

The Forum 21 Flier



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Dear member, welcome to the latest issue of the Forum 21 newsletter. Forum 21 member Louise Evans has taken on the role of newsletter editor, we hope you like our new look. Any comments or input on the information you would like to see here, or if you receive this newsletter as a postal copy but now have access to email and would like it sent electronically, please email: forum21.carbon@yahoo.co.uk.

Continuing effort with our Energy Efficiency Campaign is helping West Somerset residents

Our team of trained energy auditors have been busy visiting as many as 100 homes across West Somerset in a campaign to ensure residents are more comfortable this winter and saving energy wherever possible.

The auditors have been advising on all aspects of domestic energy saving measures such as loft and cavity wall insulation, boiler efficiency, heating systems, pipe lagging, window glazing, draught-proofing as well as damp and condensation problems.



To apply for a free energy survey, please call 01643 703161.

Cavity wall and loft insulation is free to anyone over 70 or on limited income so please get in touch if this applies to you!

Tourism businesses on Exmoor also have the opportunity to benefit from free energy surveys. In a scheme run by Exmoor National park, tourism businesses can apply for a visit from an auditor to help save money and CO₂.

Forum 21 has also been learning more about hard to treat homes such as those on the Cleeve Park estate, in an attempt to understand how to better insulate these properties. We have recently agreed to work with the National Trust on the Holnicote estate.

Our energy efficiency work with 3 local schools (funded by the West Somerset Strategic Partnership and supported by SCC) is underway.

We are also still on the search for a suitable unoccupied shop to turn into a community energy advice centre. Watch this space!

Sign up to the Community Hub



Visit www.community-hub.com to find out about what is happening locally in terms of sustainable development and climate change and how you can get involved.

Thursday 8th October
St Michael's church hall, Alcombe

"CLIMATE CRISIS" WHAT DOES COPENHAGEN MEAN FOR WEST SOMERSET?

Preceded by Forum 21 AGM, 7.30pm
Free entry, all welcome

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- **Thurs 1st October** - Generate Your Own Electricity talk-Bicknoller village Hall 7.30pm
- **Thurs 8th October** - Forum 21 AGM and Copenhagen presentation.
- **9th-12th October** - Two Moors low carbon festival. For more info, see www.lowcarbonfestival.co.uk
- **Fri 9th October** - TMA Eco Fair (part of Low Carbon festival). Methodist Church Hall, Minehead 2-5.30pm
- **Fri 23rd October** - Energy Saving Week. Advice being given outside Iceland in Minehead
- **Sat 24th October** - 350 campaign. Meet Minehead beach 2 pm

FEATURE: Copenhagen

In December this year, representatives of more than 180 countries from around the world will meet for the fifteenth UNFCCC Conference of Parties in Copenhagen, Denmark, to establish an international agreement about tackling climate change, to take effect in 2012 when the Kyoto Protocol expires.

COP15 is the official name of the Copenhagen climate change summit — the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The COP is the highest body of the UNFCCC and consists of environment ministers who meet once a year to discuss developments in the convention.

Developing countries, including China and India, believe it is the responsibility of wealthy industrialised nations such as the UK and US to set a clear example on cutting carbon emissions. Significantly, the US rejected the 1997

Kyoto protocol, with George Bush arguing that the 5% reductions required by Kyoto would "wreck [the American] economy" while making no demands on emerging economies. COP15's chances of success have been improved by President Barack Obama's stated intention to achieve an 80% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.



"We'll work tirelessly to roll back the specter of a warming planet"
President Barack Obama,
inaugural address, 20th
January 2009

We want West Somerset to show commitment to the climate crisis by meeting on

**Minehead beach,
(opposite Mambos)
Saturday 24th October
2 pm**

For a human '350' sculpture and photograph



24 October 2009

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CLIMATE ACTION
350.org

350.org is an international campaign dedicated to building a movement to unite the world around solutions to the climate crisis—the solutions that science and justice demand. This December, world leaders will meet in Copenhagen, Denmark to craft a new global treaty on cutting emissions. The problem is, the treaty currently on the table doesn't meet the severity of the climate crisis—it doesn't pass the 350 test.

350 'ppm,' or parts per million in the atmosphere is the level that the global scientific community has identified as the upper safe limit, from where we can avoid runaway climate change.

Climate Change Column

We hope you have read our Climate Change column in the West Somerset News Trader recently. We try to use the column to promote sustainability or raise awareness to current issues and debates.

We would like to invite members of Forum 21 to submit articles to us to fill the column from time to time.

So if you want to voice your concerns or write something you feel may be of interest to West Somerset and is on the topic of climate change and sustainability, please let us know.

Email: forum21.carbon@yahoo.co.uk.

Join the 10:10 campaign

Commit to cut your emissions by 10% in 2010 and help to combat climate change. More importantly, your voice will help to put pressure on the politicians to cut Britain's emissions as quickly as the science demands. Log on and sign up today.



www.1010uk.org

Join Forum 21s **Personal Carbon Allowance Project** and complete our carbon calculator to help monitor your emissions. Get in touch to take part.

carbon@forum21.org.uk

Project Updates

Minehead Car Club

The Car club is celebrating five new members joining!

The cost of joining the Car Club is £50 a year plus £2.50 per hour and 20 pence per mile; there is a special day rate of £25 and a week-end rate of £50. Being a member of a car club can save you between £1000 & £2000 a year compared to owning and running your own car.

For more information about the car club or to join, visit:

www.mineheadcarclub.com or contact info@mineheadcarclub.com.

Climate Action West, the Community Interest Company set up by Forum 21 that was responsible for setting up the car club, is pleased to be helping a Dulverton initiative to set up a Car Club too. Exmoor Medical Centre is leading the project with the idea of using the car for their prescription deliveries.



Exmoor Carbon Neutral Strategy and Low Carbon Festival



An Exmoor Carbon Neutral Strategy will be launched at an exciting new event, the Dartmoor and Exmoor Low Carbon Festival. The event is being organised to promote low carbon living in and around the South West's two National Parks.

The aim of the event is to involve communities, individuals and businesses in innovative ways of tackling climate change, to celebrate existing low carbon activity in the two moors and to share knowledge in relation to low carbon living. The event will also form part of the 60th Anniversary of the 'National Parks Access to the Countryside Act' celebrations.

The event will kick off with a summit at the Met Office in Exeter on the 9th October. Events will be running in and around both National Parks throughout the weekend of 9th October to 12th October inclusive. More information can be found at www.lowcarbonfestival.co.uk.

As part of the Carbon neutral Strategy, Forum 21 received funding through the Exmoor Sustainable Development Fund to enable a project officer to be employed to develop community **sustainable energy plans**.

The 6 Exmoor communities to benefit are: Porlock Vale, Parracombe, Timberscombe, Lynton and Lynmouth, Cutcombe, and Dulverton. The plans assess & implement energy efficiency measures as well as identify renewable energy projects. An action plan has been produced for each community and with our help; we hope that these communities can suppress the flow of money and energy leaving their community and save CO2.

Keep checking the **Community Hub website** for progress and information on the Sustainable Settlement Energy Plans.

LARC (Local Action for Rural Communities)

At last LARC looks like it's going to start spending some of the money we worked so hard to secure.

Steam Coast Trail

Our multi-user non-vehicular trail is moving forward with great progress. Sustrans are leading a bid for LARC funding (Local Action for Rural Communities) which has been received positively and we hope will be successful. The section from Williton to Watchet is currently at the design stage and due for construction in 2010. Recent collaboration with the Mineral Line project means that the section from Watchet to Washford could be completed within a year.

Minehead Anaerobic Digester

The full application for a feasibility study for this exciting project is being completed at the end of September. Climate Action West hopes that the feasibility study will lead to a full project being developed.

There is still time to apply for funding for projects. If you have ideas of innovative ways to move Western Somerset towards a low carbon economy please contact Lorna Scott, Graham Boswell or Bill Butcher. Alternatively, go to the web-site www.somersetleader.org.uk and contact the project manager Anne-Marie Spalding.

Waste Reduction

Somerset Waste Partnership have received a grant to fund a waste project officer who should be in place by the end of September. They will give advice and support to businesses on how best to manage waste.



Forum 21 is an environmental group in West Somerset working with West Somerset District Council and other partners to help avoid climate change and to promote sustainability

Useful Forum 21 contacts:

Liz Clark
Coordinator
01823 321 756
liz@ecostrust.org.uk

Wendy Stephenson
Coordinator
01643 703 520
wendystephenson@theconvergingworld.org

Lorna Scott
Coordinator
01984 634 242
mail@forum21.org.uk

Louise Evans
Admin
forum21.carbon@yahoo.co.uk

Transition Town Contacts:

Wiveliscombe:
Deborah J Thorpe
01823 401567

Minehead and Alcombe: (TMA)
Maureen Smith
01643 709 478
tma2009@hotmail.co.uk

Forum 21's mission is to promote and enable sustainable living and transition to resilient communities in Western Somerset, in order to reduce the carbon footprint of both residents and local businesses and to increase local food production and security.

So far we have achieved a lot for the local community:

- Started the Minehead farmer's market in 2000
- Set up the Timber ReUse Company in 2005
- Has a major cycle project underway—the Steam Coast Trail
- Has helped to write a Community Climate Change Strategy
- Has started an extensive energy efficiency campaign

Working Groups explained

There are a number of projects and working groups set up in West Somerset tackling climate change issues as a result of the Climate Change Strategy.

The **Climate Reduction Implementation Board (CRIB)** has been set up to implement the Climate Change Strategy. Various task groups have been set up to report back to stimulate activity and report back to the Board. They are a means of identifying practical ways to move forward the objectives identified in the Climate Change Strategy.

The CRIB sub-groups are looking at biomass fuel, commercial waste, anaerobic digestion, energy use and sustainable transport; Forum 21 is represented on all of these groups.

These groups are also responsible for drawing funding to implement projects such as those reported above.

We have taken this opportunity to draw together the contacts for these projects so you can find out more information about their progress.

Working Groups at present:

Transport:

Bill Butcher:

bill.butcher@wgbenvironment.net

Energy:

Lorna Scott

mail@forum21.org.uk

Waste (commercial and community):

Graham Boswell

togooutdoors@hotmail.com

Biomass:

Lorna Scott/ Graham Boswell

mail@forum21.org.uk

togooutdoors@hotmail.com

Thank you for reading, we hope to see you at some of the up-coming events!