



Carbon Campaign Newsletter – March 2013

WHAT'S ON MARCH 2013?

At the end of March two international environment events are taking place. The first is **Friday 22 March, World Water Day**, designed to highlight the varying quality and quantity of water and help us use this precious resource more responsibly for healthy humans and ecosystems. To look at ways you can help please visit the official Water Day website <http://www.worldwaterday.org/>.



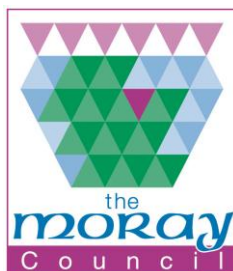
The second event is **Earth Hour, Saturday 23 March, 20:30**. For this one hour hundreds of millions of people switch off lights around the world in a stand against climate change. Global landmarks such as the Sydney Harbour Bridge, The Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, and Rome's Colosseum all take part. Switch off your lights at home and enjoy an evening by candlelight! For more information log on to the official Earth Hour site: <http://www.earthhour.org/>



Introduction

Welcome to the pre-Easter edition of the Moray Council carbon campaign newsletter.

Despite the rain that falls in Scotland there is a water shortage around the world, including droughts here in recent years, and our plea this month is to ask you all to report any dripping taps, leaky pipes or faulty toilets to our maintenance department Helpdesk so that we can get them fixed to save water. Telephone number: 01343 563700



The Moray Council spends £450,000 each year on water coming in and out of our buildings. Some of this will undoubtedly be water that is being wasted.

Did you know?

In the UK we use **70% more water today than we did 30 years ago!**

Simple things that we can all do to reduce water and energy consumption both at work and at home include boiling only the amount of water we need in the kettle, turning off the tap when we brush our teeth, fitting water saving devices to toilet cisterns, taking less time in the shower, washing our clothes when the washing machine is full and using a bowl or a plug in the sink when washing up.

Website of the Month

<http://www.waterwise.org.uk/pages/saving-water-in-scotland-network.html>



Waterwise is an independent body that represents consumers who have concerns or require knowledge about water usage. Waterwise is currently working in partnership with Scottish Water to move towards a more sustainable future for Scotland through promoting the need for greater water efficiency in Scotland.

Celebrity Corner

Former supermodel Cindy Crawford is concerned about access to clean, safe drinking water for all and used her celebrity status to back a "Thirsty for Change" campaign which aims to provide filtered water without the waste associated with plastic bottles.



Moray Council Earth Hour - Friday 22nd March 11am- 12 noon



As you can see above the international Earth Hour event takes place on Saturday 23rd March between 8.30-9.30 pm. We are planning to have our own Moray Council Earth Hour on Friday 22nd March between 11am and 12 noon. Switch off any unnecessary electrical equipment in your office at 11 am and if you find that at 12 noon you didn't need to have it switched on the first place - leave it off! Think about lights, fans, heaters, your additional PC monitor, digital photo frames, phone chargers, radios, ipods and ipads. Remember only switch off if it's safe to do so and don't switch off anything which means you can't continue working.

On 1 April 2010 the UK government Clean Energy Cash Back scheme commenced for homeowners to generate their own electricity through renewable energy. The so-called feed-in tariffs allow you to obtain income for every kilowatt hour you generate or export to the national grid. And if it isn't sunny or windy enough to make your own energy you can simply offset it to purchase the electricity you need from your utility company at a lower rate! It is expected that by 2020 the scheme will support over 750,000 small scale low carbon electricity installations in the UK and will have saved 7 million tonnes of carbon dioxide.

A typical 2.5kW well sited solar panel system such as the one pictured could reap a £900 reward as well as an electricity bill saving of £140 a year.



The Carbon Management Awareness Campaign is a government idea to help raise awareness throughout the public sector in Scotland on how we can all reduce our carbon emissions. This newsletter is part of this campaign. The Moray Council launches its campaign officially in April 2013, the first year is mainly dealing with energy although other topics will be covered. We decided to launch the monthly newsletters in January to give staff some ideas before the official launch date. Please continue to give us feedback on any of the topics covered at energy@moray.gov.uk or look at the energy website on www.moray.gov.uk for tips and ideas.

“Global warming can’t be happening. Winters are getting colder each year!”

ANSWER: First of all, it's necessary to explain that the 'climate' is not the same as the 'weather'. Climate cycles take place over decades, centuries, even millions of years. As we know from leaving the house on a sunny morning without an umbrella only to get caught in a downpour a few hours later, the weather can change its pattern in a day and is therefore on a much shorter timescale. Weather is also something we experience locally whereas the climate is widespread across the world and the impacts of change will be unevenly felt. We have experienced a very cold winter here in Britain and it's easy to think that the planet isn't warming. But as we shiver here, other parts of the world are experiencing the highest temperatures on record. In fact, globally the last decade has been the warmest ever recorded and temperatures are still set to rise. The long term trend is that we are getting warmer and whilst this means that winters will be generally milder and wetter here in the UK we will still experience natural cold snap cycles.



The issue of climate warming and its link with greenhouse gases is not going away. The more gas we produce, the warmer the Earth becomes. For more information visit the Met Office weblink:

<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/>