

THE GREEN PAGE

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WIND WORKS!

Reports from The House Of Lords Science and Technology Select Committee suggest that even the Government's miserly target of reaching 10% of UK electricity from renewable sources by 2010 is "unlikely to be met".

The need for a rapid expansion in wind power has never been stronger!

Wind power is currently the most cost-effective renewable technology that could help the government achieve its targets. Only approximately 3,500 additional turbines (onshore and offshore) would be needed in the UK to deliver 8% of the UK's electricity by 2010. Ken Livingstone, Mayor of London, has set the ball rolling by targeting the capital city for at least 6 large and 500 small turbines by 2010.

Wind power is a proven and reliable technology that is competitive in financial terms with new nuclear capacity, and that's before any environmental costs are taken into account. On average wind farms will re-pay the energy used in their construction within the first 3 - 5 months of operation. Just 1 turbine will generate enough electricity to meet the demands of more than 1,000 homes each year.

Unlike coal, gas, oil or nuclear power stations, wind farms are also a form of development that is essentially reversible. Modern wind turbines are designed to operate for over 20 years and at the end of their working life, unlike traditional power stations, they can be removed or replaced with low financial and environmental costs. Also unlike fossil fuel power stations wind farms do not contribute to atmospheric pollution. Just 1 turbine will save about 4,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide (a key greenhouse gas) emissions annually.

Earlier this year the RSPB commented that "in the UK we have not so far witnessed any major adverse effects on birds associated with wind farms." A recent report by Nature confirmed that "the greatest threat to bird populations in the UK is climate change". And contrary to rumour, wind farms do not discourage tourists! The latest survey findings from the Centre for Sustainable Energy discovered that 90% of respondents would not be less likely to return to a holiday site if a wind farm was constructed there! *Let's get them built!*



THE A-Z OF RECYCLING

W is for waste not, want not!

Say no to incinerators!

New laws that were aimed at reducing the staggering amounts of "rubbish" which are rapidly filling landfill sites are unfortunately resulting in Councils throughout the country (including Calderdale!) considering plans to introduce large-scale incinerators to burn this "waste" instead of recycling it.

Whilst incinerator operators are rubbing their hands at the thought of receiving tax breaks to send our "rubbish" up in smoke, now is the time to write to your local councillors, MPs and MEPs to inform them of the quick-fix folly of incineration. Because unlike recycling, which is a cost-effective method of dealing with our "waste" and re-using valuable resources, incinerators actually encourage the creation of more waste (without it they become even more inefficient), consume huge amounts of energy, and create pollution.

Waffle - Regularly recycled by Bernhard Ingham.

Wages - By spending your money wisely on local goods and services you will be helping to recycle wealth! If 80p in every £1 was spent locally it would eventually create £50 worth of income within the community. If just 20p in every £1 is spent locally it only creates £12.50! By shopping locally you can save yourself time and energy whilst supporting your local community!

Washing Powders and Washing Up Liquids - Number 25 in the Environment Agency's Top 60 Ways To Save The World is "use environmentally friendly cleaning products". All cleaning products are harmful to the environment in varying degrees and it is therefore essential to choose products that biodegrade rapidly and emit minimum toxicity into the aquatic environment. The washing power of most eco-friendly brands is equal and occasionally better than conventional, eco-unfriendly products and they do not include synthetic "optical brighteners" (which can

react chemically when in contact with human skin!), synthetic fragrances or genetically modified enzymes.

Waste Paper - On average every family in the UK disposes of about 8.5 kg of paper and card each week and approximately 5 million tonnes of household paper is not recycled each year. Recycling paper saves energy, reduces waste disposal problems, protects ancient forests from being replaced by plantations, reduces air and water pollution, and its easy to do! - (Contact Kerbside - 01422 881110) The UK's national income rises by £154 for every additional tonne of paper that is recycled!

Wax candles - Old, part used and unwanted candles can be recycled at Meltdown Candles, Hebble End Mill, Hebden Bridge.

Weapons Of Mass Destruction - Usually only found in vast quantities in countries that don't need them, but who are nevertheless supposedly looking for them in other countries, which don't seem to have them, in an effort to stop them having them.

Wood - Up to 25% of all construction and demolition waste is recyclable wood. Households can recycle timber locally by using the special skip at Eastwood Waste Transfer Station whilst recycled and reclaimed wood can be purchased from Aarons Reclaimed Timber (01422 330138) or Aaron Beam Centre (01422 300300).

Wool - Most textiles can be easily recycled. Woollen clothing that can be re-used is often sold or used as humanitarian aid by many charity shops. Balls of wool can be donated in Oxfam shops from where it will be used to create clothing and blankets for use in humanitarian aid packages.

Worms - Create a wormery to dispose of food scraps in an environmentally friendly way whilst producing a useful soil conditioner for your garden!

A SIDWAYS VIEW

Support your local shop - Vaughan Ryan

I recognise the pitiful state that our society is in. I walk amongst you on Market Street with my head down wondering what is to be done about the puddles near bus stops. I am appalled by the selfish and unsocial attitudes foisted upon us by much of the media. I rage silently against the amount of vehicles driving along the canal towpath. I am not stimulated into action by politicians because I am not convinced of the worth of their political system. I wonder what sort of award a mill conversion could possibly deserve after making its neighbours lives unbearable for weeks on end. But I'm not apathetic. I know that there is something I can do over which I have a very strong control.

I know that every penny of every pound I spend (and save!) encourages activity. I can influence what goes on around me. I am determined that my spending power will encourage as much positive and useful activity as it can in my local community and beyond. I am thinking globally and acting locally. I have discovered a powerful tool. For too long I have consumed without thought, wasting time journeying long distances to drop money into far off tills, needlessly exploiting workers and

supporting slave labour, foolishly donating money to animal abusers and environment polluters.

My money will win battles. It will talk to the selfish in a language they understand. I'm becoming an ethical consumer. If it can, it will be bought locally. I'll be sourcing sustainable businesses that don't exploit or pollute. No genetically modified organisms here. I'm actively seeking out the Fairtrade labels (and there's loads in the Co-Op!). I'm purchasing cruelty-free products from companies that don't test other products on animals. I'm sending a message of support to sustainable and responsible business people and denying my custom to those who are slowly destroying the fabric of our society. I'm avoiding those who didn't support the results of the traffic review consultation. I'm joining the 52% of people who say that they are actively boycotting at least one product. I'm challenging my long held ideas and attitudes about shopping and consumerism and I'm loving it. I'm part of a movement that cost the enemy £2.6 billion in lost sales last year. Come and join me, support your local shop, the WTO is wobbling.

WHAT ON EARTH IS?

... a greenhouse gas

A natural "greenhouse effect" is essential for life on earth. Heat from the sun reaches the earth, (wishes that there were a few more solar panels around) radiates back and is stopped from escaping by a blanket of gases and particles that act like glass panels in a greenhouse. They let the sunlight through and keep some of the heat in the lower levels of our atmosphere. Without any of this greenhouse heating it has been calculated that the earth's temperature would be up to 70 degrees below freezing and the ocean's would be frozen!

A greenhouse gas is so-called because of its heat-trapping properties. There are many compounds within the earth's atmosphere which act as greenhouse gases, some occur in nature such as water vapour and carbon dioxide (the two most important in maintaining our equable temperature), as well as methane and nitrous oxide, whilst others are man-made such as hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons and sulphur hexafluoride. The amount of many greenhouse gases in the atmosphere has increased by a quarter since large-scale industrialisation began. The Kyoto Protocol, an international treaty, set targets to limit the emissions of these gases and modify their impact on the greenhouse effect throughout the world in an effort to reduce their potential impact on global warming.

Carbon dioxide is the main greenhouse gas. It is colourless and odourless. The amount of it in the atmosphere has risen steadily in recent history primarily due to the ever increasing burning of oil, coal and natural gas as fuels. Worldwide carbon dioxide emissions are forecast to continue to rise by almost 2% each year. Methane is a colourless, odourless flammable gas that usually comes from landfill sites, coalmines, oil and gas operations and agriculture. Nitrous Oxide is a colourless gas with a sweet odour, commonly known as laughing gas and commonly used as an anaesthetic. It is emitted from burning fossil fuels and through the use of certain fertilisers and industrial processes.

Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) were introduced as a replacement for CFCs (Chlorofluorocarbons) for use in aerosol cans, refrigerators and air conditioners because CFCs were breaking down the ozone layer (which protects us from harmful ultra-violet rays from the sun). HFCs are non-flammable, of very low-toxicity and have no effect on the ozone layer. They are however a potent greenhouse gas. The most significant source of HFCs in the UK is the chemicals industry. Perfluorocarbons (PFCs) are colourless, odourless and non-flammable gases which result from aluminium production, semiconductor manufacture and leakage from refriger-

W is also for Water

Even though water shortages, hosepipe bans, and so-called droughts are a feature of our recent past most of us still take our water supply for granted. We should however never forget that water is a precious resource and try to avoid wasting or polluting it whenever possible. It is a sobering thought that whilst on average everyone in the United Kingdom washes away 1,000 litres of water a week, less than 0.01% of the world's water is regarded as "fresh" and more than 2 billion people worldwide don't have access to safe, clean water supplies.

Water conservation is a relatively easy routine to introduce into your lives. By taking a 5 minute shower instead of a bath (and 5 minutes seems like a long time in the shower to me!) you would consume approximately half as much water that a bath takes and also come out cleaner! (Leave the plug in next time and experiment!) By adding a fine spray attachment to your shower you should use even less water. When you do have a bath make sure that the water is re-used. Cooled bath (or washing up) water that has not been contaminated by eco-

unfriendly detergents can be used to water the garden or flush the toilet!

Rainwater butts and other collecting devices should be employed whenever possible to harvest rainwater for the garden and household greenery. Rainwater is often softer than tap water and is more suited to watering plants.

Consider installing a "low-flush" toilet. Flushing the toilet can account for over a third of all household water use. "Low-flush" toilets dramatically reduce water consumption with no adverse effect on toilet smell or hygiene!

Find out from OFWAT how much your water company wastes from leaky pipes and contact them to complain. In some areas of the UK leaky water pipes waste up to a third of their supply. And remember that household dripping taps can leak away up to 5 litres of water each day. Take immediate remedial action to stop this waste! (A new washer often does the trick!)

Contact www.ofwat.gov.uk and www.yorkshire-water.com

POSITIVE NEWS

- green news stories from outside the Calder Valley.

More clear skies forecast!

The government has announced that schools, houses and commercial buildings will benefit from an extra £8.5 million extra new funding to encourage more sustainable electricity production from solar panels and other small-scale renewable energies. Local communities, not-for-profit organisations and households will also benefit from new funding to the Clear Skies initiative for a further year. Clear Skies grants are available for a variety of renewable technologies and communities can get up to 50% of capital costs, up to a maximum of £100,000, towards sustainable energy projects. Up to 5,000 projects have already been offered grant support. For further information - www.clearskies.org

Cotting on

Cotton supplies more than half of the world's need for fibre and is often regarded as a natural product. This is despite the fact that cotton manufacture involves heavy use of pesticides and other chemicals that damage air quality and pollute water supplies and farmland. Fortunately there is an organic alternative and the Soil Association now produces a directory of clothing manufacturers and retailers who use organic cotton (as well as all companies that are involved in eco-friendly clothing production). Organic cotton is grown in approximately 15 countries but still represents less than 1% of global production. For further information - www.soilassociation.org

Cartoning On

The first recycling plant in Britain to deal exclusively with drinks cartons has opened near Glenrothes in Fife, with the capacity to recycle 20% of all milk and juice cartons sold in the UK and Ireland. Because the fibres from recycled cartons are "long and strong" they are heavily used within the UK's paper "mix" and are generally recycled six to eight times. Although the extraction and recycling of "virgin pulp fibres" is quite widely practised elsewhere in Europe unfortunately the plastic and aluminium foil residue from this process is still somewhat bizarrely sent to landfill!

Assault on batteries

The European Union Commission's proposed "Batteries Directive" recently had its first reading in the European Parliament. This directive would set a recycling target of 50% for all household batteries. Currently the UK manages less than 2%! The UK's first reprocessing plant for alkaline batteries (usually found in personal stereos, torches and radios) is being developed in the West Midlands, whilst a factory in the Highlands of Scotland is due to begin recycling lithium-ion batteries (commonly found in lap-top computers) at the end of this year. Lithium-ion batteries from the UK are currently exported and destroyed with very limited amounts of the materials recycled.

GREEN ECONOMY DRIVE!

Hour Car, the community car-share club that is based in Hebden Bridge, recently took delivery of its third vehicle, a new Skoda Fabia, which claims to be the greenest car on the roads in the Upper Valley. Not only will it be used by members of the car-share scheme, an initiative which has already cut down on car usage and ownership, it manages 61.4 miles per gallon and, like the scheme's other vehicles, will be powered by bio-diesel, which produces less pollutants than petrol or diesel and is carbon neutral. (The carbon dioxide that is released by the engine is equal to the amount that is absorbed by the plants that are grown to create bio-diesel.) It's green credentials are further highlighted by the fact that most bio-diesel is currently made from used cooking oil which would otherwise be dumped in landfill sites.

"Car clubs are a great idea" said Adrian Horton, who was delighted to be delivering the new car, "and the Volkswagen engine in this

Skoda Fabia is one of the only engines in a popular car to fully endorse the use of 100% bio-diesel. It's perfect for Hour Car and can undoubtedly claim to be one of the greenest on the road at the moment."

"The third vehicle was vital to the scheme's continued success as our membership is growing in leaps and bounds," commented Hour Car manager Kevin Hogan. "We are very grateful to the Countryside Agency for providing half of the funding for this car and grant aid during our start up period."

Hour Car aims to provide an efficient, low cost alternative to personal car ownership that helps to reduce local traffic congestion, traffic pollution and parking problems. The scheme is based at Salem Community Centre.

For more information contact www.hourcar.org.uk or Kevin Hogan 01422 847971.



"Taking delivery of Hour Car's new bio diesel Skoda Fabia are scheme manager Kevin Hogan, Polly Webber and Adrian Horton of Lightcliffe Skoda."