

THE BATTLEFIELD ENERGY CHALLENGE NEWS

Issue No. 2

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Dear Resident,

Since the launch of The Battlefield Energy Challenge on Friday 8th April much has happened so here's a brief update.

- 37% of homes have now asked for or already received a Home Energy Audit - an increase from 29%. Requests are still coming in. (see information about the Energy Audits)
- Several homes are considering improving insulation
- Three homes have asked for information about renewable energy - solar hot water or photovoltaic electricity generation - don't forget if we can arrange 5 or more orders we hope to be able to negotiate a discount for you. **See STOP PRESS re. Government Green Deal**
- **Red Box Research** have now completed their base line study for us looking at:
 - Energy Saving Measures already taken
 - Why residents save energy
 - What would it take to encourage greater energy saving
 - Actions being taken to reduce transport emissions
 - Attitudes to Climate Change
 - Fuel Poverty.Copies (by request) of the conclusions of the survey will be available shortly.
Very interesting reading.

Parts of the UK have had the driest and warmest spring for more than a century, latest figures from the Met Office confirm. Across the whole of England and Wales, it was the second driest spring since 1910 and parts of East Anglia

have seen only 10% of normal rainfall. Since the start of March average temperatures have been the warmest since records began. Some farmers are losing their crops, and there are fears that many foods costs will go up. To save precious drinking water, it is worth having several water butts to use for watering your gardens.

FACT In the West Midlands the average house roof can collect 140,000 litres of rainwater a year and with wetter winters and dryer summers predicted it makes sense to store up rainwater to use during dryer periods. Water butts from garden centres can be quite expensive. If someone was willing to act as co-ordinator, bulk purchase from a specialist supplier could well make considerable savings and there are firms who specialise in obtaining ex. fruit pulp containers which although not so beautiful, make excellent rainwater storage containers. Your street reps have the details.



Talking of water, **do you have a water meter?** If not there could be considerable financial savings if you are or can become a low water user as you then only pay for what you use rather than the bill being based on your Council Tax band. If your rain water goes into a soak away rather than the sewer, further savings can be made. There will be water saving information available at our Low Carbon Homes Day.



The Energy Challenge has a serious side to it, but we want it to be fun too.

Do you fancy becoming a film director. We have a video camera available and would like to lend it out so you can make short films of any energy saving actions you take. These could range from fitting a new heating boiler, picking your first home grown tomato of the season, erecting a 2nd hand shed or the day the van arrives to fit your solar panels. We will collect these film clips and edit them into a short film at the end of the Challenge. You could even do a video diaryand get the family involved!



STOP PRESS.

- The Government have just announced details of **The Green Deal**. This is a scheme where you can borrow up to £10,000 from your energy company for the cost of energy saving measures on your home. It is repaid from the savings you will make on your energy bills. Your street reps have copies of the full details, also information about **The Renewable Heat Incentive**, a scheme which will pay you to have heating from renewable sources.
- The Battlefields Energy Challenge now has a dedicated section on our website. You can even add your own comments on the blog - (write your own comments for others to see.)
- The Co-op are about to become an energy supplier. Competitive pricing, low carbon electricity and dividend points. Worth checking out. The local Co-op store have further details.

