

PRESS RELEASE

ISSUE DATE: For immediate release



Greening Wallingford gears up on Climate action

On Saturday 10th October, Ed Vaizey MP will join residents of Wallingford – including schools, the Town Council, Beavers, Scouts, local businesses and church groups – who are coming together to tackle climate change.

Sustainable Wallingford member Jacinta Thorley says: ‘We know Climate change has concerned many of our residents for some time now and we thought it was time that we acted together to make some small changes that will make a big difference.’

The Greening campaign gives the community a way to work together to tackle Climate Change that makes it a positive experience. It involves people deciding on up to eight small actions they will do to reduce their CO₂ and letting the rest of the community know they are doing so by placing a small ‘Greening Wallingford’ card in their window. The cards will be distributed in the October Window On Wallingford and in November the cards on display will be counted.

The number of cards on display will show just how many are taking part and help everyone see the value of their collective action and the significant difference this will make. For example, if every household in Wallingford turned their thermostat down by 1° C, over the course of a year that would save 1,155,000 kg of carbon – which is the equivalent of taking almost 300 cars off the road.

Jacinta Thorley says: “The cards are a visual way to capture the carbon-saving activities that Wallingford people are undertaking and demonstrates the value of us all coming together to share what we are doing to act on climate change and live more sustainably.”

The Greening Wallingford initiative is just one of a series of activities that Sustainable Wallingford is planning throughout the rest of 2009. It will take place at the Regal Centre, from 2- 4pm, on Saturday 10th October and is open to everyone. Those attending will be invited to help choose the simple actions they consider to be most relevant to the town. The Town Council has already committed to signing up to one of the pledges and is fully supportive of the campaign. Local groups, such as the Guides and the Beavers, will demonstrate on the day how easily the pledges can be adopted.

In November, the Wallingford Corn Exchange will be showing the 'Age of Stupid'. The film, which was released earlier this year and has already won a host of awards, stars Pete Postlethwaite as a man living alone in the world of 2055, looking back at old footage of 2008 and asking 'why didn't we stop climate change when we had the chance?'

Sustainable Wallingford is organising a coach for residents to attend The Wave, a national march in London on 5th December to show support for a safe climate future for all, in advance of the UN Summit on Climate Change in Copenhagen. Contact Mark on 01491 651333 to book a seat.

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Notes to Editors

Ed Vaizey MP has confirmed his attendance at the Greening Wallingford launch on Saturday 10th October. Local media are invited to cover this event.

The Greening Campaign started in Petersfield when a resident, Terena Plowright, decided to start something in her own town to try and 'make a difference'. Since then 80 other villages and towns across the South of England and beyond, are joining together to begin to address reducing their CO₂ emissions and reducing the amount of water they waste. Wallingford is the first community in Oxfordshire to take this on.

Please contact Anne on 07503 177925 for further information.

About Sustainable Wallingford

The aim of Sustainable Wallingford is to build a more sustainable town and community in Wallingford and its surrounding area. The group was formed in 2003 by people living in and around the small Oxfordshire town of Wallingford. We work in partnership with residents, local government, schools, hospitals, food producers and businesses to promote sustainability.

Sustainable Wallingford has identified the following key issues that need to be addressed to support sustainable living in Wallingford:

- More efficient use of ENERGY
- Reduction, recycling and reuse of produce to minimise WASTE
- LOCAL SOURCING of food and other products
- Adoption of less carbon intensive TRANSPORT
- BIO-DIVERSITY

Since it was founded, Sustainable Wallingford has become well known locally for a range of activities that involve local people and raise awareness of the need to reduce the demands we make on the resources of our planet.

Website – www.sustainablewallingford.org

Contact Details

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