

## New local energy initiative

The Energy Group is investigating innovative ways in which Action 21 can contribute to reduce carbon emissions in the area, drawing on new national funding available for community energy initiatives.

While individual renewable energy projects are often not viable in isolation, there are opportunities to make them much more attractive by linking them together, encouraging shared ownership across the community, or combining them with housing developments and energy efficiency schemes. Such projects create long-term benefits through community engagement, employment, and improved amenity, as well as reducing emissions.

A current proposal under deliberation is for a local partnership (headed by Action 21 and the District Council) to accelerate progress by establishing a community-owned, non-profit energy organisation. Individual members of the community are to be offered shares proportionate to their personal efforts at reducing emissions.

This energy organisation would identify and develop attractive renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in the community. Examples are a hydroelectric generator in the Mill Bridge piers, or solar panels on new residential developments. It would have a specific objective of reducing carbon emissions from the district by a challenging target – perhaps 3000-5000 tonnes a year.

A sub-group of the Energy Group is developing these proposals and looking into how feasible they would be. If you would like to comment, support or contribute, your input would be very welcome. Please contact [matthew.rhodes@encraft.co.uk](mailto:matthew.rhodes@encraft.co.uk).

Matthew Rhodes



## Pumpkin Day is on its way

Bath Place Community Cafe and the Action 21 Food Group have got together again to organise their second Pumpkin Day on October 25th at Bath Place Community Venture from 1pm to 4pm.

If you've grown a pumpkin that you're proud of, or even one that's a bit small, enter it in our free competition. There will be a prize for the biggest (for both adults and children), the smallest and the most unusual. Children can carve and decorate a locally grown pumpkin (provided free) or make pumpkin jewellery. When the adults have a free moment they can get gardening advice, and buy organic vegetables at reasonable prices.

The Community Cafe will be open especially for the occasion, serving pumpkin-related food for everyone all day, and providing recipes and cookery demonstrations.

If you're interested in food – growing it, eating it or cooking it – why not join the Food Group? We meet regularly and stage one or two events a year to get everyone thinking about food. For more info, contact Judy Steele on 01926 887119 or [judy@dmac.co.uk](mailto:judy@dmac.co.uk).

## DIARY dates DIARY dates DIARY

### October

**Wednesday 22 Action 21 Committee Meeting** 7.30 pm.  
Contact [jenny@action21.co.uk](mailto:jenny@action21.co.uk).

**Saturday 25 Pumpkin Day**  
Bath Place Community Venture 1-4 pm  
Recipes, jewellery making, gardening advice, face painting, lots of fun!  
Contact Judy on 01926 887119 or [judy@dmac.co.uk](mailto:judy@dmac.co.uk).

### November

**Monday 3 Food Group Meeting**  
7:30 pm. Venue tbc. Contact Judy on 01926 887119 or [judy@dmac.co.uk](mailto:judy@dmac.co.uk).

**Monday 10 EnergyGroup Meeting**  
7:30 pm Sikh Community Centre  
Contact Bhajan Aulak 01926 456010 or [bhajan.aulak@warwickdc.gov.uk](mailto:bhajan.aulak@warwickdc.gov.uk)

**Friday 14 Green Skittles Night**  
from 6.30 pm, Newbold Comyn Arms, Newbold Terrace.  
Open to Action 21 members and their friends plus anybody else who's interested in green issues.  
For food at £5 a head, please contact Jenny on 01926 456 067 or [jenny@action21.co.uk](mailto:jenny@action21.co.uk).

**Thursday 27 Transport Group Meeting**  
7:30 pm Oddfellows Hall. Contact [bob.crowther@warwickdc.gov.uk](mailto:bob.crowther@warwickdc.gov.uk)

### December

**Monday 1 Food Group Meeting**  
7:30 pm. Venue tbc. Contact Judy on 01926 887119 or [judy@dmac.co.uk](mailto:judy@dmac.co.uk).

**Wednesday 10 EnergyGroup Meeting**  
7:30 pm Sikh Community Centre  
Contact Bhajan Aulak 01926 456010; [bhajan.aulak@warwickdc.gov.uk](mailto:bhajan.aulak@warwickdc.gov.uk)

For more information and events check out [www.action21.co.uk](http://www.action21.co.uk).

## Car Free and Care Free in Warwick!

This year our car free event on Monday 22nd September was billed as 'European In Town Without My Car Day' (ITWMC), and organised jointly by Action 21, Warwickshire County Council and Warwick District Council. Hopefully this has dispelled the myth that we give away free cars (!) and also reinforced the message that the event is not anti-car, but aims to persuade people to use their cars less.



Warwick District Council Chair, Mike Doody, gets on his bike with some local schoolchildren on Car Free Day.

Over 150 children from Warwick primary schools turned up bright and early to watch a series of shows by slapstick duo Momo Theatre. This made them laugh and was based around issues of green transport to and from school. The main promotion of the day was a simple free lunch for anyone who had come into work that day by public transport, by bike or on foot. In spite of the dismal weather, take up was excellent with nearly 200 people taking part. Local musicians 'Brook Street' entertained people while they ate their lunch at our Car Free Café in the Square.

Local companies were invited to take an hour off work at 3pm for some friendly competition in a race on exercise bikes, and not surprisingly it was Broadribbs, Leamington's cycle specialists, who came in first.



## Transaction

Autumn 2003

Every year Action 21's autumn activities are crowned by Pumpkin Day, this year being held on 25 October, featuring carving, jewellery, food and fun with the extremely versatile and easy-to-grow gourd. To add to other enjoyable activities for the entire family, this day also provides an excellent opportunity for you to find out more about the Food Group's activities and get free gardening advice.

In the following months the Energy and Transport Groups will be meeting. New members are welcome. (See **Diary** for dates and details.)

For a chance to meet other Action 21 members informally, come and join Green Drinks Night in October and Green Skittles Night in November (check **Diary** for details).

I hope you enjoy this issue of Transaction. If you would like Action 21 to feature an issue of interest to you, contact Editor **Jeanne Ashkenazi** at [jj.ash@ntlworld.com](mailto:jj.ash@ntlworld.com) or on **01926 426287**.

Most importantly the day gave people access to information on alternative modes of transport. Free bicycle services and safety checks were on offer all day for cyclists from both John Atkins and Broadribbs.

There were displays of bikes, mopeds and electric bikes, and a big range of bike and walking accessories were on sale along with practical details such as car sharing schemes, cycle routes and bus timetables.

### Act Locally!

If you would like to be involved in projects that promote green transport, why not come along to a meeting of the **Action 21 Transport Group!**

The next meeting will be on 27 November at the Oddfellows Hall, 6 Clarence Terrace, Leamington. Contact [bob.crowther@warwickdc.gov.uk](mailto:bob.crowther@warwickdc.gov.uk).

◆ Open below with care ◆



For more information about Action 21's past and present projects visit [www.action21.co.uk](http://www.action21.co.uk)

If you don't have internet access then we'll post information to you.  
Contact Sustainability Officer: **Jenny Sansom 01926 456067**  
Email: [jenny@action21.co.uk](mailto:jenny@action21.co.uk)

Address label to seal here.

## Did you know?

- Motor vehicles produce the vast majority of air pollution in urban areas. Air pollution causes 12,000 to 24,000 premature deaths each year.
- This summer, due to strong sunlight and high vehicle usage, summer smog levels at 25 sites across the country including Leamington Spa broke government health limits every day from Monday to Sunday 4-10 August 2003.