

Dorset Energy Advice Centre Spring 2008 Newsletter



dorset energy advice centre

Over 70s free insulation makes a difference

This year we have referred over 1000 local households for free cavity wall and loft insulation, helping them to save up to £200 **each** year on their fuel bills, and making a significant impact on local SAP (Standard Assessment Performance) ratings.

Households with at least one person over the age of 70 have now entered the Priority Group for the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) funding that is available from the utility companies, (formerly Energy Efficiency Commitment / EEC). This means that if they have less than 4"/100mm of loft insulation and or unfilled cavity walls they can benefit from these measures free of charge (subject to survey).

One unpleasant side-effect of this funding has been an increase in insulation companies from outside the area targeting such localities as Christchurch and Ferndown with high pressure door to door salespeople. We have taken a number of calls from distressed people who are confused about who they have spoken to and what they have agreed to. The councils in Dorset do not endorse cold calling or doorstep selling and ask people to phone Dorset Energy Advice Centre for impartial advice about energy saving and available grants.



Dorset Energy Advice Centre in the news

Phil Neale was interviewed by Meridian in a feature investigating local problems with the Warm Front grant. <http://www.deac.co.uk/news-from-deac/index.asp?EnhanceA=NEWS%20ARTICLE%20DETAILS&RecordID=10>

Emily Bullock was interviewed by the Dorset Echo in an article about a residential wind turbine. http://www.dorsetecho.co.uk/news/greenwatch/greenwatch/display.var.2115454.0.whip_up_support_for_wind_turbine.php



Are you one in 300?

DEAC is delighted to be delivering work for the Climate Change Coalition. Emily Bullock will be spending 2.5 days a week working on this project. The project funded by the Dorset Strategic Partnership aims to raise awareness of climate change and to support local individuals and organisations to take action. The project has ambitious aims and hopes to get at least 300 people in the county to cut their carbon footprint by 5% over the next year.

Emily says: "Part of the project will be to recruit and train people across the county to talk about climate change, and to support people in taking action. This will be one way of recruiting 300 people to take action on climate change, another is for you to go to the Act on CO2 website, calculate your footprint, then look at the action plan provided and work out how much you want to

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reduce it. Please email me and let me know. For example *"I am intending to reduce my carbon footprint from 5.17 tonnes of CO2 to 4.65 tonnes of CO2 (10%) by draft-proofing my home, turning down my heating and driving less"*. If you would like to get involved or be kept informed please contact Emily@deac.co.uk To calculate your footprint go to <http://actonco2.direct.gov.uk/index.html>

Weymouth Energy Advice Centre builds ECO home

John Tomblin and his team of volunteers in Weymouth have been awarded a grant of £2400 by Weymouth and Portland Community Partnership. The funding will pay for further training and a demonstration ECO home, to show sustainable energy solutions such as cavity wall insulation and solar panels. Currently DEAC has volunteers giving advice in Weymouth, Christchurch and Bridport. Please contact us if you would like to get involved.

DEAC has a face lift and a new face!

Did you spot our new logo, have you checked out our new website, or our direct dial phone numbers! More importantly our new voice, you may already have spoken to Donna our new telephone advisor. DEAC have undertaken a major infrastructure investment to make sure we are able to efficiently serve our partners, the public and our customers. We have also launched a new freephone number 0800 975 0166 to ensure continuity of our LOCAL free and impartial service.



Churches see the light!

DEAC have been supporting Salisbury Diocese by providing energy saving bulbs for Revd Canon Dr Jean Coates, Rural Dean who says, "We all know low energy light bulbs are a good way into reducing our carbon footprint. The Environment Team in the Diocese of Salisbury have been talking to parish church representatives across Dorset. We have given each parish a low energy light bulb to encourage their use in parish churches – see if you can spot them in your visits to these historic buildings across the County. Some types of church lighting are not yet able to take low energy bulbs but if each church building uses the bulbs where possible it will be a big step forward in reducing the Church's carbon footprint. Later in the year attention will be turned to rectories and vicarages and each inhabitant will be given a free low energy bulb at the Clergy conference in July.

Energy Performance Certificates in the rented sector

From 1st October 2008 an Energy Performance Certificate will be required for new tenancies, another reason for landlords to take advantage of the free insulation provided by the Bournemouth Landlord Project. DEAC have now been managing this project for nearly three years and over 5000 privately rented properties have been insulated saving £625,000 and 5467 tonnes of carbon dioxide each year. So if you are a Bournemouth landlord, or know one, get in touch!

0800 975 0166

www.deac.co.uk

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Energy Performance Certificate Service for landlords

DEAC's experience in the private rented sector puts them in a unique position to offer landlords a comprehensive EPC service. We can signpost landlords to grants and schemes for insulation, lighting and heating to ensure that their properties achieve the best possible ratings. Contact Peter Bywater for further details.

Bournemouth and Poole Climate Change Conference

It was inspiring to be part of this conference which was opened by the leaders of both councils, and had over 140 delegates pledging to do more to cut carbon. John Grimshaw from Sustrans the keynote speaker advocated an extra weeks holiday for staff who walk or cycle to work, as they are on average 2 weeks more effective over the year. DEAC were heavily involved with Peter Bywater speaking about the Bournemouth Landlord project, Emily Bullock running a workshop on renewable energy, and Ross Courtney running a stall in the exhibition area. <http://www.poolepartnership.info/>



DEAC continues advice service to business.

Over the last few months DEAC have advised around 15 businesses including a fish and chip shop, snooker hall and a village hall. The service consists of a pre-booked 30 minute telephone advice surgery, directed to meet the needs of the business, covering anything from a general discussion on energy efficiency, to specific advice on measures, renewable technologies and grants. The surgery is followed up with an email attaching relevant factsheets, web links and or signposting to other organisations as appropriate. Beyond the half hour further advice is available on a chargeable basis with a discount available for charities and community organisations.

Staff contacts

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