



UTILISING THE POWER OF THE WIND

Almost half of Scotland’s energy requirements in January came from wind generated power, research has shown.

There were 22 days in January when the amount of electricity generated from wind turbines was sufficient to power every home in the country.

WWF Scotland analysed data on renewable power provided by Weather Energy, and found wind turbines supplied a total of 1,125,544 Megawatt hours (MWh) of electricity to the national grid.

While this is 14% lower than in January 2015, it still amounts to 48% of Scotland’s total electricity consumption– which includes power used by homes, businesses and industry for the month.

TOO MUCH FOOD THROWN OUT

Angus residents are throwing away huge amounts of food every year, according to recent statistics.

Despite the success of new kerbside services which have seen a rise in recycling to the point where households across the district are now recycling more than half their household waste and cut non re-usable rubbish by 40%, around 4,000 tonnes of food is still being thrown out.

The food waste is taken to an anaerobic digestion plant where it is used to generate electricity and produce a digestant, which can be spread on the land as a fertiliser substitute.

The food recycling figure could be even higher after research revealed that despite receiving a separate food collection, leftovers still make up around 30% of the content of general household waste bins in Angus.

The statistic led to a fresh plea for people to care more about how and what they recycle after leading council figures gained a first-hand insight into the work carried out by the army of Angus bin collectors who gather waste from around 55,000 properties.

The new kerbside collection arrangements were rolled out across Angus just over a year ago to help the drive towards the national target of recycling 60% of all household waste by 2020.

The council said overall the public has been extremely supportive and adapted well to the new scheme, leading to a reduction of around 40% in the amount of non-recyclable waste collected.

The cost of landfilling waste has increased significantly in recent years and the authority now had to pay £82.60 per tonne in landfill tax alone.

Angus Council will find £10 million of savings by shedding 170 jobs and introducing a charge for

FROM THE EDITOR

This edition of the eco newsletter is the last under my editorship.

I am standing down for purely personal reasons after much soul searching. It is, quite simply, the right time for me to do so.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my association with the newsletter and, hopefully, you, the readers, have appreciated the eco-themed articles which have been published over the years.

My thanks to my granddaughters Rowan and Lauryn for their able assistance in creating the pages. Their computing skills outshine mine.

Thank you, also, to members of the eco group who have contributed articles.

Special thanks to Sandra in the church office, also to Carole.

I am also indebted to members of the property group.

Au Revoir,

Alex Robertson.

GOOD NEWS: Vickie Fraser, a member of the eco-group and world church, is taking over from me as editor of the eco newsletter.

My best wishes go to her for a successful and enjoyable time in this post.

WALKING TO KEEP HEALTHY

New research from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) found people over 50, and women of all ages, who regularly walked briskly for more than 30 minutes at a time, had a lower body mass index (BMI) and smaller waists than those who say they favour other forms of exercise, including gym workouts, cycling and swimming.

People who like to walk tend to do it very regularly, so they are more active overall compared with non-walkers who, while they may say they do other forms of exercise, might be doing them less frequently.

Although any exercise is better than none, to achieve significant results, walking needs to be done at a decent pace, to a level where you're perspiring and out of breath, for 30 minutes, five times a week.

Walking instead of using the car also reduces our carbon footprint.

RECYCLING OF ELECTRICALS MAY BE EXTENDED

A Deeside project providing a collection and recycling service for unwanted electrical and electronic items could be extended to the Mearns.

Recycle (Deeside Services), a group dedicated to recycling and reuse, has worked in the local community for 10 years, collecting, sorting and recycling plastic bottles.

It is a project run by Aberdeenshire Council's social work service for people who may require training and support to access employment.

POSSIBLE PAVEMENT PARKING BAN?

MSPs have welcomed a Bill that would ban parking on pavements as a 'positive step' that would help disabled people and young families. Holyrood's Local Government and Regeneration Committee has called for more detail on how the proposed Footway Parking and Double Parking Bill would work in practice. The members' Bill introduced by Sandra White MSP would make it illegal for vehicles to obstruct pavements and dropped kerbs, and would also restrict double parking on public roads. The committee has been examining the legislation despite it relating to a policy area currently reserved to the UK parliament.