



“Zero Waste – A Way to a Low Carbon Future”

Dear Colleague,

Gloucestershire Friends of the Earth Network wish to invite you and your colleagues to a Conference and Network Day on Saturday 9 October 2010 at Bethesda Methodist Church, Great Norwood St., Cheltenham Spa, Gloucestershire.

The theme is “Zero Waste – A Way to a Low Carbon Future” and we are fortunate to have Key note speaker, **Michael Warhurst**, Senior Resource Use Campaigner for EU and UK Friends of the Earth, **Adam Kennerley**, Chief executive of the Cwm Harry Land Trust presenting their “Slow Waste” pilot project for the Welsh Assembly, **Michael Pickering**, Social Responsibility Manager MidCounties Co-operative talking and discussing practicalities on the theme of “Co-operatives - Communities in action” and a panel from the main political parties for a question and answer session.

Gloucestershire Friends of the Earth believe that there needs to be a fundamental change in dealing with waste to enable the responsibility of decision making and action to be within small local communities. It is working on a local community/parish scale, empowering local communities, that is the key. Parish and Town Councils, Co-operatives, the Voluntary and Community Sector and small and medium enterprises all have a role to play in turning local waste into a local resource and reducing the carbon footprint

We hope that this conference network day will stimulate not only discussion and networking, but more importantly action, so that Gloucestershire takes the lead nationally to pilot this new approach to empowering local communities in dealing with their waste and lowering the carbon footprint.

Lunch is £ 5.00 which must be booked in advance and which would also reserve you a place at the Conference Network Day. If you do not wish to book lunch, entrance is free. Lunch reservations and further details will be posted on the website www.glosfoe.org.uk .

If you run a website we would be grateful if you would consider uploading details of the conference, the following 2 pages of further information are available for use or you could provide a link to our website www.glosfoe.org.uk. Separate attachments to this e-mail contain coloured and B/W posters if you would consider putting posters up in your area, such as Libraries, health food shops, fish and chip shops etc.

We would be very grateful if you would circulate this letter and attachments to colleagues and look forward to meeting you on the day.

Yours sincerely,
Mary Newton

Gloucestershire Friends of the Earth Network

Zero Waste- a Way to a Low Carbon Future

Saturday 9th October

Bethesda Church, Great Norwood st. Cheltenham Spa GL502AP.

Entrance Free Lunch £5.00

To book lunch and details at www.glosfoe.org.uk

Conference Network Day

Gloucestershire Friends of the Earth believe that there needs to be a fundamental change in dealing with waste to enable the responsibility of decision making and action to be within small local communities. It is working on a local community/parish scale, empowering local communities that is the key. Parish and Town Councils, Co-operatives, the Voluntary and Community Sector and small and medium enterprises all have a role to play in turning local waste into a local resource, reducing the carbon footprint and stimulating local businesses in the recycling and recycles industry.

We hope that this conference network day will stimulate not only discussion, but more importantly action, so that Gloucestershire takes the lead nationally to pilot this new approach to empowering local communities in dealing with their waste and lowering the carbon footprint.

Programme

Chaired by Mike Birkin

Friends of the Earth Regional Campaigns Co-ordinator South West

10.15 am Coffee

11.00 am **Welcome Mike Birkin**

11.10 am **"Slow Waste" a Zero Waste pilot project for the Welsh Assembly**

Adam Kennerley Chief Executive of the Cwm Harry Land Trust

12.00 am **"Co-operatives - Communities in Action" Michael Pickering**

Social Responsibility Manager for the MidCounties Co-operative

12.50 Lunch

2.00 pm **Welcome back Mike Birkin**

2.10 pm **"Zero Waste- a way to a low carbon future." Michael Warhurst**

Key note speaker Senior Resource Use Campaigner for EU and UK FOE

3.00 pm **Panel from main political parties** for question and answer session.

4.00 pm Close and tea

Dr Michael Warhurst has been working for Friends of the Earth in London as the senior campaigner in the Resource Use team since November 2005. His work focuses particularly on EU and UK waste and resources policy, and he heads up Friends of the Earth Europe's Resources and Consumption campaign.

Prior to this role, he worked on the EU's new REACH chemicals regulation, first at Friends of the Earth in London, and then in WWF's European Policy Office in Brussels. In 2005 he spent 9 months working on US chemicals policy at the Lowell Centre for Sustainable Production in Massachusetts, USA.

Michael has a Degree in biochemistry from the University of York, a PhD (in the breakdown of chemicals by bacteria) from the University of Glasgow, and an MSc in Environmental Chemistry from the University of Edinburgh.





Zero Waste is just one example of the businesses underway or under development. Unique in the UK the local authority has withdrawn from the settlements of Presteigne and Norton for one year and the community, supported by Cwm Harry, is taking on full responsibility. Within the year the intention is to prove the relative ease of high (90%) participation rates and target hitting (70%) recycling rate. Not content with this the project intends to reduce overall waste by 5% The underlying approach of 'slow recycling', whereby our investment is in the people of the community and not in the traditional 'trucks' of the waste management industry, detailed kerbside sort with the householders actively engaged, changes the dynamics from top down 'received' waste management to community 'owned' resource management. High value materials and high participation may form the basis of a commercially viable alternative?



Adam Kennerley (pictured above) is Chief Executive of both companies and has arrived there via periods with Greenpeace on energy policy and in economic regeneration following a career in protected landscape management and ecology. This migration from wildlife to business reflects the understanding that, if society brings with it negative impacts on the planet then society holds the key to the solution; and that the key is as much about people and behaviour change as it is about technology.

VENUE Bethesda Methodist Church

Cheltenham, Gloucestershire has been granted its third national Eco-award, becoming only the 3rd church in England to receive this honour and is widely known as an "eco-church". The independent assessment was carried out by Climate Change & Transition Town campaigner Jerry Barr and Rev Dr Simon Topping, founder and director of the Green Cross Coop. Simon will present the award plaque at a special service on October 10th, the day after the Conference Network Day



Congratulations on achieving a 3rd Award have been received from Jonathon Porritt, former Chair of the Government Sustainability Panel and Director of Forum for the Future

"Some organisations describe sustainability as 'a never-ending journey' writes Jonathon "and that's just how it must feel to the Bethesda Community! But three national awards in eight years provides telling recognition of the extraordinary commitment (and creativity) of church members. So the message here is simple: keep lifting up your eyes not just to the hills, but to the solar panels too!"

Bethesda's environmental concerns have affected lifestyle choices, with members being encouraged to reduce their personal carbon footprint by recycling more, campaigning against excessive packaging, reducing car travel and offsetting flights. Since signing up to the Eco-Congregation Award scheme in 2000, Bethesda has distributed 1000s of low energy light bulbs, extended the recycling programme to cover 9 different items, started its own carbon offset scheme, paid for a solar hot water system for an AIDS orphanage in South Africa and provided public showings of films on the subject of climate change.