



GREEN ACHIEVER NEWSLETTER

March 2012

Dear Deb,

With Climate Week in full swing this week, the organisers are encouraging the public to consider the carbon footprint not of their cars, but of their kitchen. The challenge for Climate Week is simple - just to eat one low-carbon meal and record it on their website. We all think about using our cars less or turning down the heating but addressing the environmental issues of our food system can play a major part in reducing our carbon footprint.

Whether you choose to make a meal from leftovers, use only local, seasonal produce or cut down on meat and dairy, low carbon meals can make a real difference. There are many recipes from well known chefs, such as Baby Beet Tarte Tatin and Ratatouille, on the Climate Week website so why not give low carbon cuisine a go? We'd love to hear how you get on.

www.climateweek.com

World Water Day - 22 March 2012



International World Water Day is held every year on 22 March and aims to focus attention on the importance of freshwater and the sustainable management of freshwater resources.

With seven water companies proposing a hosepipe ban from 5 April, now is a great time to find out how your company can save water and cut costs. The Ripple Effect is a free support package that helps your business understand how much water it uses, what is costs and how to adopt simple measures to reduce water use and save money. For more information on the Ripple Effect, please see -

www.wrap.org.uk/business/sme/rippleeffect/?dm_i=2WX,Q39C,1GH1RC,23VKQ,1

Earth hour - Saturday 31 March 2012 at 8.30pm

Millions of people, businesses and governments around the world unite each year to support Earth Hour, one of the largest global environmental events. More than 5,200 towns and cities in 135 countries switched off their lights for the 2011 Earth Hour, a record since the campaign started in 2006. Many members go 'Beyond The Hour' to show their commitment to lasting action for the planet. So, put the date in your diary, switch off your lights and make a difference for Earth Hour 2012.

www.earthhour.org

Generations of Waste

Have you ever wondered how long a crisp packet or chocolate wrapper takes to biodegrade?

A prime example of how waste can remain in our environment for generations has been displayed by campaign group Surfers Against Sewage.

SAS work to clean our beaches, returning identifiable wastes to the manufacturers, to urge them to act on the problem.

Back in 2010, the campaign group discovered a Minstrels wrapper near Porthtowan beach. Manufacturer, Mars later acknowledged that the wrapper dated back from between 1980 and 1982, highlighting just how long waste can remain in the environment. So think before you drop that litter, would you want your children, grandchildren, even great grandchildren to be playing on a beach full of litter?

Bin, don't sin.

For more information, visit www.sas.org.uk

Food waste debate back on the menu

The issue of food waste is back on the menu as MPs debate a new bill that will force food manufacturers and supermarkets to donate surplus stock to charity. The bill is backed by chef Lorraine Pascale, Zac Goldsmith and Caroline Lucas.

The bill proposes to see three legislative changes. The first will force large food producers and supermarkets to donate excess food to charity. Any food that is deemed not fit for human consumption should be turned into animal feed. The second change will see incentives for smaller companies including public bodies to donate their food waste.

The third change is would see donors who giving surplus stock being exempt from prosecution should any cases of food poisoning occur.

Conversely, supermarkets are also being encouraged by the government to use food waste as a potential energy source by using it as a feedstock for anaerobic digestion.

Food waste remains a big issue in this country but with more accurate forecasting by retailers, the waste from supermarkets is only 6% with food waste from domestic making up 50% of all food waste generated in the UK.

Company Profiles

London Opera Glass Company



Sandwich (Kent) based London Opera Glass Company supplies opera glasses to over 60 theatres throughout the UK. The glasses are mounted discreetly on the back of seats and offered as a rental binocular to the theatre-goer for £1 during the performance. They are supplied, installed and maintained for free to the theatre, which takes a commission each time a pair is rented. Andrew Lester is the company's marketing director. He said: "Being a member of the Green Achiever scheme is very important to us as a forward thinking company. The business has been going since 1913 and during that time we have always manufactured our opera glasses in the UK and pride ourselves in using UK suppliers helping to drive the economy. Many binocular manufactures actually import their glasses from China, so ours being totally UK made means we have as small a carbon footprint as we can. But of course this is just the beginning as we will be striving to 'green' our business as much as possible with the help of the experts at the Green Achiever Scheme."

www.operaglasses.co.uk

Sudomatic

Sudomatic is an independent domestic appliance repair company based in Hull. Commenting on the Green Achiever scheme, owner Richard Baker, said: "I joined the Green Achiever scheme as my line of work very much involves having a green mind set. Too many appliances are going to landfill when they could be repaired for a much lower cost and without the inconvenience of replacing them. If however, an appliance is beyond economical repair I will always happily advise my customers on what to look for when they are purchasing a new one."

www.sudomatic.co.uk

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Sincerely,

Mandy Stoker
Green Achiever Scheme

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