



Issue 2 – February 2010

Free home energy checks for all

All households in the Selby district are eligible for free home energy checks – which could save up to £300 a year on energy bills. A straight-forward questionnaire is used as a basis for a personalised report from the Energy Saving Trust, which shows how much energy and money can be saved. Call them on 0800 512 012 and an adviser will complete the questionnaire over the phone, or they can send you a paper copy by post or you can receive the results instantly online by visiting www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/check. The Energy Saving Trust is supported by local authorities across North Yorkshire and provides free, impartial and expert advice about making your home more energy efficient.

Food miles

Heard of food miles? No, it's not some half-baked airline company loyalty programme offering free food. It's how far the food you put into your shopping basket has had to travel to get there. An 'average' supermarket shopping with 20 items in - including apples, potatoes and wine - has travelled over 100,900 miles to get to the UK. Why? Demand for cheap, year-round produced means we can now buy our green beans from Kenya and our strawberries from Spain, but this convenience comes at a cost. It is a major contributor to the greenhouse emissions which cause climate change, and is dependent on a resource that is not only finite but also highly politically-charged: oil.

What can I do?

In buying from local shops that sell food produced relatively nearby you can play an important part in reducing the need for transport, which in turn cuts carbon emissions. Similarly, in buying recycled goods and getting faulty items repaired where possible instead of replacing them with new ones, you can help reduce the amount of resources we use as well as the amount of UK waste going to landfill.

Other ideas include using the Selby Freecycle website – an online network of people who give and get items for free. Or sign up to a local veggie box scheme. Selby and District AVS have launched a Veggie Bags scheme. You can choose between three sizes of the bags which contain a selection of seasonal vegetables and fruit. Nearly all comes from local growers and has no unnecessary packaging. You also receive a recipe suggestion to try each week. For further information contact Gill Bell or Meryl McCoy on 01757 291111.

National Indicators



Flooding in 2000, as seen from the top of BOCM in Barlby. Photo courtesy of the Environment

National Indicators are a framework set out by central Government to monitor local government performance on climate change. The three climate change indicators are NI185 CO2 reduction from local authority operations; NI186 Per capita reduction in CO2 emissions in the local authority area and...

NI188 – Adapting to climate change

This aims to ensure local authorities are prepared to manage risks to service delivery, the public, local communities, local infrastructure, businesses and the natural environment from a changing climate, and to make the most of new opportunities. It allows Selby District Council and our partners to measure progress in adapting to climate change over four levels. The levels range from identifying the priority areas for adaptation through to developing and maintaining an adaptation action plan.

Selby Council has a target of achieving Level 1, which covers a commitment to identify and manage climate related risk, by the end of March 2010. This means we have carried out an assessment of significant vulnerabilities and opportunities to weather and climate, both now and in the future. This means, for example, we have done the following:

- Made a public commitment to manage climate risks – we have signed the Nottingham Declaration.
- Completed a Local Climate Impacts Profile
- Ensured Department/service heads facing significant vulnerabilities and opportunities have an understanding of the issues – together with evidence of actions already in place to address these.

Level 2, which we are due to achieve by the end of March 2011, will set out a Comprehensive Risk Assessment.

Get in touch

Please contact us if you would like us to highlight a particular issue that matters to you or if you would like us to explain anything in more detail. Please email jwalden@selby.gov.uk.