

Community Carbon Footprinting

Frequently asked Questions/Queries

Are there grants available to insulate my house or make it more energy efficient?

If you are on certain benefits, have a child under 16 or pensioner living with you there are grants available through the Home Energy Efficiency Scheme. The Energy Saving Trust can give you up to date info. www.energysavingtrust.org.uk or ring West Wales Eco Centre on 0800 512 012. Also check www.direct.gov.uk/actonco2

Some utility suppliers offer discounts/grants and some DIY stores have deals on insulation/energy saving measures from time to time.

Recycling - What actually can go in the Orange bags?

Paper (not your bank details), small bits of cardboard, food and drink tins (washed), metal foil, plastic bottles (washed).

What can't go in? Tetrapaks or card with foil or plastic attached, glass, any other plastic apart from bottles, food, crisp packets, and plastic bags.

Glass bottles/jars can be taken to bottle banks on The Commons, Monkton Swifts and The Castle Inn.

Doesn't it all go to landfill anyway?

No, the orange bags go to the new materials recycling facility at Withyhedge near Haverfordwest, where the bags are split and put onto a conveyor belt. Workers sort the items into the different types of material that can be recycled together, i.e. all the aluminium cans, and this gets pressed into compact bales. These bales get stored until sold to companies that recycle the material into other goods, i.e. new cans, car and machine parts, new paper etc.

The Council is legally bound to reach recycling targets. ***“Missing the 2010 target would mean a fine of over £1 million per year”.***

In some circumstances plastic does get shipped to China to be recycled into other plastic goods or fleeces. There isn't a big enough market for plastic in the UK; however some companies are beginning including AJ recycling in Eglwyswrv and Second Life Plastic near Bridgend.

Find out more through www.wasteawarenesswales.org.uk, www.cylch.org or talk to the waste department at Pembrokeshire Council on **01437 764551**

Energy Saving lightbulbs – they don't light quickly enough, and can't be used with dimmers etc.

The older lightbulbs were big and bulky and lit slowly. The fact that a lot of these are still around now shows that they last a long time, which saves money.

Newer bulbs come in all shapes and sizes, light quicker and are a lot cheaper.

You can now get energy saving versions of almost lightbulbs including dimmers. There are companies online that sell them such as Homewatt or Screwfix, but most supermarkets also do a good selection at very reasonable prices.

What is the Government doing to reduce CO2 emissions?

The Central Government has just passed the Climate Change Bill, which lays out **legally binding targets**: e.g. 'Green house gas emission reductions through action in the UK and abroad of at least 80% by 2050, and reductions in CO2 emissions of at least 26% by 2020, against a 1990 baseline.' Their aims are quite ambitious and far-reaching; to achieve them there must be many changes.

WAG has also laid out their Energy Route Map, which states 'Self sufficiency for Wales in renewable electricity within 20 years'.

Some measures are coming into place as soon as next year, i.e. Energy from Waste. Our food waste will also be collected from our doorsteps and used in anaerobic digesters that produce heat and energy which be used to heat buildings and produce power. Also the plastic bag will no longer be allowed to be given out free in our shops.

Renewable energy is too expensive, are there grants or any other schemes?

The Government has some grants for renewable including the Low Carbon Buildings Programme, and some electricity companies also provide discounts.

There are more grants available for those projects that benefit the community, i.e. community owned wind turbines, solar or wood burning boilers for community buildings. Check with the Energy Saving Trust on 0800 512 012.

WAG is introducing Feed in Tariffs in the near future, which means that renewable energy producers can sell their surplus electricity to the National Grid for a good price. This works well in Europe especially Germany, where the tariffs act as incentives to individuals to invest in renewable technology.

I am renting etc so can't change anything.

Landlords may qualify for the Landlords Energy Saving Allowance (LESA). This permits private landlords who pay income tax to offset up to £1,500 spending on certain energy efficiency measures per dwelling (not per building) per year. The qualifying measures are loft, cavity, floor or solid wall insulation, draught proofing and hot water system insulation. Ask your landlord if he is claiming this.

My walls have no cavities, or I can't insulate all my loft space.

Carry out small measures to reduce the amount of energy you use (see the tips provided) and change your electricity tariff to a Green one where your money is spent on investing in new renewable technology. Many utility companies do this and some i.e. Ecotricity and Good Energy only invest in renewable energy.

Where do I recycle light bulbs/batteries/printer cartridges etc?

Light bulbs – Waterloo Road will take gas discharging bulbs.

Batteries – Many Civic amenity sites and Recycling Centres including Waterloo Road have special collections sites, if not, start to use rechargeable batteries.

Printer cartridges - Many Civic Amenity Sites and Recycling Centres have special collections sites. Or cartridges can be refilled or given to charity.

Waterloo Road will also recycle Tetrapaks! Check other items via www.recyclenow.com