

# Grapevine

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## STEWKLEYGREEN GETS THE OPERATION UNDERWAY

By 2015 all new houses built in the UK will have to be Carbon Neutral, which involves generating their own power. One of the early items on the agenda of the new StewkleyGreen action group is to start the process of persuading the Parish Council and the planning authorities to adopt these requirements earlier for houses built in the village.

The organisation says the higher costs would be recovered within five to ten years and increase the resale value of the houses which all will have to have an energy efficiency rating when being sold. Payback will be achieved much earlier if energy prices double in the next five to seven years as predicted.

StewkleyGreen's first project will be to assist St Michael's school to install SPV cells, solar heating, a heat pump and possibly a small wind turbine in the school. The group will also be working towards ensuring that all community buildings in the village adopt best practice in energy conservation. The group says it will work with local businesses to help and encourage them to adopt best practices in energy conservation and recycling.

For local homeowners, the group will encourage the taking up of grants for loft and cavity wall insulation and draught proofing, which can reduce heating bills by more than fifty percent. A Survey of properties in the village will be conducted to establish current Carbon emissions for the village currently estimated at nine tons per person and three times what the planet can cope with per person.

### COMMUNITY COMMITMENTS

Other communities are committing to reduce their emissions by 20% per annum. This would reduce emissions to 10% of the current figure in ten years that could be offset by other measures including local renewable generation and planting more trees. The group says simple measures can easily be taken -- starting with draft exclusion which can save 20% of heating costs, 10 inches of loft insulation can save up to 20%, cavity wall insulation up to 33%, and double glazing up to 20%. Some homes will have already taken some or all of these measures, and more measures are given on the website [www.StewkleyGreen.org.uk](http://www.StewkleyGreen.org.uk)

StewkleyGreen are planning a float in the school parade promoting British biodiversity on June 28 and will have a stand at the school fete to promote sustainable living. They will also be supporting St Michael's school showing of "[An Inconvenient Truth](#)" the film developed by former vice president Al Gore to explain reasons and evidence of global warming and climate change. It also shows what will happen if we continue as today and how we can all work together for a sustainable future. The film will be shown at St Michael's School on the evening of Wednesday July 2 (see this [link](#)). The film show is free and villagers are being encouraged to attend. After the showing there will be a discussion about what we can do to help.

During the summer months the group will be planning a launch of its aims to the whole village, with key speakers from different backgrounds to help explain how the inhabitants of Stewkley could work together to create sustainable life in the village as we move towards the target of becoming Carbon Neutral in the next decade. Based on the experience of other [villages](#) several hundred people are expected to attend. Villagers will benefit from adopting new technology and techniques voluntarily ahead of commercial and government pressure to do so.

**To contact StewkleyGreen:**

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Front Page

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## STEWKLEYGREEN ON RADIO & TV

Newly formed StewkleyGreen has featured on both local radio and [television](#) in the last few weeks. Organisation leader Roger Crews was first interviewed on BBC Three Counties Radio on the Stephen Rhodes Breakfast show.

A few days later a team from Anglia Television was in the village to interview him again, and record scenes around the village, including street scenes of a mother pushing a child in a pushchair, and other scenes at St Michael's School and at Harvey's.

StewkleyGreen members are busy making plans for getting villagers and local councils involved in a project to reduce the Carbon Footprint of the village. Fuller details on Page 3.

On July 2 St Michael's School is hosting a showing of the remarkable Al Gore documentary "[An Inconvenient Truth](#)" about the effects of global warming. A discussion will follow looking at what Stewkley can do to reduce its own effects on the environment.