group, Climate Change Bradford on Avon, is working on an ambitious plan to commit BoA to working towards becoming carbon neutral by 2050. The group is currently inviting the town's people and organisations to join them in developing a declaration and plan of action. There'll be a grand signing in December to coincide with the Climate Change Summit in Copenhagen. You may not live in the town, but their online survey reveals the scale of their thinking. <http://climatefriendlybradfordonavon.co.uk>

### **£10 million boost for South West marine energy research**

South West England's ambition to be a global centre for harnessing energy from the sea has received a major boost with the announcement of a £10.3 million investment in marine energy research. The bulk of the investment, £5.3 million, has come from the ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) Convergence Programme in Cornwall (£4.2m) and the ERDF Competiveness Programme (£1.1m) in the rest of the South West.

The South West RDA is contributing £4.3 million with a further £200,000 from the University of Plymouth and £466,000 from the University of Exeter. The funding will support the Peninsula Research Institute for Marine Renewable Energy (PRIMaRE), set up two years ago by the Universities of Exeter and Plymouth with funding from the South West RDA (Regional Development Agency), PRIMaRE's 15 world-class academic staff, 60 researchers and a dedicated technology transfer team that works with businesses to support high quality job creation across the South West.

There will be substantial investment in new equipment including wave and tidal measuring devices, wave making facilities, sub-sea electrical equipment, collision avoidance and monitoring equipment and research into the environmental impact and benefits of marine renewable energy.

PRIMaRE will support and complement the South West RDA's pioneering Wave Hub project, which will create the world's largest wave energy farm 10 miles of the Cornish coast and is on course to be built next year.

Stephen Peacock, Enterprise and Innovation Director at the South West RDA, which plans to invest around £70 million in low carbon activities by 2012, said: "PRIMaRE and Wave Hub are central planks in the RDA's drive towards a low carbon economy in South West England. We want our region to be one of the best places in the world to build a low carbon business and a global leader in the development of environmental and renewable energy technologies."

### **Future Dates.**

#### **A new training opportunity from Sustainability South West.**

Tuesday 23rd July 10-00am-2pm (Bristol)

*Introduction to Sustainability* is a half day course that will provide a basic overview of the topic along with hands-on experience of undertaking a sustainability appraisal. This is the first of a rolling training programme aimed at those wanting a basic introduction to sustainability. Sustainable South West plans to have further sector-specific courses over the coming months. Contact Clare Mitchell: [clare.mitchell@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk](mailto:clare.mitchell@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk) for details.

**Ruth Valerio at King's Centre, Wellington.**

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2009 7pm.

Ruth Valerio is to speak at the King's Centre, Blackdown Business Park, Wellington. Topics covered will include trade justice, sustainable living and transition towns. Ruth Valerio lives with her husband and two young daughters in Chichester, where she is part of Revelation Church. She runs A Rocha's [Living Lightly](#) project, and is involved with the leadership of Spring Harvest.

Ruth has written extensively on justice, environmental and lifestyle issues (including [L is for Lifestyle: Christian Living that doesn't cost the earth](#), IVP), as well as writing Bible study guides for Scripture Union and CWR. Concerned to "practice what she preaches", she has an allotment, keeps pigs, co-ordinates a food co-operative, and is on the steering committee of Transition Chichester.

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*The editor of DEL is always interested in hearing about environmental events and projects from around the diocese, in particular work in individual churches and deaneries. And we always welcome new subscribers (free). Send an e-mail to [brianckellock@brianckellock.plus.com](mailto:brianckellock@brianckellock.plus.com).*

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**Again with my thanks to Gordon Waddington for the cartoon.**