



## Blane Valley Carbon Neutral Group

### Quarterly news update – Winter 2009-2010

#### 1. Blane Valley Energy Efficiency Project.

The project advisors have now been to 269 doors in the village, and have been invited into 74 homes to offer detailed energy advice. 5 homes have taken up the opportunity to have insulation installed with grant assistance. We now have a set of smart energy monitors and will be lending these to anyone who is interested. Most people who try them are surprised at how much they can save! The process of taking front-elevation thermal images of homes has been delayed by the snow on the roofs. However we are now starting this and will be sending out the images in the coming weeks. We have decided not to go door-to-door anymore, but only to visit by invitation – so if anybody is interested in an energy-advice visit please visit the project website at [www.bveep.org.uk](http://www.bveep.org.uk).

#### 2. Allotments.

We have been approaching a number of local landowners to see if they would be interested in renting some of their land for an allotment site. While we have a couple of potential sites, if you have any ideas about possible sites then please let us know.

Once we have found a site, worked out the fine details with the landowner, and made sure that the rest of the community is happy with the idea, we can start the real work of setting up the allotments. That will mean getting costings and applying for funding. Even if you don't want an allotment yourself, we also need help and expertise in a number of areas including legal help, planning and soil analysis. If you can help in any way, even with some simple advice then please let us know.

We also visited the allotments at Garscube for inspiration and to see how it should (and shouldn't!) be done.

Our next meeting is January 28<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm in the Village Club. Everyone is welcome.

#### 3. Website

We have recently updated our section on the Strathblanefield website. Please visit at <http://www.strathblanefield.org.uk/carbonneutral/>

#### 4. Transport Survey

Stirling Council is running a transport survey. Please read the leaflet (link below) and then complete the online survey to express your views on local transport. Hopefully it will result in improved public transport to the area.

<http://www.strathblanefield.org.uk/transport%20survey.pdf>

5. Odds & Sods

- Don't forget about our bulk purchase scheme for ecover products – please contact us for more details.

- Energy saving tip – If you haven't done so already, and you live in the Strathblane Community area then phone **0800 616 203** and visit <http://www.bveep.org.uk/> to arrange your free energy efficiency survey.

6. Future Meeting Dates

January 21<sup>st</sup>

February 18<sup>th</sup>

March 18<sup>th</sup>

April 15<sup>th</sup>

All at 8:00pm, please email us at [cn@strathblanefield.org.uk](mailto:cn@strathblanefield.org.uk) if you are interested in coming along.

7 Do you know how we are organised?

We are a working group of Strathblane Community Development Trust

We have a core group of people who meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month in each others homes, usually 6/7 of us. We have a wider group who receive emails.

We are trying to provide the wider group with more information on our activities, hence this update. If you have any comments or questions regarding our activities please email them to us. If you would wish to join in, in any way or feedback please feel free to make contact.