

Sustainable  
Wallingford

# Sustainable Wallingford

Local people who work together to make our town and district more environmentally sustainable and to reduce its ecological impact



Sustainable Wallingford was formed in 2003 by a small group of friends living in and around Wallingford.

Over 40 members & 4 action groups

Regular contact with about 350 local residents who receive our newsletter.

We work with local councils, schools, hospitals, food producers and businesses to promote sustainability.



# Waste

Our waste group is a CAG  
We help people recycle more

My waste = your treasure

Popular SwapShop,  
held 3 or 4 times a year



# SwapShops

- Bring along an item you no longer want instead of throwing it away
- Someone else may be delighted to use it!
- If it is a garden shed just bring a photo
- In just 2 hours, 400 people attend and almost half a ton can change hands
- What's left over can mostly be recycled or reused in some way
- Next SwapShop: Saturday 19th January

# Recycling collection

- Combined with SwapShops
- People can bring recyclable items that are not collected locally:
  - Aluminium foil
  - Batteries
  - Computers
  - Light bulbs
  - Paint
  - Spectacles
- Mostly taken to recycling centre in one trip
- Tetrapaks can be recycled but it isn't easy
- Promoting business recycling
- Campaigning against excess packaging

# Real nappy award

- Disposable nappies are a huge waste and pollution problem
- Sustainable Wallingford members started a trial scheme for washable cotton nappies
- £1000 prize, spent on making reusable nappies available to all new mothers in Wallingford Hospital

# Bunkfest 2006 & 2008

- Over three-quarters of waste on the Kinecroft was recycled in 2006



Sustainable Wallingford volunteer, Ben Earl, with plastic glasses collected from the beer tent



Charlotte Tolley with Recycling Ricky at one of the recycling points

- Public education and enthusiasm can be extended to other events

# Local sourcing

- Promoting local goods including food
  - Connection with producers
  - Less pollution from transport
- Farmers' & producers' markets
- 2nd buy local directory published in March 2007
- Fir Tree Junior School garden project – OSCA winner 2006



*Local food stand at Wallingford Victorian shopping evening – cut Christmas food miles*

# Schools

- Support the school curriculum
- New 3 Rs – refuse, reuse, recycle
- More training sessions for teachers
- Assemblies in primary and secondary schools in Wallingford partnership
- Encourage local food, energy and waste saving in schools
- Fir Tree Junior School garden project
- Promote Eco-Schools, Healthy Schools and Better Ways To School

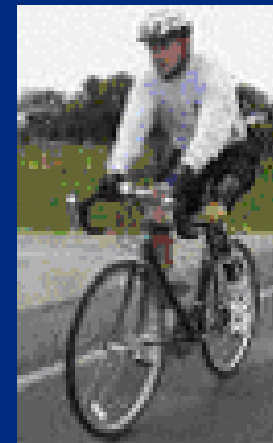
# Fir Tree School garden

- Objectives: environmental education, healthy local food, independence, useful skills, exercise
- Grew 229 Kg of vegetables last year
- Equivalent value over £700
- 98% used in school meals
- Coupled with learning
- Won a county OSCA award
- Supported by Sustainable Wallingford local sourcing group and Fir Tree School



# Transport

- Active integrated transport group – link with school travel plans – crossings
- Promoting healthy transport – making walking and cycling safer in and around the town
- Chilterns funded cycle leaflet now in production
- Car sharing a possible project
- Represented on air quality steering group with OCC and SODC



# Communities group

- Sustainable Wallingford questionnaire
  - Attitudes to Climate change / peak oil
  - What action will people / groups take?
- Film showings – with discussion afterwards
  - Peak oil and the future after fossil fuels
  - “An Inconvenient Truth” by Al Gore
  - Community response to peak oil in Cuba
- Rachel Carson play coming to Wallingford on 29 November – all welcome

# Communications

- Press and PR – good links with local paper and Window for Wallingford
- Annual open meeting to report back and encourage new members
- Website – *[www.sustainablewallingford.org](http://www.sustainablewallingford.org)*
- Discussions, talks, plays, films, events
- Courses and conferences to learn more
- Newsletter for wider membership / public
- Management group keeps groups in touch
- Email network to share information
- Posters in shops, library, churches, ...

# Partnerships

- South Oxfordshire District Council
  - Sustainability grant support
  - Recycling officers support SwapShop
- Oxfordshire County Council
  - Schools sustainability officer involved
  - Community Action Groups on waste
- Northmoor Trust – Wild Waste bus
- Farmers Markets
- BBOWT and local environment groups

# What next?

- New Energy action group
- Becoming a charity?
- Transition Town?
- Community networking
- Work more with local businesses
- Pedestrian-friendly town centre?
- Sustainability worker in schools?
- Develop climate change actions

