



## Carbon Campaign Newsletter - May 2013

### WHAT'S ON MAY 2013?



### Introduction

May is internationally renowned for considering biodiversity and what crucial role it plays in order for all of us to survive.

**22<sup>nd</sup> May 2013** is the *International Day for Biodiversity* to celebrate how humans interact with the planet. Human health depends on species for pollinating food crops, controlling floods, providing our clothes and offering medical treatments to over one billion people. To find out more about how important biodiversity is for every human being please visit:- <http://www.unep.org> or the Facebook community.

Who would have thought that the humble bee or the earthworm were vital for humans to survive? This month we take a moment to reflect on the importance of species smaller than ourselves and consider ways to conserve the gifts that Mother Nature has bestowed upon us.

Much is in the news these days too about carbon footprinting, and indeed, we have mentioned it in previous newsletters, so we thought we'd help you to calculate your own carbon footprint and green up your image to help conserve the birds and the bees!

And finally, this month we've included some facts and figures about office equipment and look at ways you can help us save energy and money by switching on to switching off!

**Honeybees** are responsible for helping us produce all these foods:-

- ORANGES
- GRAPES
- APPLES
- WATERMELON
- CUCUMBER
- ALMONDS
- SQUASH
- CHERRIES
- HONEY and much more!

### Biodiversity in Focus - the bee

Bees are responsible for up to one quarter of the world's food production through the pollination process. Farm animals also depend upon this pollination of plants for their grain.



In a world without bees we would have far less food diversity, less plant and tree species, fewer cosmetic choices and our gardens may not look as attractive.

If you're interested in finding out more, or perhaps want to learn about keeping your own bees, visit

<http://www.scottishbeekeepers.org.uk/>.

### Celebrity Corner

Still working in his 9<sup>th</sup> decade, TV writer, presenter and naturalist Sir David Attenborough campaigns for many environmental causes. Birdlife International, butterfly

conservation and the Borneo Rainforest are just a few of



the causes he has championed. Sir David has even campaigned for wind turbines to be granted planning permission in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. As he says, "The future of life on earth depends on our ability to take action".

### Websites of the Month

<http://www.carbonify.com/carbon-calculator.htm>

<http://www.carbonindependent.org/>



Much is made about carbon footprints these days, from large businesses to individuals and families. But exactly how they are calculated can be quite a complex process and a figure can be arrived at via different scoping methods. These websites make calculating your own carbon footprint easy enough for you to understand where your strengths and weaknesses lie and what you might consider doing to reduce your environmental impact. All you need to do is have your utility bills to hand to know roughly how much energy you consume, and how much the units cost, and then answer simple energy lifestyle questions. The websites calculate the rest! At the end of it you will be presented with a figure of how much your carbon footprint amounts to and a list of targets to encourage you to tread more lightly.



## How much?

In 2012 the Moray Council spent £2.4 million on gas, electricity and oil for our 300 properties - this includes schools, swimming pools, depots, libraries, public toilets etc, etc. How much does your place of work cost to heat or light?

In February 2013 the electricity costs at a selection of our buildings were:

Lossiemouth High School £6,414.25    Elgin Library £4,506.85    Lhanbryde Primary £1,697.64

In the same month the costs for gas were:

Buckie High School £6,993.83    Forres Swimming Pool £4,205.82    Elgin Headquarters £2,484.98

We can all make a difference and lower the costs of energy where we work. See our web site for easy energy saving tips [http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray\\_standard/page\\_63848.html](http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_63848.html).

Have a guess at how much the electricity bill was for Elgin Academy in February 2013? Send your answer to [energy@moray.gov.uk](mailto:energy@moray.gov.uk) - prize for the nearest!

## Office Equipment

In UK businesses it is estimated that there are over six million PCs and approximately two million laser and inkjet printers. In addition there are photocopiers, fax machines, vending machines, kettles etc. Office equipment is now second only to heating as the major energy user in most office environments. The amount of office equipment in the UK is doubling every few years and currently consumes about £300 million of energy annually resulting in carbon dioxide emissions of over 3 million tonnes.

**Office equipment energy costs could be reduced by more than £100 million per year if energy efficiency measures were adopted.**

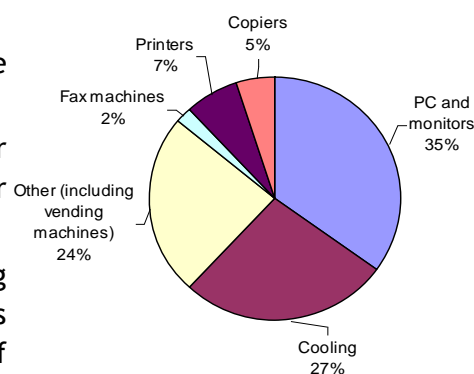
Since all this energy used results in more heat being produced the savings increase to £150 million if reduced air-conditioning demand is included.

### YOUR DEPARTMENT'S FOOTPRINT. . .

Why not carry out an energy walk round in your department to assess how energy efficient you and your colleagues are? We will give you advice and look at ways to make energy savings. A report will be produced which you can share with your colleagues or at a team meeting. If you'd like help with an energy walk round please contact [energy@moray.gov.uk](mailto:energy@moray.gov.uk)

Three Top Tips we can all apply to save energy in the office

1. Shut down your PC and the monitor at night.
2. Switch off your monitor when leaving your desk for 15 minutes.
3. Set up a rota for ensuring the photocopier, printers and lights are switched off at night.



Office equipment energy consumption  
(Source BRE)

## Switch off at lunchtime. *"Is it true that PC screensavers save energy?"*

**ANSWER:** No they don't. Employees at The Moray Council waste £1,200 every year by leaving PC monitors on and unused over the lunch hour. The simplest way to protect a screen (if not in use) is to switch it off. Most screen savers use the same amount of energy as when the screen is in normal use. Flat screens can use up to 50% of the energy of the total PC. Some more sophisticated screen savers actually use more energy, not save it. So if you're popping out the office for lunch or logging off at the end of the day, always switch your monitor off.

