

## Letter to Stewkley Grapevine April 2008

### Turning Stewkley Greener

What can we do about [\*global warming\*](#) in Stewkley that would make a difference?

Each year, about nine tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> is released for every person in the UK - enough to fill five hot air balloons! We need to cut this by 60%, The Community Carbon Reduction Programme, [\*CRed\*](#), aims to achieve this across the UK by 2025.

The [\*Stern report\*](#), former Vice President Al Gore's presentation/video "an [\*Inconvenient Truth\*](#)" and many others all substantiate the devastating effects of global warming; but what can we do about it? Well, individually we can reduce waste, use more efficient devices, and modify our lifestyle. We could plant some trees or [\*purchase carbon offset\*](#). As one of [\*6,000,000,000\*](#) and soon to be 9 billion people, our contribution seems insignificant, until many people do the same. So we need to work together to have much impact. It is clear from the difficulties in negotiating the [\*Kyoto\*](#) agreement that it will be a long time before all countries unite to tackle this effectively, but groups of people all over the world are starting to make a difference. It seems that the village is a viable unit to tackle this problem; some 10% of UK villages have embarked on programmes to reduce their [\*Carbon footprint\*](#) or output. [\*Ashton Hayes\*](#) in Cheshire (Pop ~1,000) aspires to be the first in England to become [\*Carbon Neutral\*](#) (i.e. they will capture as much carbon as they release from using electricity, petrol, aviation fuel etc.) they started in 2005. We, in Stewkley could achieve something similar - there are government grants and companies willing to help- if we can establish a group of people committed to develop a plan and implement it in the village. There are lots of people in the village prepared to support such a programme, if it existed. We need a group of 20+ (from the adult population of 1400) to make a start. Besides safeguarding the planet for future generations, there appear to be many other advantages. It can embrace all generations/ages, and develop a strong community spirit. We will all save money. We will be able to tell our children & grandchildren we did what we could, we made a *real* difference.

If you are prepared to help in any way (and are between 13\*-99) please get in touch with me. We would need people for publicity, web design, fund raising, delivering information, doing surveys, data management, practical help, lobbying, coordinating, strategic thinking, legal & accountancy skills, secretarial & IT skills, advisors, photographers, link people (to every organisation in the village), tree planters, technical experts, walkers, cyclists and many more as the project develops.

**The Earth's climate is changing because of rapidly increasing population and our use of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emitting fuels. We need to cut our emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> by 60% to stop the worst effects. The solution rests in our hands. We can do this together.**

\*People between 13 & 18 will need their parents' agreement and some degree of support.

[Roger Crews](#) 240 794

Post script; 24 responded in 3 weeks