



# POOLE AGENDA 21

## NEWSLETTER

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# DOWN TO ZERO

**In his key note speech at Poole Agenda 21's 2008 Annual Review Meeting, Dr. Laurie Michaelis, one of the leading contributors to the IPCC's fourth Assessment Report on the state of knowledge on climate change, emphasised that to combat the more serious climate threats highlighted by the most recent report, we now need to aim for zero carbon emissions globally.**

Including air travel and carbon-dioxide equivalent greenhouse gasses, the average carbon footprint of a person in the UK is 11.5 Tonnes a Year. This is made up as follows:

- 2.4 Domestic energy use\*
- 2.0 Personal transport\*
- 1.9 Food\*
- 1.6 Public sector
- 1.6 Everything else
- 1.4 Air travel\*
- 0.6 Materials and waste\*

The items marked \* are those we have the most control over, but this does represent a combined 8.3 Tonnes/pa that we as individuals can drastically reduce. The target to aim for is less than 2 tonnes per person.

As individuals, we can take the following steps:

- Insulate our homes and switch to renewable or sustainable energy wherever possible.
- Use our cars far less.
- Grow our own food or only buy locally-produced food where possible.
- Stop flying

(More about the A.R.M & Dr Michaelis's talk inside)

## MEMBERSHIP REMINDER & FORUMS

Poole Agenda 21 would like to thank its members for their continuing support and encourage those whose annual subscription may be due to kindly renew their membership as soon as possible. As this newsletter shows, the importance and urgency of Agenda 21's work is greater than ever, and we need your contributions to help us continue.

PA21 Forums are held on the fourth Monday of every month (except during August & December and not on Public Holidays) at Poole Civic Centre. The Forums juggle business and discussion, and everyone is welcome to attend. Start time is 7.30pm. Membership subscriptions can be paid in person at one of the meetings, or by post. If you would like to attend a Forum, feel free to contact a PA21 officer. (See back page for Membership Form and contact details of group officers).

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

A.R.M in detail

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## NEWS FROM A SMALL WORLD

### Arctic in Crisis

Satellite data has revealed that the thickness of Arctic sea ice 'plummeted' last winter, thinning by as much as one-fifth in some regions. A study conducted by Dr. Julienne Stroeve of the US National Snow and Ice Data Center in Boulder, Colorado has proved that decreasing sea ice is amplifying temperature changes in the region. Researchers say the Arctic is now at a climatic 'tipping point'.

### Recycled Heat

According to a recent report from the National Grid, gas from waste could be used to heat almost half the homes the UK.

### Harnessing the Wind

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has called for a significant increase in the number of wind farms built ashore in the UK, and an end to the 'needless delays' that beset such projects (see items on Poole's wind turbines overleaf). A study concluded that more turbines could be built without causing any harm to wildlife. In 2007, just 2% of the UK's energy was generated by wind power, compared with 29% in Denmark, 20% in Spain and 15% in Germany.

### Acidic Oceans

Man-made pollution is raising ocean acidity levels at least 10 times faster than previously thought. The world's marine ecosystems risk being severely damaged by ocean acidification unless there are dramatic cuts in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, scientists working on the Monaco Declaration warned.

### Amazonian Effort

Efforts to mitigate climate change could be hampered if nations do not agree to protect the world's forests by the end of the year, researchers say. Deforestation accounts for 20% of global man-made CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The Brazilian Government has pledged to end net deforestation by 2015.

# POOLE'S APPROACH TO CLIMATE CHANGE

presented by Councillor Don Collier

**Poole Agenda 21's Annual Review Meeting 2008, held in the Committee Suite at the Civic Centre on 26th November, was addressed by Cllr. Don Collier, Borough of Poole's Portfolio Holder for the Environment, who gave an overview of the Borough's work on climate change.**

Cllr Collier told the meeting that the Borough's priorities are:

- Reducing Poole's Carbon Footprint
- Protecting the natural environment
- Safeguarding urban trees and greenery
- Improving accessibility and sustainable travel
- Improving the sustainability of the urban environment
- Addressing fuel poverty

The Borough is working with The Carbon Trust, developing policies to reduce emissions. An easily monitored portion of Poole's Carbon Footprint is 6.8 tonnes per person, which is broken down as follows:

Industrial energy use - 2.9 tonnes

Domestic energy use - 2.5 tonnes

Transport energy use - 1.4 tonnes

Targets for reductions of this partial footprint are likely to be: 12% by 2012 for Borough of Poole buildings; 25% for the Borough as a whole by 2025, and only 12% is expected to be contributed by domestic reductions over which the Borough has no direct control. (PA21 believes private individuals should do better than this!)

Councillor Collier outlined current Borough activities:

- Creating an online database for reducing carbon emissions, to act as a centre for knowledge;
- Establishing two exemplar biomass projects, utilising highly efficient, locally-sourced woodchip for heating. Two community boilers and a domestic heating system are being planned. It is the largest such project in the south of the UK;
- The Carbon Offset Project, to which anyone can donate (e.g. in order to offset the carbon which may be used in a flight). All the funds accrued will be spent on emission-saving projects in the Borough;
- Smart electricity meters to be trialled;
- Thermal imaging, to develop a map of Poole's heat-wasting hot-spots;
- The Big Green Fortnight, in collaboration with Bournemouth Borough Council (see overleaf)

# WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE?

presented by Dr Laurie Michaelis

**Dr. Michaelis introduced himself as a scientist who has been the lead author on some sections of the IPCC reports, and who is currently the Director of the Living Witness Project, a Quaker project to promote sustainable living in communities.**

The fourth, and latest, IPCC report (AR4), published in 2007, reached the conclusion, with more than 90% certainty, that the global temperature rise of 0.7°C has been caused by human activity. This trend will result in extremes of heat, higher rainfall, stronger winds and melting ice, and will increase the vulnerability of ecosystems. Severe impacts are expected on forests and food production in Africa and South Asia, affecting 50% of the population of these areas by 2020.

Since AR4 was published, much more research has been carried out, particularly on Arctic, Antarctic and glacial melt, which indicates that the situation is more critical than previously thought:

- a) As the Arctic heats up, the sea ice melts and less heat is reflected (the albedo effect of the white ice/snow) and more is absorbed by the dark oceans - so the sea and the land around it heats up.
- b) As the land around the arctic heats up, massive quantities of methane (a powerful greenhouse gas) are released from the melting permafrost.
- c) As the temperature of the Arctic ocean rises, the ability of the ocean to absorb carbon is reduced, and massive amounts of methane are emitted from the ocean floor;
- d) Continental ice is also melting, decreasing the albedo effect;
- e) In tropical areas, soils are breaking down and becoming less viable;
- f) Less carbon is being absorbed by tropical vegetation.

These factors all add up to a more rapid sea level rise than previously expected. If our carbon emissions are not reduced, then it is possible we could see an increase in global temperatures of 6°C, and a corresponding rise in sea level of 100m.

The current UK climate bill has been drafted in response to AR4. The UK government's stated aim is to limit the rise in global temperature to less than 2°C. However, there are other, contrasting UK policies that will encourage increases in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, e.g. airport expansion, coal-

fired power stations and road building.

Dr. Michaelis explained that to avoid a global temperature increase of 2°C, emissions would need to be reduced by 5% per year from now on and by more in industrialised countries like Britain. To keep the rise to between 2–2.4°C, a 50-85% reduction in emissions by 2050 across the globe is required.

Some areas, previously suggested as having a major beneficial effect on reducing emissions, have been negated by recent research:

- 1) Based on historical data, any reductions to come through increases in efficiency or through technological development would amount to less than 3% per year. Moreover, technological change still needs to be driven by behavioural and consumption changes;
- 2) It has been suggested that dealing with the problem of peak oil may help us to combat climate change. However, Dr. Michaelis showed that it is unlikely that the oil will run out quickly enough to enable a 5% year on year reduction in carbon emissions.

## Obstacles to Change

Dr. Michaelis discussed the different attitudes taken by people who try to deny climate change, or to duck their responsibility. "Climate change is not man made, it is caused by natural variations (e.g. sunspots or ocean currents)"; "It's someone else's fault (industry, government, other countries) - why should I do anything about it?"; "They will fix it with new technology - I don't need to do anything"; "I'm already doing my bit, why should I do more?"

Denial is one of a series of negative responses, ranging from incomprehension of the problem, indifference and denial, through grief and despair to anger and guilt. It is better for people to respond with hope, which can happen with the support of others. This is why it is helpful for people to work together in community groups to bring about local change.

# COMMUNITY LIVING

**Dr. Laurie Michaelis went on to tell the PA21 A.R.M. about his role as Director of the Quaker Living Witness Project and its work promoting the importance of sustainable community living.**

Why is change so hard for us? According to Dr. Michaelis there are several reasons: because we already have so much invested in our current consumer society; because of existing institutions and vested interests; because of social and behavioural norms, and particularly because of the myth that consumption plus choice equals happiness.

He talked about the three pillars of sustainability: self, society and the environment. Today, many people feel they have lost touch with meaning or quality in their lives. Some use consumption to replace their lost sense of community. A community should provide a source of well-being and social support. It is important for the development and consolidation of ethics, and for the sense of self in relation to others.

The Transition Town movement, begun in Totnes, is a good example of positive action being taken at a community level. Oxford has a Transition Town initiative which meets once a month. The key qualities that make it effective are: face to face meetings; accessible resources; accepting that a variety of actions is the answer; continuity of support, and socialising - which is an essential part of the mix.

The Global Action Plan, started in 1993, supports individuals to make domestic energy savings, typically resulting in a 40% reduction in waste and a 10 – 15% reduction in energy. The Living

Witness project is another network which encourages deep changes in community values. Community change groups make communities stronger and encourage mutual respect. They should also be enjoyable and provide a sense of achievement.

Dr. Michaelis gave some key tips for anyone planning to set up a community group: Make sure group leadership duties are shared; Make sure everyone has their say; Provide a mixture of activities – discussion, learning and action; Encourage action at many levels; Hold regular meetings; Include food-sharing at meetings; Strongly encourage diversity and inclusivity. PA21 are keen to support community groups in Poole, like the Broadstone Sustainable Living Group, who want to do their bit to tackle climate change. Please contact any of the officers (contact details below), if you would like to get involved, or if you would like to invite us to one of your group's meetings to talk about climate change and the actions we can take to help make a difference.

## SEEING RED THEN TURNING PURPLE

Last autumn, Bournemouth & West Hants Water unveiled its plans for a wind turbine on its Francis Avenue site at the end of Wallisdown Road. The site is a small wedge of land just 350m wide, with housing to the North and South. Local councillors advised that adjacent residents should be brought on board. But the scheme was not taken up with any rigour and the residents' overwhelming reaction was "We don't want it."

Being sited so close to residential properties, the 100m tall wind turbine would have been breaking new ground - being far closer to homes (about 150m from the nearest house) than any other wind turbine in the country. The feeling was expressed that the Alderney West Estate, already suffering from a dual carriageway built through the middle of it, would now have an even noisier wind turbine built behind it, something which was only allowable because of the existing noise from the road.

Close examination of the proposal documents showed a number of serious problems which would have been fatal for the scheme. The noise survey was flawed and the assessment of shadow flicker woefully inadequate.

Last September, the Water Company withdrew the wind turbine plans but have not ruled out further proposals for wind power on the site. While wind power schemes are to be encouraged, the legacy of the failed scheme will hang heavily over any amended plans for wind turbines on the same site.



# BIG GREEN FORTNIGHT

## 15th - 31st May 2009

Hosted by Poole Partnership and Bournemouth 2026, and supported by the Borough of Poole and Bournemouth Borough Council, the aim of the Big Green Fortnight is to raise awareness of practical solutions for more sustainable lifestyles, engaging people in fun and exciting ways and encouraging them to improve their energy efficiency and reduce their carbon footprints.

Poole Agenda 21 will be hosting an environmental film festival at Lighthouse Centre for the Arts, and are also supporting the Big Green Bus Tour, which will be visiting local primary schools from 18-23 May. Running on bio-diesel or waste vegetable oil, the Big Green Bus is a mobile exhibition space with hands-on displays for a range of energy-saving devices and greener alternatives of everyday items. For full details, visit [www.pa21.org.uk](http://www.pa21.org.uk) or [www.bournemouth2026.org.uk/big-green-fortnight](http://www.bournemouth2026.org.uk/big-green-fortnight)

### Big Green Fortnight Programme

**Sun 10 May:** 2-5pm "IDEA's Interfaith Conference" The Pavilion, Bournemouth

**Fri 15 May:** 6pm Big Green Film Festival "Hawaii; The Message in the Waves" Free, The Lighthouse, Poole

7.30pm The Big Green Lecture "Its Easy Being Green" Brigit Strawbridge, The Lighthouse

8.00pm BGFF "The Age of Stupid"

Climate change film drama, Free, Lighthouse

**Sat 16 May:** 9am-12noon "Free Compost Give Away for Poole Residents" Proof of residence needed, Rossmore Leisure Centre.

10am "Tour of Recycling and Composting Facilities" Free, limited places. Contact

[jacky.chisel@newearthsolutions.co.uk](mailto:jacky.chisel@newearthsolutions.co.uk), 01202 812300

10am-4pm "Big Green Bus & Big Green Street Market" Free, Falklands Square and Poole High Street.

10am-6pm "Around the World Enviro-Challenge Quiz" Oceanarium, Bournemouth Pier.

11am-4pm "Tatnam Organic Patch Open Day", Free, Sherrin Close, Poole.

12.30pm BGFF "The Age of Stupid", Free, Lighthouse

3pm BGFF "Who Killed the Electric Car", Free, Lighthouse

6pm BGFF "The Power of Community", Free, Lighthouse

8pm BGFF "The Age of Stupid", Free, Lighthouse

**Sun 17 May:** 11am-4pm "Big Green Bus" in Bournemouth Square, Free.

**Mon 18 May:** 6pm BGFF "Who Killed the Electric Car", Free, Lighthouse

6-7pm Launch of Green Hubs in Libraries, Bournemouth Main Library

8pm BGFF "The Age of Stupid", Free, Lighthouse

**Tue 19 May:** 12-3pm BGFF "The Story of Stuff" & "Flip Flotsam", Free, Lighthouse

12.30-5.30pm "DEED Open Afternoon", 172 Bournemouth Rd, Poole, local educational charity

6pm BGFF "11th Hour" Leonardo Di Caprio documentary, Free, Lighthouse.

8pm BGFF "An Inconvenient Truth", Al Gore's film, Free, Lighthouse.

**Thur 21 May:** 10am-4pm "Big Green Street Market" Falkland Square and Poole High Street.

10am-4pm "Dash for Trash" – litter picking challenge, Holes Bay, ASDA to Upton Country Park, Free!

12.30pm BGFF "An Inconvenient Truth", Free, Lighthouse

6pm BGFF "An Inconvenient Truth", Free, Lighthouse

7.30pm "Real Nappy Drop-in Session" Littledown Centre, Bournemouth

8pm BGFF "11th Hour", Free, Lighthouse.

**Fri 22 May:** 8-10am "Dorset Business Green Breakfast Club", Poole.

**Sat 23 May:** 5.30am "Early Morning Bird Walk." Kinson Common (opp Brook Rd)

10am-4pm "Big Green Open Day" + "Big Green Bus", The Pavilion, Bournemouth, Free

11am-3pm Bournemouth Leisure Services, "Wildlife Conservation – Get Hooked and Involved", Lower Gardens Bournemouth, Free

11am-4pm "Green Exercises" in Poole Park, Free

2pm "Trees and Wildlife of Bournemouth Gardens" Meet by Cenotaph

7.30pm "Party not Protest", fun party by Transition BH promoting Green awareness, Centre Stage, Westbourne

**Sun 24 May:** 9.30am "Plant & Green Fair", Upton Country Park

9.30am "Visit a Town Forest Garden", Branksome, Free

**Mon 25 May:** 9.30am "Plant & Green Fair", Upton Country Park

**Tue 26 May:** 10am-3pm "Plant Exchange & Children's Planting", Cherry Tree Nursery, Northbourne, Free

2.30pm "Wildflower Walk at Bourne Valley" - Meet end of Evening Avenue, Free

**Wed 27 May:** 10am "Tremendous Trees", Upton Country Park - Meet at Education Centre

**Sun 31 May:** 11am-1pm "Go Green", Fun event stalls & activities from lots of organisations

BBQ - Free except for items to purchase

# TESCO WIND TURBINE TO GO AHEAD

Plans by Tesco to build a 10m (33ft) high wind turbine in the carpark at its store on Poole Road in Branksome have been approved by planners. Tesco said the turbine would help provide power for the store and the plan was part of its commitment to halve its carbon footprint by 2020. The six kilowatt turbine will save 13.6 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> a year and was specifically created for built-up areas. The Borough of Poole's planning committee approved the plans with a majority of six to two at a meeting on 12 February. During the consultation period, the committee received 20 letters of objection. Among the

complaints, local residents described the turbine as a "gimmick" that would be "very intrusive and disproportionate in size in relation to the car park", "intrusive" and "really very alien to the whole area". (see Dr Laurie Michaelis on attitudes to change) Adam Fisher, spokesman for Tesco, said: "This investment is part of our community plan, cutting energy use where we may. The inaudible turbines use the latest technology, are very efficient and will genuinely help meet the energy needs of the store. We hope the majority of customers are excited about it, and hope it demonstrates in a clear way our commitment to tackling climate change."

## POOLE AGENDA 21 - PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE LIVING

### What is Poole Agenda 21?

Agenda 21 is the agenda for the 21st century. At the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, world leaders agreed that if the earth was to sustain life for future generations, an entirely new approach to our way of living was needed. Here in the United Kingdom, all local communities have been asked to develop a local Agenda 21 in partnership with their local authority. **Please join us and have your say in the building of a sustainable future for Poole.**

## POOLE AGENDA 21 MEMBERSHIP FORM

New Membership

Renewal

Name .....

Address .....

..... Postcode .....

Telephone ..... Email .....

I AM PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN: Transport  Waste  Energy  Health

Natural Environment  Built Environment  Community Action

SKILLS: Art  Fund Raising  Gardening  Photography

Publicity  Web Design  Other

Suggested annual subscription is £5 (£1 minimum, please). Return this form with your cheque (payable to PA21) to any PA21 meeting or by post to Ron Long, PA21 Membership, 32 Stokes Avenue, Poole, BH15 2EA

**CHAIR** Tony Hamilton (01202 698617) **VICE CHAIR/SECRETARY** Theresa McManus (07966 126749)

**MEMBERSHIP** Ron Long (01202 673567) **TREASURER** Dudley Hull (01202 255076)

**WEB:** [www.pa21.org.uk](http://www.pa21.org.uk)

[www.geocities.com/poole\\_la21](http://www.geocities.com/poole_la21)

**Take Global Warming Seriously Campaign:** [www.tgws.org.uk](http://www.tgws.org.uk)

**NEWSLETTER** Richard Jeffries

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