GET Active: All the latest funded projects from the Green Energy Trust

WIN vouchers for Whitelee Windfarm in this issue’s competition!

Bright forecast for school

Green gardens
Some seasonal inspiration

Top 10 days out
Eco-friendly fun
Welcome to green

EDITORIAL

Spring ideas
Tips for the season

Welcome to the Spring edition of green – the exclusive magazine for our eco-conscious customers who contribute to the ScottishPower Green Fund.

As always, we’ve been busy monitoring the news and visiting environmental projects across the country. Readers can find out more about some of the community initiatives that their monthly contributions to the Green Fund help to support – from a primary school in Renfrewshire to an art centre in Leeds.

And we’ve included a host of ideas to keep the whole family entertained over the spring and summer months – including ten top days out across the UK and tips for keeping your garden in order.

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Rainforest campaign

The world's tropical rainforests are the richest and most diverse habitats on earth but are also some of the most endangered. That is why one of Europe's leading providers of managed hosting and computer services – Iomart Hosting – has embarked on a campaign to sustain up to 1,000 acres of Ecuadorian cloud rainforest through an initiative called 'Racks 4 Acadia'.

In conjunction with Rainforest Concern and supported by Green IT magazine, the company is sponsoring one acre of cloud rainforest for every additional megawatt of power that is consumed across its five UK data centres throughout the year.

Staff at Iomart Hosting – has embarked on a campaign to sustain up to 1,000 acres of Ecuadorian cloud rainforest through an initiative called ‘Racks 4 Acadia’.

As a managed hosting company and data centre owner, we are acutely aware of the effects that our day-to-day operations have in terms of a producing a sizeable carbon footprint,” Peter Bennett, Director of Marketing at Iomart Hosting explained. “As a managed hosting company and data centre owner, we are acutely aware of the effects that our day-to-day operations have in terms of a producing a sizeable carbon footprint.”

“The recent work by Scottish Enterprise has shown the huge potential for employment in the renewable industry, with up to 28,000 direct jobs being created to service the Scottish, UK and worldwide markets for offshore wind turbines. It has also been estimated that 40,000 new green jobs could be created by 2020 in low carbon industries.”

Making the most of Scotland’s renewable energy sources

In light of new renewable energy targets, Gareth Parry, head of the Construction and Engineering Team at legal firm DLA Piper, outlines some of the challenges facing the sector.

Further renewable energy targets have been set for 2011, with the UK government aiming to generate 30% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2020.

Scotland is already playing a key role in the country’s renewable energy sector, with the Scottish government setting ambitious targets for the sector, including establishing a capital grants programme for the installation of wind turbines. As the sector grows, companies that had previously manufactured agricultural machinery switched to producing wind turbines and other renewable energy technologies.

“Although the UK is a world leader in the consenting and installation of offshore wind farms, our lack of manufacturing expertise means we haven’t created a design, manufacturing and supply chain industry on the back of these advances. The clear message from the Danish experience is that stable and consistent long-term policies are required from our politicians. These foundations provide investors with the confidence to approach the market knowing that a stable environment will maximise the potential for a return on investment.”

Wave and tidal power

The potential for generating power from waves and tidal flow around the UK is immense, and with the commercial generation of large amounts of energy from wave and tidal power comes the opportunity to develop a manufacturing base around this new industry. Scotland has made a good start. However, it is vital that the private sector and government work closely to ensure the required support is in place, together with the legislation that will ensure a smooth roll-out of the new technology.

Rare falcons at Longannet

ScottishPower hopeful peregrines will breed

The two young birds, which hatched in mid-May and fledged at the end of June, have long since flown the nest to make their own way in the world. It is hoped that the mature pair will breed again in 2011.
ScottishPower lends a ‘green’ hand
Combining team-building with local environmental projects

ScottishPower staff braved the elements as they engaged in community projects as part of team-building and personal development activities. In partnership with the RSPB, a team from the company’s human resources department spent two days building paths to enable wheelchair access to wildlife hides at RSPB’s Lochwinnoch site, just south of Glasgow.

Lochwinnoch Assistant Site Manager Paula Baker said: “The work that the ScottishPower team has completed is invaluable in providing access to the hides for all members of the community, and enabled us to re-divert investment to other areas of the site.”

Meanwhile, a 48-strong team from ScottishPower’s Energy Retail business was supporting work at Cathkin Braes, near the company’s Cathcart offices. They carried out essential ground irrigation maintenance, repairing a nature hide, cutting back scrub and removing invasive plants as well as constructing an educational learning circle with natural materials.

Pamela Newman, Head of Business Transformation, said: “We selected a team activity where we could make a contribution to our community rather than just having a ‘fun day’ out. This type of endeavour really is a great way to develop a team while also giving something to a local environmental site.”

ScottishPower sets the standard
Reduced carbon emissions in all business areas

ScottishPower and ScottishPower Renewables are delighted to have been awarded the Carbon Trust Standard.

The accolade is awarded to organisations for their sustained commitment to tackling climate change by measuring, managing and actively reducing their carbon emissions. To achieve the Standard, organisations must first measure their direct carbon emissions before demonstrating genuine reductions in emissions over a three-year period.

Following a rigorous independent assessment, ScottishPower now joins an elite group of around 500 organisations in the UK who have obtained certification. It is the first energy supplier within the utility sector to be awarded the Carbon Trust Standard for all business areas and subsidiaries. This fantastic achievement will also enable the ScottishPower Group to gain an improved position in the UK Government’s Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme league table, due for publication in late 2011.

ScottishPower’s Energy and Environment Director Gordon McGregor said: “Carbon reduction is being highlighted more and more as an area where we could make a contribution to our community rather than just having a ‘fun day’ out. This type of endeavour really is a great way to develop a team while also giving something to a local environmental site.”

Young people are being encouraged to go for green jobs, thanks to the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award scheme.

ScottishPower has been supporting the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award scheme since 2010 and has designed an energising new module for participants of the Award.

The Skills In Energy module offers participants an understanding of the energy sector and how electricity is produced, transported and dealt with in a safe, efficient manner. It helps young people to understand the importance of using a variety of ways to create electricity.

Skills In Energy highlights the latest technology to support the demand for electricity and the impact on the environment. It helps participants understand the careers available to them in the energy sector and the skills required to help them get there.

Young adults taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award (DoE) who are interested in the energy sector can undertake the Skills In Energy module as part of the skills section, which counts towards their overall Award.

Ann Loughrey, Head of CSR at ScottishPower, said: “We are committed to helping young people throughout the UK achieve all they can, and by working closely with the DoE we are positive our support will be of benefit. “The new module was created specifically with apprentices in mind. It opens them to the possibilities of a career in energy which is of great benefit to the sector.”

www.scottishpowergreentrust.co.uk
Whitelee Windfarm
Eaglesham, Glasgow

1. This £2bn state-of-the-art visitor and learning centre is the first of its kind in the UK and is Europe’s largest windfarm. Built by ScottishPower Renewables and managed by Glasgow Science Centre, the sustainable facility has been designed to encourage visitors to learn more about renewable energy as well as acting as a focal point for cyclists, horse riders and ramblers who want to take advantage of the renewable energy as well as acting as a focal point for cyclists, horse riders and ramblers who want to take advantage of the windfarm’s 96km of trails. www.whiteleewindfarm.co.uk

Natural History Museum
London

3. A must-visit location. The Natural History Museum is a treasure trove of the wondrous and wonderful, best experienced with a child’s-eye view. Inspiring exhibits show the true diversity of nature around the globe and the dinosaurs are there for little ones to marvel over. www.nhm.ac.uk

Conkers
Derbyshire

4. Conkers is an award-winning, hands-on experience centre in the heart of the National Forest. Outdoors there are over 120 acres of woodland, lakes, gardens and activities including the Conkerchoo train linking the Waterside and Discovery Centres. Indoors there are four discovery zones with over 100 indoor interactive exhibits themed on the environment, the Enchanted Forest Adventure Play area and a simulated Tree Top Walk. A covered amphitheatre hosts a range of music events and activities for all the family. www.visitconkers.com

Bewilderwood
Norfolk

5. Bewilderwood is a wild and imaginative adventure park. The setting for the book ‘A Boggle at Bewilderwood’ by local children’s author Tom Blofeld, it’s a wonderful, mystical land of brave adventurous people and its 50 acres are home to treehouses, zip wires, jungle bridges, boat trips and marsh walks. Over 70% of waste is recycled on site and over 14,000 trees have been planted, along with upgrades to footpaths, bridleways and cycle paths. bewilderwood.co.uk

Findhorn Foundation and Community Eco Village
Morayshire

6. This world famous spiritual community, education centre and eco-village welcomes visitors all year round. It is the site of many ecological buildings and initiatives, and home to approximately 150 people. The environment reflects experimentation, innovation, beauty and practicality. There are 90 ecological structures, workshop spaces, electricity-generating wind turbines and The Living Machine sewage treatment centre. www.findhorn.org

Nature’s World
Middlesbrough

8. Nature’s World has used sustainable practices, such as renewable energy and recycling, to create a 25-acre peaceful rural haven on the edge of urban Middlesbrough. The attraction is more than just a visit to the UK’s pioneering eco-experience, it also provides information, education, ideas and an inspiration for looking after the environment.

Eco-friendly cockle picking is available using a unique environmental dredge devised by local entrepreneur and eco-warrior Richard Mackee. A £500,000 investment has seen the addition of new exhibits and features for everyone to enjoy. www.naturesworld.org.uk

Royal Horticultural Society Gardens
Wisley, Surrey

7. The flagship of the Royal Horticultural Society’s four gardens, Wisley captures the imagination with richly planted borders, luscious rose gardens and the state-of-the-art new Glasshouse, which includes a walk-through cavern showing how plants’ roots interact with soil. Wisley aims to reduce its environmental impact through responsible purchasing, reduced use of pest, hazardous pesticides and fertilizers, and improved efficiency of water systems. www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/wisley

Centre for Alternative Technology
Powys

9. This is one of the UK’s most eco-friendly visitor attractions. The Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) is situated in an old slate quarry in the foothills of Snowdonia. The seven-acre site includes exhibits, organic gardens, a café, shop and an adventure playground. There are also interactive displays providing a platform for visitors to learn about global issues such as energy generation and transport, and practical, everyday solutions for everyone. Most buildings and displays at the centre are powered by solar, wind or hydro energy. www.cat.org.uk

Greenwood Forest Park
Snowdonia

10. All the rides and activities at this unique eco-attraction have been designed for fun with a difference – visitors provide the energy! A star attraction is the Green Dragon – the world’s first environmentally friendly roller coaster which harnesses people-power and gravity to minimise use of electricity. The ride actually generates more power than it uses. Extensive environmental measures include recycling, rainwater harvesting, sparing use of electricity and sensitive site management. www.greenwoodforestpark.co.uk

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The Eden Project features the biggest botanical conservatories in the world.

www.scottishpowergreentrust.co.uk

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www.edenproject.com

The Enchanted Forest Adventure Play area and a simulated Tree Top Walk. A covered amphitheatre hosts a range of music events and activities for all the family.

www.visitconkers.com

The Natural History Museum is a must-see.

www.nhm.ac.uk

www.whiteleewindfarm.co.uk

www.naturesworld.org.uk

www.greenwoodforestpark.co.uk

www.edenproject.com

www.cat.org.uk

www.findhorn.org

www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/wisley

www.scottishpowergreentrust.co.uk
Get inspired for the gardening season

Making a difference

The Wellington Allotment Gardens in Greenock have become one of the first beneficiaries of a Scotwest Credit Union Making a Difference award.

The allotment scheme is receiving a grant of £250 from Scotwest to help build two large raised beds at the gardens in the centre of the town. The money will be used to buy topsoil to help fill the beds that will give more gardeners the chance to grow vegetables or flowers within the allotment.

Alison Duncan is the allotment secretary and has also been a Scotwest member since 2001. After reading about the award scheme, Alison submitted an application on behalf of Wellington Garden Allotment and was delighted to receive a cheque for £250.

Alison said: “When Scotwest got in touch to say that my application was successful, I was over the moon. I have been working with the allotment for six years and it has grown in popularity over the years to the point where we are struggling to find space for new gardeners. "

“With the grant from Scotwest, we are able to build an additional two large beds and buy the soil which, in the current economic climate, is a great help. We look forward to welcoming new gardeners come May when the beds are unveiled.”

Making a Difference is a new fund recently set up by Scotwest which allows members to apply for grants to help community events, projects, groups and activities in their own local area.

To apply visit www.scotwest.co.uk and download a grant application form.

Woodlands trust

The Woodlands Community Development Trust (WCDT) has been given a helping hand by Alienation Digital.

The leading digital marketing agency developed a unique brand and website for the Trust and also offered the services of the entire agency free for a day as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility commitment. WCDT aims to encourage the revitalisation of Woodlands (Glasgow) for the benefit of local residents and organisations and its website www.woodlandscommunitygarden.org.uk includes some unique features. An interactive map will allow the user to enjoy an aerial view of the garden and zoom in on particular areas for more information:

There is also a section dedicated to the garden’s Energy Awareness Hub which offers the wider community a “one-stop-shop” for learning about sustainability and how to build a low-carbon future. In addition, ten Alienation staff spent a day off getting their hands dirty by heading down to the community gardens to plant flowers and generally help out.

Allotment to aid learning

Garden prepared staff and pupils of Sanderson High School in St Leonards, East Kilbride, were not afraid to get their hands dirty at the official opening of their new school allotment thanks to the back-breaking work carried out by Cruden Building & Renewals Ltd.

The leading Scottish construction company, worked with the specialist school—for children who have additional support needs—to create a fruit and vegetable garden within the grounds of The National Museum of Rural Life in East Kilbride. The garden was designed by CBRL employees in conjunction with staff and pupils. In an effort to make the garden as accessible as possible, six large raised beds were incorporated to allow all pupils access to the planting areas, with pathways being laid to allow wheelchair access.

The school plans to use the beds as an outdoor learning environment for pupils to show them how to plant seedlings, care for them and eventually harvest fruit and vegetables. The school will then use the produce in its canteen as part of its home economics lessons and may even sell the fresh fruit and vegetables to local businesses.

www.scottishpowergreentrust.co.uk

Make your garden more eco-friendly

Now that spring is finally here, it’s time to turn your attention to gardening.

1. Protect young seedlings from future frost, wind, heavy rain, and mowing animals by reusing plastic milk jugs. Simply cut off the bottom and place around the root of the plant, or else use small paper bags. You will get your garden flourishing in no time.

2. Growing your own fruit and vegetables is cheaper than buying expensive, often imported organic food. It also reduces environmental pollution caused by “food miles”. For top tips go to www.gardenorganic.org.uk.

3. Home-made compost saves money at the same time as recycling household waste. Why don’t you try it for yourself?

4. Use shredded untreated wood and leaf wastes converted into chips as mulch on garden beds. This can help to prevent weed growth, retain moisture, regulate soil temperature, and will also add nutrients back to the soil.

5. Use recycled materials—like wood scraps and cardboard—for building a fort or tree-house for your children to play in. In addition to ensuring hours of fun, it also provides an environmentally friendly play space.

6. Collect rainwater in old buckets and use it to water plants or to clean your garden furniture. Recycling water is an increasingly essential practice in our world today—every little helps!

7. Installing a pond or water feature attracts natural predators to control some pests in the garden.

8. Take cuttings from plants in the garden to help restock the garden for free. They are also nice gifts for friends or can look pretty as a flower arrangement in your home.

9. Use sticks and helps from the garden instead of shop-bought plant supports.

10. Grow your own vegetables but make sure to rotate your crops. This helps prevent pests and diseases and also the loss of nutrients in the soil.
A community organisation in Leeds welcomed the sunshine to mark the official opening of its new solar-powered arts facility.

Staff from the Headingley Development Trust celebrated with local councillors and members of the community to launch the Headingley Enterprise and Arts (hEART) Centre, which provides training rooms and exhibition and enterprise space for local businesses and community groups.

The eco-friendly centre is to be powered by energy generated from two photovoltaic solar panels installed on the roof of the building, and water will be heated through two solar hot water panels.

The solar energy mechanisms were installed at the Victorian building as a result of a £15,999 grant from the ScottishPower Green Energy Trust.

Over 700 pupils attended the event at Carolside Primary School, which received £19,100 to install a wind turbine next to its premises in Clarkston.

Grants for the project were also received from Community Grants for the project were also received from Community Energy Scotland and East Renfrewshire Council.

Generating revenue

The new revolutionary turbine is expected to generate around £1,000 a year in revenue for the school, which will be used to develop environmental initiatives for its pupils.

Alison McKeen, Senior Environmental and Social Policy Manager at ScottishPower, said: “The ScottishPower Green Energy Trust would like to congratulate the Headingley Development Trust for opening the hEART Centre today. It is a fantastic initiative and one which is much in demand in the community.

“The sustainable energy element of this project was made possible through ScottishPower customers who contribute to our green tariff. This just shows what a big difference their small monthly contributions can make.”

Bright forecast for school

Wind turbine installed at Carolside Primary

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“It is a real pleasure for me to see this project come to fruition,” said Eddie Phillips – founder of community group ‘Go Greener’ and winner of the Scottish Green Campaigner Award at the 2010 Green Awards – also attended the launch.

He said: “It is a real pleasure for me to see this project come to fruition. The PTA and staff at Carolside Primary have worked incredibly hard to get funding for this project, which will no doubt prove to be a huge inspiration for the children at the school.”

Wind turbine

WIND TURBINE

The Green Energy Trust has been providing grants to community groups for the past 12 years, helping them to progress with sustainable energy initiatives.
A band of gorillas at a Jersey wildlife park will be the hot topic of conversation after their home received a funding boost from the ScottishPower Green Energy Trust.

The Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust in Trinity was granted £10,000 from the Trust to go towards the installation of a heat pump to provide warmth for its gorilla enclosure. Home to five Western Lowland gorillas.

**Educating visitors**

As well as contributing to the purchase and installation of the heat pumps, the grant will be used to educate visitors to the wildlife park about sustainable energy sources and the importance of cutting carbon emissions.

Staff at the park will design a visual display area at the gorilla enclosure to educate visitors about the pumps and how they operate to generate warmth. The Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust is an international charity working globally towards the mission of saving species from extinction. The centre is visited by some 8,000 schoolchildren and 700 school teachers annually. Christopher Clark, Trust and Grant Fundraiser at the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, said: “We are all very excited about getting this off the ground over the coming year in collaboration with the Jersey Electricity Company, our other major funder and local partner for the project.

“The key motivation for this initiative is to set an example to school pupils and others visiting the park about sustainable energy. We hope that, through installing a sustainable energy mechanism in the gorilla enclosure, our visitors will take an active interest in reducing their own carbon emissions.” Alison McKean, Senior Environmental and Social Policy Manager at ScottishPower, said: “The ScottishPower Green Energy Trust is delighted to contribute towards the cost of this worthwhile project at the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, which will have great benefits for the gorillas at the wildlife park, thousands of annual visitors, and for the environment.”

**Invasive aliens**

Derek Abbot, Fife Coast and Countryside Trust Ranger, explains the problem with invasive aliens.

When we say invasive aliens what does it really mean? To me, any creature or plant can be considered an invasive alien if it meets the following two criteria – it is not native to the area and has a negative impact on the environment.

Non-native species

A couple of examples spring immediately to mind. Grey squirrels are native to America and transmit a virus that kills our red squirrels. The American signal crayfish is another non-native species and carries a disease that affects our native crayfish. I first learned about the signal crayfish in Fife when I had a call from a rather confused school teacher in Auchtertool who said: “One of my pupils has just brought in a bucket full of lobsters that he says he caught in the burn.” I really needed to see this and duly went for a look. True enough, he had a bucket full of crayfish, some as large as 200mm – not quite lobsters but still incredibly good eating!

“These creatures destroy the ecosystem of our waterways and were probably released by someone who wanted to create a food source. At present we cannot control this species. If we trap them we only catch the large ones and then get an explosion of small ones.”

Native species

Creatures do not need to be foreign to be invasive. Take hedgehogs, for example. Someone brought out a pair to one of the Scottish islands, thinking they would be good for eating garden slugs. However, what happened was that they did eat his slugs but also helped themselves to the eggs of ground-nesting birds. They decimated some of the bird colonies, resulting in the hedgehogs being culled – and what a public outcry that caused! We humans have no problem killing things that are ugly, such as rats, but have huge problems when it comes to cute things like grey squirrels.

With many invasive aliens, it’s illegal to release the animal once it has been caught and there are legal and moral duties on all landowners to be responsible for controlling invasive aliens on their land.

Please try to understand that control of invasive aliens may not be nice but is necessary to preserve other creatures and that, as a responsible land owner, ScottishPower has legal obligations and continues to fulfil them.

I am happy to discuss this subject with anyone who wishes more information or a clearer understanding of the impacts that certain species have on our environment. Please feel free to call me on 01383 818444 or e-mail Derek.Abbot@ScottishPower.com

**Vallefield Ash Lagoons**

Vallefield Ash Lagoons is a man-made area which has been developed from the disposal of ash produced in the process of generating electricity at Longannet Power Station. It has matured into a network of rich habitats for wildlife – especially wading birds and insects.

The lagoons are situated just east of the Power Station and are an important element in the make-up of the inner Forth estuary, which is internationally recognised for its value to wildlife, especially birds.

The reserve covers 683 hectares and is covered by natural heritage designations including the Firth of Forth Ramsar site and Special Protection Area. Vallefield Lagoons were designated part of the Firth of Forth Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in 1991.

**Longannet Power Station**

Longannet Power Station has implemented a biodiversity action plan (BAP) to protect the habitats and species on its sites, including the Vallefield Ash Lagoons. The plan presents a list of ecological enhancement objectives for woodland, scrub, grassland, hedgerows and open standing water habitats, and lays out a timescale for their implementation.

Key projects include thinning of woodlands, maintenance of ponds, creation of hedgerows and management of grassland for wildflowers. The BAP also details various measures for preserving a colony of sand martins that breed on ash stockpiles at Longannet Lagoons. In 2009, the birds nested successfully in a stockpile away from operational areas and it is planned to maintain and monitor this site.
World Migratory Bird Day

www.worldmigratorybirdday.org

World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is a global awareness-raising campaign to highlight the need for the protection of migratory birds and their habitats. It was initiated in 2006 by the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) Secretariat in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).

On the second weekend of each May, people around the world come together to take action and organise public events such as bird festivals, education programmes and birdwatching excursions to celebrate World Migratory Bird Day. Events include bird festivals, bird watching trips, public discussions and exhibitions.

World Environment Day (WED)

www.unep.org/wed

World Environment Day is part of the United Nations environment programme and takes place on June 5 each year. The annual event aims to be the biggest and most widely celebrated global day for positive environmental action.

Many environmental awareness days take place throughout the year that everyone, including you, can get involved with.

UPCOMING DAYS INCLUDE:

14-15 May  World Migratory Bird Day
22 May  World Biodiversity Day
23 May  World Turtle Day
5 June  UN World Environment Day
8 June  World Oceans Day
17 June  World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought
19-27 Jun  Bike Week
11 July  UN World Population Day
16 Sep  International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer
17-19 Sep  Clean Up the World Weekend

Zero Emissions Day

(UN World Car Free Day)

UN World Habitat Day

Badger Day

International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction

World Planting Day

International Day of Climate Action

International Mountain Day

WED began in 1972 and has grown to become one of the main vehicles through which the UN stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and encourages political attention and action. WED is a day for people from all walks of life to come together to ensure a cleaner, greener and brighter outlook for themselves and future generations.

Everyone counts in this initiative and WED relies on you to make this happen! People can get involved by organising a neighbourhood clean-up, planting a tree, walking to work or starting a recycling drive... the possibilities are endless!

Carfree Day

www.worldcarfree.net/wcfd

Every September 22, people from around the world get together in streets and neighbourhoods to remind the world that we don’t have to accept our car-dominated society.

The World Carfree Network promotes Carfree Day activities and provides information and guidance for people looking to participate in World Carfree Day itself.

Let World Carfree Day be a showcase for just how our towns and cities might look like, feel like, and sound like without cars... 365 days a year.

As the climate heats up, World Carfree Day provides an opportunity to take the heat off the planet by cycling, walking or using public transport, instead of hopping in the car.
Enjoy a coffee to go!
The first barista standard re-useable cup is launched

Most of us enjoy a coffee on the go these days but have you ever considered the cost of this on the environment? In the UK alone we use in the region of 500 million cups a year.

Abigail Forsyth is the founder of the first barista standard reusable cup, the KeepCup. Abigail, a coffee shop owner, said: “I became increasingly concerned about the contribution of our business model to landfill – convenience at too high an environmental cost. We looked at refilling juice bottles, selling salad containers to be filled – but it was the disposable cup that was the most conspicuous and ubiquitous piece of disposable packaging.”

Unsatisfied with existing alternatives to disposable cups, Abigail used her experience behind the coffee machine to design the barista-friendly KeepCup. The KeepCup, which comes in standard takeaway sizes, fits under the heads of coffee machines and keeps drinks hot for up to 30 minutes longer than disposable cups. You can also choose your own combination of colours and can even highlight your coffee preferences.

After 12 uses the energy and emissions created in the cup’s manufacture are saved and the company states that, once volume targets are reached, they will add local manufacturing hubs in Europe.

For more information on the KeepCup go to www.keepcup.com

Do you have an eco-idea? Green patent applications prioritised

There’s good news if you’re a budding inventor or entrepreneur with an eco-friendly product.

Green patent applications are now being processed up to four times faster than standard applications. The UK’s Intellectual Property Office’s Green Channel service offers accelerated processing for patent applications if the invention has an environmental benefit.

Since the Green Channel was launched in May last year, 329 patent applications have been, or are being, fast-tracked. On average, a patent is granted through the Green Channel in eight months, compared with a 32-month average for standard applications.

The demand for low-carbon products is growing across the world,” said Intellectual Property Minister Baroness Wilcox. “Putting the UK at the forefront of the green technology industry will deliver enormous benefits to this country.

“Fast-tracking green patents provides businesses with practical help in developing green technology and brings it to the consumer as quickly as possible.”

So, if you have a green invention which you think will lighten the burden on our environment, visit the Intellectual Property Office’s website (www.ipo.gov.uk) to submit your application.

Stay green on the go with the KeepCup.

www.ipo.gov.uk

www.scottishpowergreentrust.co.uk

www.fairtrade.org.uk

The raisins carry the FAIRTRADE mark and have been produced by Tropical Wholesale’s partnership with Mercy Corps and the Parwan Raisin Cooperative.

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Good news for farmers Fairtrade raisins from Afghanistan

War-torn Afghanistan may not seem the most likely source of eco-friendly international trade.

But did you know that ethically-minded British buyers can now buy Fairtrade raisins from Afghanistan, helping struggling farmers in conflict-affected areas?

“This new product is great news for Fairtrade and Afghan farmers,” said Chris Davies, the Fairtrade Foundation’s Director of Producer Partnerships. “Areas of conflict suffer extreme poverty and there are many opportunities for Fairtrade to make an impact in supporting communities in these areas.”

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Find out more at www.fairtrade.org.uk

www.ipo.gov.uk

www.scottishpowergreentrust.co.uk

www.fairtrade.org.uk
Win vouchers to spend at Whitelee Windfarm

To celebrate the launch of the new activity programme at Whitelee Visitor Centre, Green is offering ten lucky readers the chance to win a £20 voucher towards a day out at Europe’s largest windfarm.

Competition winners who are unable to make it to Whitelee need not lose out and can opt for an energy monitor instead of the voucher.

The Whitelee Visitor Centre is the first of its kind in Scotland and provides a unique opportunity for visitors to learn more about renewable energy.

The windfarm includes a hands-on interactive exhibition covering methods of renewable power generation, the local environment and construction of the facility, and a learning hub where both children and adults can learn about the operation of windfarms and renewable energy under the tutelage of specially trained staff.

Leading geoscientist and broadcaster Professor Iain Stewart joined pupils from Eaglesham Primary to launch the new activity programme at Whitelee Visitor Centre for 2011. Built by ScottishPower Renewables (SPR), as part of the development of Europe’s largest windfarm, the visitor centre has already welcomed over 120,000 people through its doors since opening in September 2009.

For 2011, SPR has upgraded and developed a number of the interactive exhibits, refreshed parts of the exhibition and will be introducing a number of new events, including stargazing and storytelling.

Keith Anderson, CEO of ScottishPower Renewables, said: “The response to the opening of Whitelee Visitor Centre has amazed everyone and we are delighted that so many people have taken an interest in the windfarm.

“2011 is all about growing on this success, developing our activity programme and continuing to educate as many people as possible about the important role that renewables play now and in the future.”

Professor Iain Stewart said: “Having Whitelee Windfarm visitor centre is a huge asset for anyone interested in learning more about renewable energy and who wants to see a windfarm up close.

“I grew up not far from here and have seen extremely positive changes to the surroundings and think it’s fantastic that Whitelee has become a key resource for school science education.”

Whitelee Windfarm is located just 20 minutes from Glasgow City Centre, on Eaglesham Moor, East Renfrewshire. Entry is free.

Further information is available by visiting www.whiteleewindfarm.co.uk

Ten lucky readers can win an energy monitor or a £20 voucher to spend in Whitelee’s cafe or shop.

To enter simply answer the following question:

How many people have visited Whitelee Windfarm since it opened in September 2009?

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