



Carbon Campaign Newsletter – December 2013

WHAT'S ON DECEMBER 2013?

This month we switch on to switching things off. Many departments in the Moray Council will be closing for a short time over the Christmas and New Year celebrations and it's important that we all remember to switch off electrical items that will not be used.

Turn Off
The Lights!

The amount of office equipment in the UK is doubling every few years and currently consumes about £300 million of energy annually, resulting in CO₂ emissions of over 3 million tonnes. Some of the items that we could power down correctly include PCs (including monitors), printers, shredders and photocopiers. And remember, lights, heaters and cooling systems also need switching off when the last person leaves.



These could all be switched off at the end of a day, shift or before a meeting, and always remember to switch off before Yule-Eve!!



Welcome



With Christmas and Hogmanay upon us this issue is festive and gives us all some handy hints to help our holiday season remain a green one. Whether it's purchasing a really green Christmas tree or getting your shopping done, there's plenty of good advice to help you ease your carbon conscience.



The Energy Team would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy 2014. And if you're heading off to "shoogle your sporran" over the holiday season, stay safe at all times and, as ever, buy what you need, don't be wasteful and think about sharing a lift with others going your way!

Website of the Month

<https://www.2degreesnetwork.com/groups/customer-engagement-marketing/>



Did you know that Santa Claus used to be green? So, when did he turn red?

In one of the most famous advertising campaigns in history, Coca-Cola featured a podgy Santa in a red trimmed coat in the early 1930s, to match their product colours. The festive icon has been donning red ever since - well and truly cementing the image in our culture.

The 2 Degrees Advent Calendar will help you count down to Christmas with a little sustainable trivia every day. Also, read about the Christmas tree lights being powered by brussels sprouts.

ClarityCore

Folky Scot KT Tunstall is a big supporter of the Global Cool charity campaign. Her work to highlight the effects of climate change ranges from benefit gigs to personal changes. She lives in an eco home in London, sells sustainably sourced merchandise and runs her tour buses on biofuel.



Why not send e-cards rather than paper ones this year? Save yourself from adding to the Christmas card mountain.

If you receive many cards then make sure they are recycled in January.



Have Yourself a Merry Green Christmas

Many people now look upon Christmas as being purely commercialised and materialistic. However, even the greatest cynics among us can regain some of the original Christmas message of goodwill to all men, and the planet, with these simple steps to a more ethical, environmentally friendly Christmas.

- When buying electrical gadgets and gizmos, make sure they have the Energy Saving Recommended Logo. For smaller gifts, buy rechargeable batteries.
- Don't overdo it with the Christmas lights and use a timer for those you do have. Even better why not use solar powered rope lights or those with light emitting diode (LED) lamps? They can save up to 90% of energy use.
- Try not to make lots of trips to the shops in the car. Consider ordering online, use public transport or just make one or two big trips.
- Avoid the crush of the high street and buy your gifts from local designers and craft centres or go the extra mile and make your own gifts such as chutneys, cakes, flavoured oils or scarves - people really appreciate the extra effort and you'll cut down on packaging.
- Re-use bags when buying presents.
- In colder times, close your curtains at dusk. This way heat will not escape through the windows, meaning that you won't have to turn your thermostat up to keep cosy and warm!
- When you have a houseful of guests, you can probably turn the heating down or off, and anyway, all that partying and food will keep you warm!



Exploding Environmental Myths

“Is it better to have an artificial Christmas tree or a real one?”



Choose your Christmas trees responsibly

ANSWER: No. This debate is often raised, so here are some things to consider. Artificial trees are made from, and coated in, plastic, not recyclable or from a renewable source and have probably been shipped great distances. There are also question marks over where they are made and the labour used. Real trees are the more eco-friendly choice, as long as you consider where and how they have been grown.

Make sure you get one from a sustainable source. There are over 400 Christmas tree growers across the UK registered with the British Christmas Tree Growers' Association, where trees are grown according to strict guidelines governing everything from sustainable seeds and cultivation to protecting local wildlife. And remember natural trees also help to remove carbon from the atmosphere while they are growing.

And if you think you'll struggle to recycle your tree after Christmas you can also choose to rent one! Not only is it delivered, but on 6 January the supplier will whisk it away again ready to replant it for next year!”