

STOP THORP!

The THORP plant at Sellafield has been built to process radioactive waste from overseas, producing Uranium and Plutonium for re-use, and leaving radioactive waste to be disposed of.

The plant has cost over £1.8 billion to construct - but some countries are now expressing concerns about contract commitments with THORP, and the UK taxpayer could be facing a massive loss. It has also been estimated that pollution from the site will cause 108 serious health effects in Europe each year. Greenpeace have estimated that dry storage methods would be likely to provide a safer and cheaper option.

Two public consultation periods have been held this year, which received more than 90,000 letters of protest - the future of THORP may still be in the balance.

For more information contact Phil Edmonson on 233011.

Jules Wagstaff, Nottingham Greenpeace group.



Nottingham Greenpeace anti-THORP Rally, held in March this year.

SAVE MONEY AS YOU SAVE ENERGY

One way of reducing the impact of energy production is to use energy more efficiently - for example by using energy efficient light bulbs, which use less energy than ordinary bulbs but produce the same level of lighting. Energy efficiency measures can be an alternative to building more power stations - avoiding the increases in pollution that more power stations would bring.

The energy used by the average home creates 7½ tonnes of carbon dioxide a year. This can be reduced by up to a half through energy efficiency measures, at the same time reducing your bills by a similar amount. The following list gives a few ideas about how to make a start on reducing your energy bills.

Insulation

If you insulate your home properly, your heating system will need to produce less heat. Draught-proofing your outside doors and windows is probably the most straightforward way to stop heat escaping. If you have a room with a gas fire, boiler or coal fire, make sure that there is enough ventilation before draught-proofing the door.

Lighting

Energy-saving light bulbs can pay for themselves in lower bills - often within two years - although they cost more than ordinary filament bulbs (from £5 to £15). Energy-saving bulbs use only a quarter of the electricity of ordinary bulbs, and last eight times longer.

Grants to help make your home more energy efficient are available for people receiving certain benefits.

For details about grants, call 0800 181667.

This article is based on extracts from the 'Helping the Earth Begins at Home' booklet produced by the Department of the Environment. The leaflet has further details about energy efficiency measures, as well as useful addresses and phone numbers. The booklet is available free by calling 0345 247 347 (for the price of a local call).

ENERGY CONTACTS

Energy Efficiency Advice

contact Nottingham City Council (483500), or your local Borough/District Council. East Midlands Electricity can also help (0800 100111).

Friends of the Earth Energy Group

Nigel Lee (788059).

Greenpeace

Phil Edmonson (233011).

Nottingham Wind Power Project

Sharon Higginson (274334).

Alternative Technology Association

Contact the national group (0654 702400)

For information/publications

Contact the national Centre for Alternative Technology (0654 702400), or the Nottingham Rainbow Centre Shop and Library, (585666).

LANDFILL PRODUCES ENERGY

More than 1 million tonnes of waste were disposed of at landfill sites in Nottinghamshire in 1990-91. The organic components of landfill waste are broken down by bacteria, producing a mixture of methane and carbon dioxide.

The Burntstump Landfill Site produces around 1,800 cubic metres of gas per hour, which, until a year ago, was 'flared off' from a large burner. The gas is now used to power generators - which provide power for the site, and allow any excess to be sold to the National Grid. Gas is now only flared off if its production exceeds that which can be used by the generators.

Robert Crowder, Gedling Borough Council.

ENERGY CONSERVATION BILL

This bill was introduced into Parliament as an 'Early Day Motion' early this year. The bill would empower the government to provide funds for insulation work on all local authority housing stock - helping to save energy and money, and creating jobs.

Well over half of the House of Commons have now declared their support for the idea, as well as many local authorities, including Nottingham City Council and Notts County Council.

If you would like to support the Energy Conservation Bill, write to your MP and your District and County Councils, asking them to maintain their support.

For more details contact Sue Blount on 820883.

Rob Preston.

GREEN NETWORK NEWS

CAN CHRISTMAS BE GREEN?



For many people the coming season is an opportunity to extend goodwill to all of the planet's inhabitants, human and animal. But does the celebration of Christmas itself challenge these values, through over-consumption?

Even the most simple Christmas traditions have their effects. If everyone in the country sent 30 Christmas cards, 25,000 tons of paper would be consumed. By sending cards made from recycled paper, as well as saving cards for recycling afterwards, many trees could be saved, as well as the environment in which they grow and the energy used to produce new paper.

The gifts that you give can also show your support for your favourite green charity, by buying from their catalogues - and why not choose gifts that themselves relate to the environment - out with the Nintendos and in with the green board games, such as 'Save The Animals'.

And what of the environmental effects of your Christmas turkey? As well as the undoubted cruelty involved, their factory-style production results in 'waste' disposal problems and uses excessive quantities of water and feed, whilst the fruits, nuts, seeds and grains used for an alternative meal can encourage positive benefits for the countryside. For example brazil nuts can only be grown in natural forests, and buying foods from Oxfam or Traidcraft gives further support to sustainable land use.

So Christmas doesn't have to be spent slumped in front of yet another James Bond film. For more information on enjoying a 'green' Christmas, the Rainbow Centre (182 Mansfield Road, Nottingham, phone 585666) has a 'green' Christmas exhibition exploring alternative ways to celebrate the midwinter festival - without harming people, planet or animals.

Patrick Smith of the Rainbow Centre

Green Network News is a monthly publication aiming to share information and build links between all individuals and organisations in the Nottingham and South Notts area with an interest in the environment.

No. 24 December 1993

Inside ...

- ☐ Energy Focus
- ☐ Community Routeways
- ☐ Equal Opportunities

IN BRIEF...

- A free 'Green Car Purchase Guide' is available from Notts County Council on 774658.
- Ecoflow 1 (which helps improve fuel consumption in cars) and Ecoflow 3 (for oil or gas central heating boilers) are available from Green Office - on 497458.
- Trinity Square Cycle Lockers can now be booked, by calling 418470 between 8am and 6pm.
- Cycle Aid is a 24 hour advice and accident investigation service, on 0772 21992.

WASTE SAVING GUIDE

Waste Watch will be sending out 'Cutting Down on Christmas Waste', as well as a CSV Action Earth 'Green Guide' during the Christmas period.

Send an A4 SAE (29p stamp) to: Waste Watch, Hobart House, Grovesnor Place, London SW1X 7AE, or phone 071 245 9718.

CYCLE-FRIENDLY RAILWAY!

Bicycles can be taken on board the Robin Hood line from Nottingham to Newstead free of charge. This was recently discovered by Nottingham Pedals North, and provides a welcome boost for local cyclists who use public transport.

RECYCLING IN SCHOOLS

Waste Watch have produced a new leaflet/poster on recycling for children. The current 'Dustbin' pack for primary schools is also available.

To receive a copy of the leaflet, send an A4 SAE (29p stamp) to Waste Watch, Hobart House, Grovesnor Place, London SW1X 7AE. Call free on 0800 227711 for a 'Dustbin' pack

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERING

Less than one in seven environmental groups involve any volunteers from ethnic minorities, and only one in three involve people with disabilities, according to a survey carried out by the Environmental Volunteering Development Forum and the Volunteer Centre UK.

This is partly explained by the fact that most groups tend to use word of mouth as their main method of recruitment, which can draw in only people from a very similar background to existing members. Follow-up visits to selected groups found that entire sections of the community were written off in terms of recruitment, because members thought they 'weren't interested' in the type of work the group was doing.

The survey also discovered some more positive facts; between 70% and 80% of groups involved people over fifty, unemployed people, and students. Many practical conservation groups

put on mid-week projects tailored to such volunteers, in addition to their standard weekend programme.

However, there is a clear need for recruitment and selection procedures for environmental groups to be based on a systematic equal opportunities approach, rather than depending on the gut feelings of individuals.

If any local groups would like more information about equal opportunities, Nottingham Council for Voluntary Service can help.

Contact Nottingham Council for Voluntary Service at 33, Mansfield Road, or phone 476714.

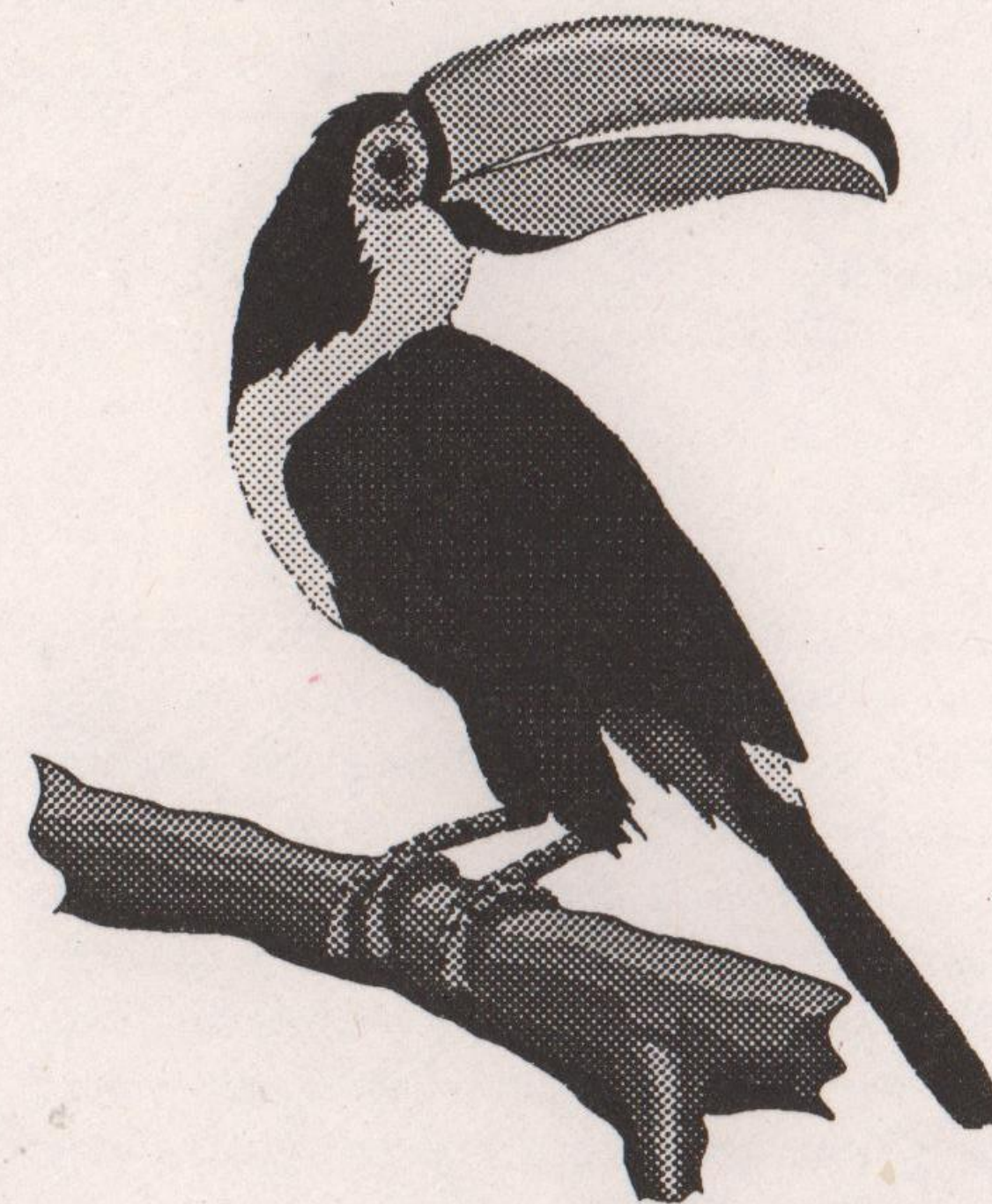
For more information about the survey report, contact the Volunteer Centre UK, 29 Lower King's Road, Berkhamstead, Hertfordshire HP4 2AB, or phone 0442 873311.

THE NOTTINGHAM GOOD WOOD GUIDE

Each year an area of Rainforest larger than England and Wales is destroyed or seriously degraded. Before long many developing countries will be forced to import tropical timbers as their own forests become 'logged out', and thousands of rainforest animal and plant species become extinct.

There is a clear link between this destruction and some of our consumer choices, as some of the products we buy are made using tropical hardwood timber.

Nottingham Friends of the Earth have produced the 'Nottingham Good Wood Guide' to help people to make informed choices. This explains the difference between hard and softwoods, clarifies the reasons why Rainforests are disappearing (it isn't just logging - there are many reasons) and it exposes the myth about supposed 'sustainability'. A directory of local companies who claim not to use, retail or supply products made of tropical hardwood timber is also included.



The guide is available from Jill Gross on 507239

A BOILER THAT GIVES FREE ELECTRICITY

The boiler at Arnold Leisure Centre has been replaced with a Combined Heat and Power (CHP) unit. This provides heating to the building and pool, and generates electricity - for use in the building or for sale to the National Grid. This results in a saving in energy as both electricity and heat are supplied by each unit of fuel burnt.

The unit consists of a gas-fuelled industrial engine which drives an electrical generator. The heat produced by the engine is extracted in a heat exchanger and is used to provide hot water.

The CHP unit has resulted in the decrease of carbon dioxide emissions to the atmosphere of about 430 tonnes in its first year of operation. Gedling Borough Council has also saved £6,000 in energy bills, which can now be spent on other energy-related projects.

For more information, contact Mick Cooper at Gedling Borough Council on 675258.

COMMUNITY ROUTEWAYS

Community Routeways are traffic-free paths linking towns, cities and the countryside. These paths would help to cut down on car journeys, and provide safe routes for 'greener' forms of transport - they would be suitable for walking, cycling, wheelchair users and horse riding.

The Greater Nottingham Groundwork Trust (GNGT) is working with the other Groundwork Trusts in the East Midlands to produce a study of potential routes - in Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and South Yorkshire. A Community Routeways Strategy will be produced before the end of March 1994.

For more information, contact Paul Harrison or Caroline Finnie at GNGT on 799227. This article was written with information from the Nottingham FoE and Pedals newsletters.

'CONTROVERSIAL' ROAD SCHEMES

Nottingham Friends of the Earth has obtained a leaked Department of the Environment (DoE) document, which calls attention to the environmental damage likely to result from proposed road schemes.

The DoE document lists 240 schemes - half of the roads programme - as damaging important wildlife sites or being otherwise controversial. The County Council's proposed Fourth Trent Crossing and Greater Nottingham Orbital are both rated 'very high' in terms of controversy.

The DoE comments on the two schemes point out that areas of Green Belt would be at risk along the Orbital, as developers' money will be needed to finance the road. Tim Gray, Nottingham Friends of the Earth's Transport Campaigner, said 'we continue to call on Notts County Council to scrap these schemes.'

For more information, contact Tim Gray of Nottingham Friends of the Earth on 431145.

THIS SPACE COULD BE YOURS

If your group or business would like to advertise in Green Network News, contact Adam Woodward on 417849. Reduced rates are available for voluntary groups and small businesses.

COMMUNITY GROUPS AND RECYCLING

This is the title of an event being organised by Waste Watch for interested individuals and groups in the East Midlands, to take place in Nottingham on 26th January, from 10am-4pm.

Workshops will include plastics recycling, office waste paper collections and composting. If anyone would like to suggest any other ideas for workshops, Ray Georgeson at Waste Watch would like to hear from you (before 19th January).

The cost of the day will be £17.63 for individuals or community groups, and £41.13 for local authorities or businesses (including lunch and refreshments). Child-care is available if requested in advance.

Contact Ray Georgeson at:
Waste Watch, Hobart House,
Grovesnor Place, London SW1X 7AE,
or phone 071 245 9998.



Young people from the Russell Youth Centre (St Ann's) with the Marine Life mural they have created with a community artist. The mural will form part of a new garden and activity area at the centre, being built with the support of Groundwork Greater Nottingham.

GNN UPDATE

Green Network News is now back to the normal 6 page format, after last month's shorter issue (which was reduced due to illness). The feature on green consumerism planned for this month has been cut down to one article (see front page), as the energy feature has been moved back from last month.

These are the subjects planned for feature articles in the next 4 issues of Green Network News;

- January - Practical Conservation
- February - Women & the Environment
- March - Recycling
- April - Legislation

If you would like to write an article about one of these issues, or you have a photo that could be

used, please let me know. Articles are usually needed around one month in advance of publication, and can be sent on paper or 3.5 inch disk (pc format). We will also be looking for stories about any current events or issues each month; please write or phone if you would like to contribute.

Contact me on 417849, or write to me at:

Green Network News,
c/o The Rainbow Centre,
182 Mansfield Road
Nottingham NG1 3HW

GNN would like to wish all of our readers a merry Christmas holiday, and a happy new year.

Adam Woodward (GNN Co-ordinator)

COMMUNITY FOREST AWARDS

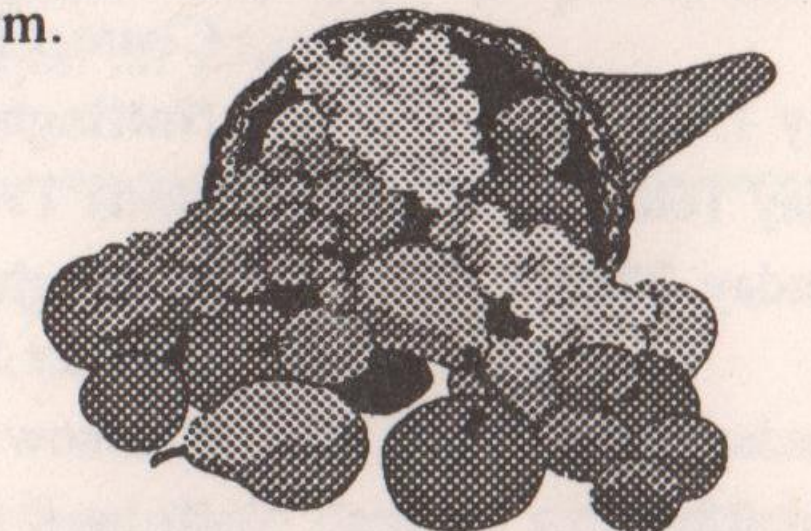
Awards of up to £400 are now available for environmental projects taking place in the Greenwood Community Forest. The closing date for entries is 17th January 1994.

Contact Pippa Rees at Featherstone Audax, 17a Barker Gate, Lace Market, Nottingham, NG1 1JU, or phone 417887.

NOTTINGHAM ORGANIC GARDENERS

Nottingham Organic Gardeners (NOGS) is the local group of the Henry Doubleday Research Association (HDRA). The group has now been formed for over a year, and has more than 50 members. NOGS aims to share the problems, pleasures and ideals of organic gardening.

The group has already been involved in several projects, including the construction of a raised garden for the disabled at Stonebridge City Farm.



The group meets on the first Tuesday of every month (see Nottingham Green Calendar for details).

For more information, contact Mike and Penney Poyzer on 587006.

NOTTS TRANSPORT 2,000

Transport 2,000 is a national campaign group which supports a coherent and sustainable national transport policy, to meet transport needs with minimum damage to the environment.

Since it was set up in 1977 the local Transport 2,000 group has been campaigning for environmentally sensitive transport policies in Nottinghamshire. It works with other local groups, has established cycling and public transport user groups, and has produced publications to help public transport users.

Regular monthly meetings are held in the Cromwell Snug at the Salutation Inn (See Nottingham Green Calendar). Occasionally the venue is altered to facilitate a speaker, or local trip by public transport.

For more information, contact John Abbiss on 418418 ext 2608 (daytime) or 235714 (evenings).

THE NOTTINGHAM GREEN CALENDAR

DECEMBER 1993

- All Month Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, & Sundays
All Month
Saturday 4th
Sunday 5th
Monday 6th
Tuesday 7th
Tuesday 7th
Wednesday 8th
Thursday 9th
Thursday 9th
Friday 10th
Weekend 10th-12th
Monday 13th
Monday 13th
Thursday 16th
Wednesday 22nd
Wednesday 22nd
Tuesday 28th
Week 29th-4th
- British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV)** activities - including a variety of practical tasks. *Contact Jenni on 313316.*
- Green Christmas Exhibition** at the Rainbow Centre, 182 Mansfield Road, Nottingham. Monday-Saturday. 10am-5pm. *Phone 585666 for details.*
- Womens' Environmental Network** with BTCV. Planting 'Secret Garden' at Nottingham Lace Market (Mulled Wine refreshments). *Phone 753603 for details.*
- Leen Valley Conservation Volunteers** meeting. 10.30am at Rise Park Community Centre. *Phone 756376 for details.*
- Greenpeace** Support Group meeting at the Narrowboat Pub, Canal Street. *Contact David Meacher on 257186.*
- East Midlands Regional Environmental Forum** - bringing together local authorities, businesses and community groups. *Contact Celia Robbins on 352308.*
- NOGS** (Nottingham Organic Gardeners) meeting. Year roundup and 'Party Time. 7.30pm at Stonebridge City Farm, Stonebridge Road, St Ann's. *Contact Mike and Penney Poyzer on 587006.*
- 'Making The Most Of Public Enquiries'**. One Day Seminar at University of Nottingham. *Details: Institute Of Planning Studies 514883.*
- Friends of the Earth** Meeting. 7.30pm at Nottingham County Library, Angel Row.
- Oxfam** Campaigning Group meeting. 7.30pm, Oxfam Office, 47 Gregory Boulevard, Hyson Green. *Contact Nick Osmond on 607797.*
- Greenpeace Youth Group** meeting. 7.30 Nottingham Trent University library, Shakespeare St. *Contact Neil Shaw on 259417 to confirm date and venue.*
- BTCV** Countryside Weekend - Woodland Management at Gedling House Woods, Notts. Cost £10.00. Pick-up from Nottingham Train Station at 7pm. *To book a place, phone 0532 742335.*
- Pedals** Christmas Get Together. Newmarket Inn, Upper Parliament St, Nottingham. *Contact Hugh McClintock on 816206.*
- Nottingham Permaculture Group** meeting. *Phone Phil Corbett on 474977 for details.*
- Notts Transport 2000** meeting. *Phone Ron Gillott on 201238.*
- Nottingham Wind Power Project** Fund Raiser with Clint Bestwood, at Arboretum Manor, Mansfield Road. *Contact Sharon Higginson on 274334.*
- Rainbow Centre Video Evening**. 7pm. *Call 585666 with requests, or for details.*
- Bulwell Environment Group** meeting. Crabtree Farm Estate Community Centre. *Contact Diana Langley on 273813.*
- Cruelty Free Companions** gathering in the Pennines. Cost around £20 including food. *Contact Box CFC, The Rainbow Centre, 182 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3HW.*

JANUARY 1994

- All Month
All Month
Sunday 2nd
Tuesday 4th
Wednesday 5th
Sunday 9th
Monday 10th
Monday 10th
Wednesday 19th
Tuesday 25th
- BTCV** activities - see December.
- Environmental exhibition** at the Rainbow Centre, 182 Mansfield Road, Nottingham. Monday-Saturday. 10am-5pm. *Phone 585666 for details.*
- Leen Valley Conservation Volunteers** meeting. 10.30am at Rise Park Community Centre. *Phone 756376 for details.*
- NOGS** (Nottingham Organic Gardeners) meeting. 7.30pm at Stone Bridge City Farm, Stone Bridge Road, St Ann's. *Contact Mike and Penney Poyzer on 587006.*
- Oxfam** Campaigning Group meeting. 7.30pm, Oxfam Office, 47 Gregory Boulevard, Hyson Green. *Contact Nick Osmond on 607797.*
- 'Community Routeways'** walk; 4 mile stroll to consider possible routes - such as old railway lines. 10am-12pm, meeting at Kirk Hallam Community School, Godfrey Drive, Kirk Hallam. *Contact Groundwork in Erewash on 490235.*
- Greenpeace** Support Group meeting at the Narrowboat Pub, Canal Street. *Contact David Meacher on 257186.*
- Nottingham Permaculture Group** meeting. *Contact Phil Corbett on 474977.*
- 'Making Paper and Talking Trash'** Ideas about making valuable items from junk, and a chance to have a go at making recycled paper. Meet at Erewash Museum, off East Street, Ilkeston. *Contact Groundwork in Erewash on 490235.*
- Teeny Wintergreenies**. 1pm-3pm at Bestwood Country Park. Guided walk and green activities for parents and toddlers! Meet at Bestwood Lodge Drive Car Park. *Contact the Rangers Office on 670042.*

Green Contact Details are also available from The Rainbow Centre on 585666.

If you would like to be sure of receiving Green Network News every month, your name can be added to our mailing list. These are the voluntary (optional) subscription rates for 1 year's issues; Individuals - £2.50, Groups - £5.00.

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Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of other contributors, or of the Editorial Group.

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ENERGY

THE TRUE COST OF ENERGY

Most of the energy we use depends upon coal, gas, oil and uranium - but supplies of these fuels are limited, and severe environmental problems can be caused by producing energy from these sources.

As fossil fuels (such as coal and oil) are burned in greater and greater quantities, increasing amounts of carbon dioxide are released. Carbon dioxide acts with other gases (such as 'CFCs') in the atmosphere to trap in the heat of the sun's rays. This 'Greenhouse Effect' could cause climatic changes, sea level rises and disrupted food supplies.

The Chernobyl disaster of 1986 spread radioactivity up to 2,000 miles from the reactor,

and the costs of the clean-up have been put as high as £200 billion.

We already know a great deal about the environmental problems caused by energy supply and what needs to be done to solve them. What is needed now is a genuine commitment from all sectors of the community - at local, national and international levels - to conserve energy, improve energy efficiency and support the development of renewable sources of energy.

This article is based on extracts from the Friends of the Earth leaflet 'Energy'. For details of local FoE energy campaigns, contact Nigel Lee on 788059.

CALL FOR ENERGY REVIEW

Nottingham Friends of the Earth are maintaining their request for a review of potential renewable energy projects by Notts County Council, previously put off due to a lack of funds. Dave Barber (Environment officer) commented 'The County Council welcomes the idea of a renewable energy study for the county and is keen to discuss the study with other interested people. It is hoped that the necessary resources to carry out the work can be found'.

Contact Nigel Lee (of Nottingham FoE) on 788059.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Renewable energy sources use the inexhaustible natural cycles of the wind, water, sun and waves, and tend to cause far less environmental damage than traditional sources.

Several international bodies have estimated that the potential amount of energy we could harness from these sources is greater than the current total energy use in the world. However, renewables are only used for a small proportion of global energy production.

Britain has a rich potential for renewable energy - our wind and wave power resources are among the best in the world - but we have not started to use them on any significant scale, except in the case of large hydro-electric power schemes.

In 1988 the Department of Energy predicted that approximately 28 per cent of the present UK demand for electricity could be supplied through renewables by 2025. However, this does not include the potential of renewables which would not be considered profitable. For example, off shore wind turbines would cost a considerable amount initially but could provide up to half of the UK's electricity.

Renewable energy would have some environmental costs. Wind farms have been considered noisy by people living close to them, and can create a visual intrusion into sites of natural beauty, which tend to be the windiest sites.

ENERGY FOCUS

This month GNN focuses on Energy. Articles consider the problems caused by current energy sources, and look at the alternatives, including renewable energy and energy efficiency.

WIND POWER PROJECT

The aim of the Nottingham Wind Power Project (NWPP) is to bring wind power to Nottingham, to collect and disseminate information about both wind and solar energy, and to assist anyone interested in the setting up and use of any form of alternative energy. The interests of members of the NWPP cover the whole range of available machines, and some members are building machines for themselves.

Contact the Nottingham Wind Power Project at the Community Office, Ground Floor, Old Knows Factory, St Ann's Hill Road, Nottingham NG3 4GP, or phone Sharon Higginson on 274334.



Wind Turbine at Sexbierum Wind Farm in Holland.

(Photo courtesy of Friends of the Earth)

Tidal barrages could damage wildlife habitats, and large scale hydro-electric dams often drastically alter landscapes, and can cause many people to lose their homes.

The most environmentally friendly answer to the energy problem would be to have no power generation at all, but this is unrealistic. We will have to turn to renewable energy and energy efficiency to meet the demands of the future.

However, in 1990-91, only 11 per cent of the government's energy research and development budget was allocated for renewable energy, compared to 32 per cent on nuclear energy.

Compiled using extracts from an article by Suzie Gibbs, and the Friends of the Earth 'Energy' leaflet.

For more information about renewable energy contact Nigel Lee (of Nottingham FoE) on 788059 or Sharon Higginson (of the Nottingham Wind Power Project) on 274334.

STOP PRESS

Schemes are now being considered to tap the energy of the River Trent weirs as a new source of power. Although generation would be small compared to the output of Ratcliffe-on-Trent Power Station, this move has been welcomed by the Clean Rivers Trust.

For more information contact Harvey Wood on 0636 892627.