

Care4Air & ECO Stars Scoop Top Eco Award

Care4Air eZine Winter 2010

Both the Care4Air and ECO Stars teams have recently been awarded a Gold Green Apple Award for Local Authority Environmental Best Practice - the top award for City Councils across the UK.

The Care4Air and ECO Stars teams were invited to attend the prestigious Green Apple Award Ceremony at The House of Commons in mid November, and were delighted to discover they had struck gold, winning the top prize and beating all other Local Authorities in their category.

The Green Apple Awards are in their fifteenth year and are well established as one of the major environmental recognition schemes, both in the UK and Internationally. All winners are put forward to represent the UK in the European Business Awards for the Environment.

Care4Air, currently in its fifth year, is a unique campaign that has achieved a consistently high profile and is recognised as best practice across the UK. The campaign has an award winning website www.care4air.org, holds an annual national conference in Sheffield and is recognised by Defra as an example of best practice in communications around air quality.

The ECO Stars Fleet Recognition Scheme was launched by Care4Air in January last year and is the first of its kind in the UK. The free scheme encourages commercial operators of buses, coaches, HGVs and LGVs to implement operational best practice in fleet management.



L - R: Councillor Janice Sidebottom, Nick Clegg MP, Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed and Councillor Bob McCann

The Green Apple Award judges recognised Care4Air and ECO Stars' commitment towards highlighting issues surrounding environmental impact, as well as providing information and advice to individuals and companies helping them to minimise their carbon footprint.

Mark Daly, Care4Air Representative, said: "I am so pleased Care4Air has been recognised yet again for its impact. We continuously aim to raise awareness of air quality issues to all people and organisations across South Yorkshire and strive to keep on making a difference to the environment."

"Since launching the ECO Stars Scheme in January last year, over 4,000 vehicles have joined up. Our aim for 2010 is to continue to develop our influence on companies across the UK and join even more fleets up to the scheme."

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Want to know more about what's happening with the Care4Air campaign?

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NOMINATIONS OPENING SOON FOR THE 2010 CARE4AIR AWARDS! [see page 5 for more details >>](#)

The ECO Stars Fleet Recognition Scheme is now one year old!

South Yorkshire's ECO Stars Fleet Recognition Scheme is now one year old and has 18 members and over 4,000 vehicles signed up! The scheme, which is the first of its kind in the UK, recognises fleet operators who are using lower polluting vehicles and effective fuel management. The ECO Stars Scheme was set up by Care4Air in January 2009 as part of their drive to improve the quality of air across the country.

The scheme has attracted companies such as Clipper Logistics, Ventura Network Distribution (Next), J Sainsbury's Plc and First South Yorkshire.

Clipper Logistics

In January 2009, Clipper Logistics were the first member to sign up to the scheme with 18 vehicles and they received a four star rating. With the help of a bespoke best practice road map with suggestions on how to improve performance, including measures to reduce idling, improve driver incentive schemes and expansion of key performance indicators, the first member, Clipper Logistics went from a four star operator, to the maximum five stars in just five months!

Ventura Network Distribution

Ventura Network Distribution, the UK-wide warehousing and distribution operators of high-street store Next, achieved the highest possible rating from the ECO Stars Fleet Recognition Scheme.



Ventura Network Distribution

They signed up 91 Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) to the scheme in June 2009 and were awarded the five star

rating after having their individual vehicles and overall road transport operation assessed to recognise levels of operational and environmental performance.

Ventura have been monitoring and reporting their CO₂ and NO_x emissions for the past 3 years (2006 to 2008 inc.). In this time they have reduced mileage by 2.17% (646,110 KMs), CO₂ by 3.59% (779 tonnes), and NO_x by an impressive 40.9% (96 tonnes).

J Sainsbury's Plc

Sainsbury's signed up 120 of their vehicles to the scheme in December 2009 and received the maximum five star rating. They frequently travel on South Yorkshire roads to their Sainsbury's stores.



J Sainsbury's Plc

Respect for the environment is a fundamental part of their business strategy and decision-making. One of the biggest environmental impacts for the Logistics Division is the movement of goods between Sainsbury's depots and stores. As a result, they are continually focusing on ways to reduce their emissions by being both more efficient in their operations and by trialling new technologies.

Sainsbury's use fuel champions on each of their sites to monitor fuel consumption and raise awareness of the importance of fuel as a precious resource within their operation. This includes the provision of a weekly and four weekly fuel report by vehicle, covering vehicle registration number, start and end kilometres, total kilometres and fuel litres used per kilometre for every vehicle.

First South Yorkshire

First South Yorkshire signed 524 buses up to the scheme in December 2009 and have received a three star rating. With



First South Yorkshire

over 80 million passenger journeys across South Yorkshire per year, First take their environmental responsibilities very seriously. They were one of the first public transport companies in the country to achieve the internationally renowned ISO 14001 Environmental Standards for which they have recently achieved a three year accreditation.

To aid the Operator's progress through the scheme, First South Yorkshire aim to fit all buses with Drive Green technology by the middle of 2010. The equipment picks up on acceleration and breaking patterns as well as corner, lane and speed handling. A 'traffic light' LED monitor on vehicle dashboards flashes green if the driver is driving correctly, or amber or red if a bus driver carries out an unwanted driving manoeuvre, such as heavy breaking or acceleration.

The driver can then make immediate changes to their driving to ensure buses travel more efficiently to produce fewer CO₂ emissions, as well as travelling more smoothly to improve the journey experience for passengers.

Want to find out more?

If you are interested in finding out more about the scheme, its benefits and how to sign up, call the ECO Stars Fleet Recognition Scheme Team on **01543 416 416** and quote 'ECO Stars'. Alternatively, email: ecostars@ttr-ltd.com

Care4Air warns all Sheffielders against unwittingly breaking the law

Care4Air is raising awareness in Sheffield to warn people who own or want to purchase a wood burning stove (also known as a biomass heater) to not unwittingly break the law.

In recent years, interest has grown in using wood for heating as an environmentally friendly and fashionable way of heating homes. Wood is often described as a 'carbon neutral' fuel, as the carbon dioxide emitted into the atmosphere when the wood is burned are matched by the amount of carbon dioxide the wood absorbed when it was growing. Many people wanting to do their bit to reduce their carbon footprint are opting to use wood as a fuel to heat their homes believing it does no damage to the environment. However, burning wood does have a carbon impact and emissions of air pollutants from a wood fuelled appliance are usually higher than those of a similar gas appliance.

Most of Sheffield was declared smoke free between the 1960s and 1980s

to prevent the health and environmental impacts caused by smoke from domestic chimneys. Being a smoke free city means that anybody using a non-approved wood burning stove or non-approved fuel for heating could be committing an offence, which can cost the offender up to £1,000.

Burning waste in a solid fuel appliance can produce very high emissions of pollutants, potentially affecting the health of your own household and that of your neighbours. This includes waste wood which is often treated, and burning this can release highly toxic chemicals into the air. Servicing and maintaining your appliance at least once a year by a qualified engineer, will help you reduce harmful emissions and smoke from your stove.

By the 1980s Sheffield City Council had covered most of the city with Smoke Control Orders with the exception of the rural areas to the northwest. This means that everybody living in the Smoke Control Areas of Sheffield will be committing an offence unless the fuel they use in their

biomass heater is an approved smokeless fuel, or their solid fuel appliance has been tested to ensure it can burn ordinary fuels without creating smoke.

Mark Daly, Care4Air Representative, said: "Wood and ordinary bituminous coal are not authorised fuels, so if you intend to burn these fuels you need to ensure that you are using an exempt appliance."

"Before you buy a stove please speak to your supplier as they can advise you which appliances are approved for use in the city and you can also check against a list of approved appliances on the internet. Exempt appliances are normally only approved to burn certain types of fuel, and it is therefore important that you only burn the correct fuel for your appliance."

For information on Smoke Control Areas, approved fuels and a list of exempt appliances, visit:
www.uksmokecontrolareas.co.uk

Care4Air endorsed on national education website

The award winning Care4Air website is now being used to teach secondary school pupils across the UK after being endorsed by the National Curriculum Twenty First Century Science project on their website www.twentyfirstcenturyscience.org

The Care4Air sub-site 'Learn to Care4Air' has been included as a recommended learning resource for GCSE students. Teachers can visit the Twenty First Century Science website to view recommended teaching resources for use in the classroom.

Over 900 schools in England and Wales are using Twenty First Century Science resources to teach pupils. Since 'Learn to Care4Air' was first launched in March, over 500 visits to the sub-site have been recorded.

King Egbert School in Sheffield has been using the sub-site for over two months. There are over 90 pupils using the 'Learn to Care4Air' pages and all pupils are at the Key Stage 4 level and are aged 14 - 16 years old.

'Learn to Care4Air' contains comprehensive information about:

- air pollutants
- using diffusion tubes
- comparing and interpreting air quality data
- greenhouse gases and the greenhouse effect
- calculating a carbon footprint
- fine particles, Nitrogen Dioxide, Sulphur Dioxide and Ozone

Dr Paul Cropper, Head of Chemistry at King Egbert School, Sheffield, said: "The 'Learn to Care4Air' website is incredibly useful for young people. There is a large amount of insightful information and it is all written in accessible language."

"I think the website is clearly signposted and easily navigated and it is not overloaded with complex information. One of the modules the pupils are completing centres around air pollution, so we have found this page particularly helpful. Young people will now have a better grasp of how air quality is being monitored and through sites like Care4Air, will realise through studying how important air quality issues are."

The Care4Air website www.care4air.org is already known as one of the most dynamic of its kind in the country. Last year, the website won the accolade for the top air quality website from national magazine 'Air Quality Bulletin' for the fourth time in five years.

Make your promise to cut Sheffield's carbon footprint, save money and save our planet

Hundreds of Sheffielders gathered in the Winter Garden on Thursday 17th December to make their promises to reduce their CO₂ at the launch of a new city-wide climate change campaign, Sheffield Is My Planet.

As world leaders geared up for the final days of the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, people across Sheffield promised to make simple changes to their lifestyles, travel and home energy use that will make a real difference to their pockets by saving them money whilst cutting their CO₂, helping to reduce the city's carbon footprint and ultimately being part of the global drive to minimise the impact of climate change.

At the launch event, people were able to strengthen their commitment by making their promise in the form of a handprint on a large 'carbon promise wall'. Promises relating to travel were made in purple, home energy in green and lifestyle in yellow. A smoothie bicycle was also on hand to give people the chance to make their own sustainable smoothie using local, seasonal ingredients and some of their own pedal-power.

Sheffield Is My Planet is a Sheffield City Council and Sheffield First For Environment initiative that provides lots of local information, help and advice needed to make a positive difference to the city and the environment. A new website - www.sheffieldismyplanet.co.uk - has been set up to collect 'carbon promises' online, give details of potential financial savings to be made and also calculate the total amount of CO₂ being saved by the whole city.

The campaign is fully backed by Sheffield Council Leader Paul Scriven, who has promised to do his bit by walking and cycling more often and BBC Radio Sheffield Presenter Rony Robinson has pledged to turn his central heating down by 1°, doing this, he'll save around 335 kg of CO₂ and £55 per year from his heating bill.

Council Leader, Paul Scriven said: *"In the current economic climate, everyone is looking to save money, and people are also becoming increasingly aware of the challenges that climate change brings. Through Sheffield Is My Planet, local people can win on both counts, by saving money and doing their bit to help Sheffield's carbon footprint be as small as possible. By doing things like picking up a free energy SMART meter from a local library or buying food that is in season, Sheffield Is My Planet is encouraging people to make positive steps.*

"The new website provides local people with all the information they need to do these things, and also to be a part of something bigger - a city-wide environmental effort. This campaign will help us to improve our neighbourhoods and collectively see how we are making a difference to Sheffield."

To make your promise visit www.sheffieldismyplanet.co.uk or text 'promise' to 82010 for more information.



Council Leader Paul Scriven, pupils from Broomhill Infant School and Mark Daly make their carbon promises

THERE ARE NINE PROMISES TO CHOOSE FROM:

TRAVEL

1. Walk and cycle more - potential savings could be £185 per year and 2,300 Henderson's bottles full of CO₂
2. Use my car less for the school run - potential savings could be £50 and 290 Henderson's bottles full of CO₂
3. Drive more efficiently - potential savings could be £100 and 1,725 Henderson's bottles full of CO₂

HOME ENERGY

4. Switch to energy saving light bulbs - potential savings could be £40 and 891 Henderson's bottles full of CO₂
5. Turn down my central heating by 1 degree - potential savings could be £55 and 1926 Henderson's bottles full of CO₂
6. Hire a free energy SMART meter - potential savings could be £18 and 403 Henderson's bottles full of CO₂

LIFESTYLE

7. Exercise outdoors rather than in the gym - potential savings could be £500 and 633 Henderson's bottles full of CO₂
8. Buy food in season - potential savings could be £50 and 3,450 Henderson's bottles full of CO₂
9. Go easy on meat consumption - potential savings could be £140 and 1,783 Henderson's bottles full of CO₂

Together we can reduce CO₂ and make a positive difference to Sheffield and our planet

Make your promise
www.sheffieldismyplanet.co.uk
or text 'promise'



SHEFFIELD IS MY PLANET



SHEFFIELD IS MY PLANET

NOMINATIONS OPENING SOON FOR THE 2010 CARE4AIR AWARDS!



Voting is starting soon for the third annual Care4Air Awards! If you think you are an air quality champion, or you know of a business or an individual who is going above and beyond to improve air quality in the region, why not nominate them for a Care4Air Award in 2010?

The innovative awards scheme from Care4Air recognises individuals and organisations who have made a significant contribution to improving air quality. This could include:

- setting up travel plans in local organisations
- being more energy efficient by setting up a recycling scheme
- providing community travel schemes for members of the public or for the school run
- setting up a school walking bus or car-sharing scheme
- promoting cycling as an alternative to using the car
- making significant lifestyle changes to improve air quality (e.g. walking or cycling to work everyday)

The categories that you can nominate under are 'Individual Award', 'Community Award', 'Education Award' and 'Business Award'. There will be a winner for each category and then from these an overall winner will be chosen for their 'Outstanding Contribution to Improving Air Quality'.

The nominations are set to open at the beginning of February 2010 and Care4Air will narrow the nominees down before a selected panel of experts in the air quality field will decide upon the winners. The finalists are promised an exciting awards ceremony held at a special venue with a celebrity guest host in June.

Mark Daly, Spokesperson for Care4Air, said:
"Last year we had some fantastic awards finalists who had made great contributions towards improving air quality. For 2010 we want to hear from even more



Pupils receive their 2009 Care4Air Awards



Winners from 2009

people who are contributing to helping us to achieve our goal of improving air quality across South Yorkshire."

People can nominate themselves or anyone who is doing that little bit extra to improve air quality by logging onto www.care4air.org and completing the online nomination form from early February.

Care4Air shares best practice at a national seminar

A representative from Care4Air took part in a talk about lowering harmful emissions in the environment at a European Environmental Bureau Seminar on 15th December 2009.

Mark Daly, a Care4Air Representative spoke alongside six others at the 'Clean Air Seminar' held at City Temple Conference Centre, Holborn, in London. He highlighted the Care4Air campaign that has been commended as Best Practice at Ministerial level and was recently awarded a Gold Green Apple Award. Special emphasis was given to how the often complex technical issues around reducing air pollution can be explained and made relevant to the public.

The European Environmental Bureau (EEB) is a federation of 140 environmental citizen groups from most of the European Union countries. The EEB Clean Air Working Group has over 80 members from various Non-Governmental Organisations.

The EEB 'Clean Air Seminar', which took place over two days in December, tackled issues such as air pollution and its environmental and health effects, as well as Air Quality Policies, plans and measures.

The aim of the EEB 'Clean Air Seminar' was to promote knowledge and understanding of the current and potential EU environmental and sustainable development policies amongst the general public in the EU, so that this will give them the information they need for continued improvement.

Mark Daly, Care4Air Speaker, said: *"Following the Environment Minister's speech endorsing Care4Air as best practice at our conference in September, I feel Care4Air has a lot to offer in terms of highlighting air quality issues across the UK. This Seminar attended by delegates from across Europe will give Care4Air the opportunity to reach a much wider European audience and will help us to promote and share knowledge and understanding of issues that will make the environment a better and safer place to live."*

New climate schools project promoted on the Care4Air website

An exciting new project is here to help more schools across South Yorkshire take more action against climate change.

Eco Schools, is a climate change project run throughout South Yorkshire to give schools ideas for ways they can reduce carbon emissions and adapt to a changing climate, both on their own sites and out in the local community. The project will help schools to share these good ideas with each other along with lessons they have learnt from their own climate change projects.

The project is supporting schools to improve knowledge and understanding across the school campus, through the curriculum and in the wider community.

Mark Daly, Care4Air Coordinator, said: "Not everybody knows about climate change and what each of us

can do to help tackle it.

By providing a range of support to schools, the project is encouraging increased direct positive action within schools and in the wider community.

In addition, by preparing South Yorkshire's young people to play an active role in tackling climate change now, they will be well prepared to tackle future climate change challenges as adult citizens."



To find out more about the Eco Schools Project visit www.care4air.org