

## General manager Rick makes big plans for 2009

Now that he is more settled in to the role, General Manager Rick Smith has big hopes for the year ahead. He said, "I really want to achieve lots on the food side of things and especially to boost links with the Canalside Community Food project.

"I also want to get involved with more practical projects particularly around renewable energy and insulation schemes."

Education will also play a key part in Action 21's future with Rick keen to work closer with schools to raise awareness of sustainable living from a young age.

### Wondering what to do with that old microwave?

The Recycle Warehouse is now the proud owner of a microwave testing machine. If you have a microwave which you no longer need but is still in good working order the Recycle Warehouse will now welcome it. Alternatively, if you are looking for an affordable microwave pop along and see what they have got. A new PAT machine also means they can test more electrical items and can therefore put more out for sale. Why not go and take a look, they may just have what you are looking for!

### Michelle Clarke waves farewell to Action 21

Volunteer development worker Michelle Clarke has left Action 21 for the sunnier climes of Spain, where she will be volunteering with Sunseed.

Before leaving over the Christmas period she said, "I've really enjoyed my couple of years working with Action 21 and have felt extremely privileged to work with such a range of interesting individuals and to work on such inspiring projects.

"It's been great meeting all the various people that want to get involved and I really feel there's ever more momentum, ideas and enthusiasm for exciting, worthwhile projects. "Thanks to everyone and best wishes to you all and I look forward to seeing what Action 21 is doing in the future."

We wish Michelle the best of luck with her travels

### New press team

Leamington Courier Green Column writer Matt Cox and volunteer Kimberley Tew have joined forces to create the new Action 21 Press Office. They aim to raise awareness of Action 21 and to spread the message of sustainable living through the local and national media.

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Part of their brief is to generate a regular stream of information: they are inviting Action 21 members to send any potentially newsworthy items to them. You can contact the press team on [press@action21.co.uk](mailto:press@action21.co.uk).

### Volunteering pays off for new recruit



A Recycle Warehouse volunteer has shown that volunteering can be a foot in the door when it comes to getting a job by joining the staff team.

Jon Gerrard is the newest recruit to the staff at Action 21's Recycle Warehouse after volunteering for 14 months.

Jon is now the Bicycles Co-ordinator after joining the Recycle Warehouse on an Entry to Work scheme in August 2007. Although the placement ended in last November he enjoyed the experience so much he stayed on as a volunteer. He says of his new staff position, "I absolutely enjoy it. There are so many different projects to be working on."

You can contact Jon on [bikes@action21.co.uk](mailto:bikes@action21.co.uk).

### Sydenham Community Insulation Project



Action 21 Energy Group has launched their project with a stall at the Sydni Centre consultation event on 28<sup>th</sup> February. Members of the public filled in questionnaires on the efficiency of their homes.

Amanda from Act on Energy and Steven Coulsting from Action 21 are pictured with the purpose made energy dolls house. The project is to make low carbon energy solutions more available to the residents of Sydenham.

### More new faces...



Amy Footer - Volunteer development worker  
([amy@action21.co.uk](mailto:amy@action21.co.uk), 01926 456072)

Eleanor Perkins - General Assistant  
([eleanor@action21.co.uk](mailto:eleanor@action21.co.uk), 01926 456076)

## Dates for your diary

### Food Group:

Food Co-op – every Thursday morning at Lillington Children's Centre. Go along and find out more.

### Energy Group:

9th March, 6pm, Chandos Room, Baptist Church, Chandos Street, Leamington Spa. The Energy Group promotes renewable energy and energy efficiency projects throughout the district

### Renewable Energy Club:

Meets on the first Saturday of each month. Contact Keith Sinfield for more information.

([keithsinfield@talktalk.net](mailto:keithsinfield@talktalk.net))

**Leamington Canal Festival:** Sunday 3rd June 2009

**Peace Festival:** 13-14th June 2009

## Action 21's partnership with **ecotricity** switched on

Ecotricity is an electricity company with a difference. As green energy pioneers, Ecotricity is dedicated to building new wind turbines to fight climate change. Switching is easy and it's the biggest single step you can take to reduce your emissions and protect the environment. Act now and sign up to Ecotricity at [our affinity page](#) or by ringing free on 08000 302302 and quote Action21.

Action 21 receives a kind donation from Ecotricity every time someone makes the switch and quotes 'Action21'.

## Action 21 get excited by prospect of new HQ

The eagerly awaited second recycle warehouse in Sydenham is getting closer to becoming a reality. Although plans are still being finalised, General Manager Rick says, "Everybody working closely with the project are getting incredibly excited." The second warehouse will provide Action 21 with a central space with more offices, meeting places and of course more desk space to accommodate extra volunteers!

"There is so much scope for bigger and better things" says Rick.

## What do you think of the new look Transaction newsletter?

After previously printing and sending out hundreds of copies, Transaction has finally become environmentally friendly and joined the digital revolution! This not only means less paper, but also means we can include more information, pictures etc so we'd like to hear from you if there is anything you'd like to see included that isn't at the moment? Email your comments to [press@action21.co.uk](mailto:press@action21.co.uk)

## Members - Have your say

We're working on the membership package in the Action 21 office at the moment. There's a survey for members online at [www.tinyurl.com/action21members](http://www.tinyurl.com/action21members). We want your input! Watch this space for the results.

## 10 Easy Ways to Save Energy

It's that time of year when everybody is resolving to make the next year better than the last. Considering the current financial crisis, saving money will no doubt feature high on your priorities. While this isn't the ideal circumstance to invest in big capital projects, making energy savings could also save you money. With this in mind we have put together our top ten ways of saving energy and money. Whether you choose to make just the one change or to take on all ten, there is great benefit to be had by yourself and the environment.

Most require only a minimum investment but reducing water, fuel and energy consumption at a time of fast rising prices can offer instant savings. While installing a new boiler or solar panels, installing cavity wall insulation and new windows demands a bigger initial investment, evidence shows that they can pay for themselves within a few years. For more information check out Act on Energy (former Warwickshire Energy Efficiency Advice Centre) or contact Action 21's Renewable Energy Club.

1. Turn down heating and wash clothes at 30°C.
2. Install low energy light bulbs, buy low energy appliances and switch off at the wall rather than leaving on standby.
3. Insulate your roof space (250mm/10 inches) and your hot water tank – there are grants available to help with the cost making an easily achievable step.
4. Reduce your food spend so you never throw food away; buy things which last and choose locally produced food.
5. Buy goods loose or choose recyclable packaging. Avoid over-packaged items.
6. Cut out one car journey a week and walk/bus/cycle short journeys – don't forget the Recycle Warehouse has bikes for sale making this an even more affordable and environmentally friendly option.
7. Only boil the amount of water you need in a kettle and only wash a full load in a machine.
8. Shower rather than bath and use the cold tap for a quick hand rinse.
9. Install a condensing boiler and/or solar hot water panels – Look out for Action 21's upcoming Solar Challenge.
10. Install cavity wall insulation. Improve thermal performance of windows by draught proofing, thermal curtains or secondary glazing. Replace with double glazing if due for replacement

