

Opening doors to a greener future

All over the world, ordinary people are doing their bit to try and reduce their carbon footprint (and their energy bills) to help efforts to stave off the potentially catastrophic effects of climate change.

In Bristol, as part of the **bristolgreendoors** project, 50 householders will be opening their homes in September to show what they have done.

Is there anyone in the Chew Valley Gazette's area who could point to any measures they have taken in the last few years, whether no-cost, low-cost or expensive, that have helped them achieve energy savings?

We hope to profile some of the local people who have done similar things, to show others how they could follow suit. If you'd be prepared to be mentioned in a future feature (we needn't mention your name if you'd rather we didn't) please contact us.



bristolgreendoors organisers, Kate Watson and Dan Weisselberg

One of the organisers, Kate Watson, says there is nothing elitist about this it's for normal people! She says: "We have focused on Bristol but we wanted to create a toolkit that could be used by other communities.

"There are a range of solutions here from no-cost ones, like simply being more vigilant about turning things off standby, or fairly expensive solutions which deliver huge savings. In between are low cost measures, like draft excluders on old doors and loft hatches which make a big difference.

"But the houses that are opening up should offer a variety of ideas to appeal to a variety of people interested in cutting their carbon footprint and cutting their energy bills.

Although some energy-saving projects have involved little attempt to quantify the savings achieved (if any) either in terms of carbon or money, bristolgreendoors houses will provide home information sheets detailing the work done including the costs, savings, contractors, products, suppliers etc.

They will also have Energy Performance Certificates, the one element of the scrapped HIPs which is still required.

Despite the fact that EPCs have been around for three years, there is still little public awareness of them (even tenants should get them from their landlords when they take on a lease, so they know what the energy costs will be).

See
www.bristolgreendoors.org

Various targets for the degree of carbon reduction necessary to stave off extreme levels of future global warming have been set. One of these which the government is signed up to achieve is a binding target of 80 per cent reduction on 1990 CO2 levels produced by 2050.

How feasible is this locally and how can we monitor our progress?

David Dickerson, who lives in Bishop Sutton and is Principal Sustainability Consultant for Hilson Moran, has compiled a spreadsheet of calculations of CO2 emissions for much of the Chew Valley area on a parish basis - see the summary below.

(This summary, the more complex detailed analysis per parish, and a summary of the methodology, can all be downloaded from the Gazette website).

He compiled this data for the local T80 group, which is in the process of devising a

strategy for reducing local CO2 emissions. The data is based on the annual NAEI National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory for 2006; the 2007 Inventory has just been published and these results will be used to update the data in due course.

The NAEI annual report gives the estimated pollutant emissions over a time series for 25 pollutants going as far back as 1970, including carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, as greenhouse gases (GHGs). Other GHGs not included in the inventory are HFCs, PFCs and SF6 but these are unlikely to be released in the Valley.

He says the data could be extended to bring in more parishes if required without too much difficulty. As it stands, the spreadsheet shows that the domestic per capita CO2 emission ranges from 2.5 tonnes per annum for

Ubley to 4.7 tonnes per annum for Compton Dando and although the precise reasons for this warrant further investigation it appears that the higher the ratio of domestic gas to oil, the lower the per capita CO2 emission. Other factors might include the sizes and age of properties.

David is confident that the figures for gas and electricity consumption should be fairly accurate, with those for coal and oil less accessible and so less accurate. However he would expect that any anomalies in data should even out roughly between different parishes, so making a fairly level basis for inter-parish comparison.

His detailed calculations are in a spreadsheet that defines CO2 emissions per annum in 1 km grid squares (the squares visible on Ordnance Survey Explorer and Landranger

maps) and allocates this according to the percentage of each grid square occurring in each parish (this tries to account for the proportion of households within each parish in each square where parish boundaries run).

His notes on methodology admit some bizarre anomalies which seem to show overestimates of emissions for domestic electricity and domestic oil and solid fuel emissions and which do raise some doubts as to the accuracy of the data. Nevertheless, the NAEI estimates provide a relatively easily accessible and comprehensive source of CO2 emissions which provide the best available benchmark for future comparisons.

Regarding the recent data in the 2007 NAEI Inventory, he comments: "A very quick comparison of NAEI 2007 CO2 domestic emissions with 2006 showed the following reductions for whole local authority areas Bath & NE Somerset 7.8%, NW Somerset 5.8%, Mendip 7.2%. This is encouraging and hopefully shows a greater awareness of the problems of climate change and a move towards more sustainable lifestyles - I wonder if the data for 2009/10 when produced will show a significant reduction because of the recession or an increase because of the cold winter!"

He says anyone who might be interested to set up a carbon reduction project in their own parish would be welcome to use this data

+ files for download from

www.chewvalleygazette.co.uk

00217_Parish grids & emissions v0.3_DD.xls

090814_NAEI Methodology v0.1-1.pdf

090409_P&L Energy Policy

RJ

CO2 emissions, tonnes produced in 2006 (data on methodology and interpretation see right)

Parish	Homes	Pop	Dom	Dom/	Dom/	Ind	Ag	Roads	Total	Total/	Major industrial source/home
				capita	capita					pop	
Ubley	135	335	848	6.3	2.5	710	151	705	2413	7.2	
Winford	791	1955	5316	6.7	2.7	3296	698	3473	12783	6.5	
Stanton Drew	280	762	2123	7.6	2.8	1566	265	1823	5777	7.6	
Chew Stoke	345	905	2676	7.8	3.0	3014	337	1497	7524	8.3	Chew Valley School & BBW
Blagdon	496	1172	3468	7.0	3.0	16849	288	1728	22333	19.1	Yeo Valley
Stowey Sutton	476	1222	3731	7.8	3.1	908	279	2341	7259	5.9	
Compton Martin	203	508	1699	8.4	3.3	583	288	1479	4049	8.0	
Butcombe	102	230	813	8.0	3.5	983	183	587	2566	11.2	
West Harptree	173	459	1628	9.4	3.5	700	307	1828	4464	9.7	
Chew Magna	486	1161	4499	9.3	3.9	2320	568	2177	9563	8.2	
Wroughton	1182	2896	11346	9.6	3.9	34623	890	8786	55645	19.2	Bristol Airport
Nempnett Thrubwell	73	189	783	10.7	4.1	763	339	834	2719	14.4	
Compton Dando	223	613	2908	13.0	4.7	1554	563	2420	7444	12.1	

National success



Britta Francis

Britta Francis from Blagdon was a member of the Avon Riding for the Disabled team which were competing at the RDA National Championships at Hartpury last month.

Britta was unable to ride her own horse Harry but was able to ride one of the horses from the Avon RDA Centre called Marge. Prior to the nationals they were lucky enough to have 2 training sessions with Simon Laurens, the paralympic gold medalist, European and world champion from Gloucestershire, who Britta described as "fantastic".

She hopes to work with him again soon as he really helped Britta with her riding as Britta found the horse difficult to ride, not at all like Harry, but Simon gave the group some excellent advice, both on and off the horse and freely gave up his time to train them.

Britta was riding was in the Grade 3 test in the Open section, and came 3rd with score of 63.75%.

Rosie Sage

Riding for Britain



Dani Evans

The Hows Racesafe British Junior Team has just been announced and heading the line-up is 2009 Junior Individual Silver medallist Dani Evans with Heather Sheppard's Uchin. Dani lives in Woollard and Heather Sheppard lives in Ston Easton.

Dani who is on the UK Sport funded World Class Development Programme has not been out of the top five in her last five outings in CCI1* with the consistent Uchin.

The pair were runners-up at the recent National Under-18 Championships at Glanusk, where they finished on the same score as the winner, both on their dressage score but Dani was not as close to the optimum time for the cross country and was then placed second.

The squad of six will be competing in Germany for the Junior European Championships, taking place at Bad Segeberg over 19th - 22nd August 2010.

Rosie Sage