

North Wilts. Friends of the Earth

Newsletter

September/October 2007

Welcome to the 10th newsletter.

The weather this summer has been truly awful, so perhaps it is best that we hadn't arranged to take the stall to any events, the thought having to put it up & (even worse) take it down in some of the storms we've had is something I don't relish. Anyway Jenny managed to get to the Marlborough event, Stephen did a talk at the U3A in Chippenham about Waste in Wiltshire & I took a part in the Calne Environment day, so at least we have been visible in the community.

At our last meeting Gill Wheeler from Chippenham & Villages for the Environment (CAVE) explained about the CAVE Thermal Imaging project- hopefully this will make people aware of how much energy is being wasted from their homes,

CAVE have now decided to try to make Chippenham into a "Transition Town", meaning a town pioneering a way out of dependence on fossil fuels to one using green energy resources.

This will be discussed further at the AGM.

We also had a really interesting group outing to the Yatesbury Organic Farm at the end July. They are currently converting to a biodynamic way of farming, & are working towards a whole, closed farm approach where little or no input is required from outside the farm. I have had a box of their vegetables & was impressed by the content, See

www.yatesbury.net

or ring 01672 539191 for more details.

Membership Profile:

Hope to have this back next edition

To Incinerate or not to Incinerate?

From Stephen.

What is wrong with incineration, especially if you use it to generate electricity? Doesn't it save on burning fossil fuels & so help to combat climate change? True, but an Energy from Waste incinerator (EfW) is less efficient in extracting energy from its fuel than a conventional power station. Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) has a high water content so often a fossil

fuel has to be added to the MSW else it will not burn effectively.

The main combustible waste materials are paper & plastic. If they are recycled rather than burned, new trees don't have to be cut down & oil to make plastic doesn't have to be extracted from the ground, The energy used to recycle waste paper & plastic back into a raw material is about half the energy required to develop a tree or oil into the raw material in the first place.

Recycling saves resources & energy compared to incineration.

In addition pollution is created by incineration.

Burning waste creates a range of noxious gases (sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, hydrogen chloride, carbon monoxide) which if breathed in can harm health. These gases are also acidic so tend to damage the environment.

When burning waste, trace metals such as lead, mercury, cadmium, nickel & zinc are emitted into the air. These are poisonous particularly when attached to the soot particles created by the burning process. The filters required by law do not capture these very fine particles which are a major cause of heart & lung disease. There is also the need to dispose of the toxically contaminated ash after incineration.

Recycling greatly minimises all these problems.

Finally, around one-fifth of all household waste is kitchen waste. This makes excellent compost if mixed with garden waste. Incineration simply turns this material into gases & contaminated ash.

If you want to be kind to people & the planet, recycle & compost rather than incinerate.

See www.northwiltsfoe.org.uk/html/newsletter

for the full article.

Karen's Kitchen

Doesn't it make the heart glad when you can eat entirely from the garden? Talk about the good life. Even if you don't have a garden it is possible with farmers markets etc to enjoy oodles of fresh & fragrant locally grown food. The only things I've had

Visit our Website:

www.northwiltsfoe.org.uk

we meet the 3rd Tuesday of the month at Marden House, Calne



to buy recently are tomatoes as we lost all 60 of our plants to blight. The beetroot are wonderful this year and one of my favourite ways with them is to roast them in olive oil and a dash of balsamic vinegar until tender. Delicious!

Here is a recipe for one of the vegetables that are most difficult to keep up with in most gardens at the moment.

Spicy bean mix

This can be frozen in tubs to bring out with nostalgia in mid-winter. You can use all varieties of beans together, the more the merrier!

The secret is to start with lashings of garlic & fresh ginger (crushed & grated respectively). Fry in some ground coriander & some whole cumin seeds as well as well as fresh chilli. Then add the chopped beans, with a little water & salt, Lace the whole lot with as much lemon juice as suites you. Peppers & tomatoes can be added too. The mixture freezes well. Best in smallish pots

For more from Colham Farm gardens see www.northwiltsfoe.org.uk/html/recipes

Drinks and the environment

From Sheila

Greendrinks is an informal way for local groups to network together, share information and ideas or just an opportunity to have a chat. Colerne are planning to meet at the Fox and Hounds in Colerne See www.greendrinks.org for details

Tetrapak recycling at Tesco - black marks

Despite what I was told when I contacted Tesco's help desk they **do not** have any recycling facilities for tetrapaks in this area. I have made numerous calls to head office to try and get clarification of this issue and they have not bothered to reply.

But....

Tetrapak recycling

Stephen sent the following query to Wilts CC after reading details of other councils recycling policy. 150 Councils are now offering Tetra Pak recycling. The question is, is Wiltshire ? And if not, why not ?

I have subsequently spoken to Martin Litherland from WCC & he has explained that the tetrapak recycling is not as easy as appears. The funding is only for 2 years, the baled tetrapaks are sent to Norway where only 1 of the 3 recovered materials are recycled - the other 2 go to EfW incinerators, and other councils have advised to think carefully about this before going ahead.

Waste not want not

Don't throw fat/oil used for roasting & shallow frying down the sink - wipe it up with stale bread & throw it

out for the birds - they love it & it means less pollution in the drainage system.

A new pair of trousers?

M&S are now making trousers from recycled plastic bottles! It takes 14 bottles to make one pair - available in black, charcoal or navy .

I haven't seen them, so can't comment but if anyone has please let me know your thoughts & I'll pass them on to the rest of the group.

Diary:

1 st - 2 nd Sept	Create Open weekend Bristol www.bristol.gov.uk/create
1 st - 2 nd Sept	Bristol Organic Food Festival www.oilassociation.org
7 th -9 th Sept.	FoE Conference University of Reading NWDC The Energy Event Contact Stephen for details AGM Climate Friendly Fortnight (Wildlife trusts of South West) www.swwt.org.uk/climate
12 th - 13 th Sept	Peace One Day www.naturalcollection.com
18 th Sept	World Car-Free day www.carfree.net
15 th -30 th Sept	Stanton St Quinton school Environmental Awareness Festival Monthly meeting National Energy Week
21 st Sept	North Wraxall AWARE Day
22 nd Sept	Antarctic Talk (provisional) Monthly meeting
29 th Sept	
16 th Oct	
22 nd - 28 th Oct	
27 th Oct	
6 th Nov	
20 th Nov	

Please let Maureen know of any events/dates you think the group might be interested in
If you don't have internet access and there is anything you would like more information on give me a ring and I'll see what I can print off - Maureen

Don't Forget

Buying Fair Trade will have a huge impact on those farmers & workers whose products are fairly traded.

BUT, . . .

If you buy them from the supermarket it is the supermarkets who get the profit - buy from your local shop/supplier & make a difference in your community.

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