

# Swindon Climate Action Network

July 20, 2007  
Volume 3, Issue 2

[www.swindonclimate.org.uk](http://www.swindonclimate.org.uk)

send contributions to [e-digest@swindonclimate.org.uk](mailto:e-digest@swindonclimate.org.uk)

## No Sun Link to Climate Change???

Any connection between the sun and climate change has already been dismissed for the current warming that is being experienced here on Earth. However, a solar cause for climate change is often repeated by people who do not (for whatever reason) want to admit that it is our current lifestyle that is destroying the planet. Anyway, a news report from the BBC today "No Sun" link to climate change" yet again shows how climate change cannot be explained by changes in the sun. Read it at: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/6290228.stm> In the briefest of summaries, the BBC report is based on the Proceedings of the Royal Society, says that the changes in the sun's output has declined since about 1985 which means that the earth should have cooled as a result. We all need to try to understand these things so that when people try to deny man-made climate change we know the answers!



## CAR CLUB IN SWINDON?

Does anyone want to set up an informal car club in Swindon?

A free car is available (9 year old Polo) complete with cycle rack and lighting board.

Advice on how to set up can be found on <http://www.carplus.org.uk/carclubs/informal.htm>.

If you are interested please contact [deb@swindonclimate.org.uk](mailto:deb@swindonclimate.org.uk)

## LOBBY GOVERNMENT FOR CLIMATE FRIENDLY TRANSPORT INVESTMENT

This autumn, the Government will publish its Comprehensive Spending Review showing how much departments can spend and on what. New Chancellor, Alistair Darling, has a big opportunity to **improve his environmental transport record**.

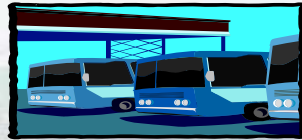
Friends of the Earth and other transport and environment groups say:

- Transport spending should focus on tackling climate change.
- Spending on road building should be cut and the money used to pay for measures that would **cut carbon dioxide emissions**.
- Local councils, bus and rail companies, employers, schools and hospitals could apply for money from this **Carbon Reduction Fund**.

This will bring real results without extra expenditure. We have made a [submission](#) (PDF - 240kB) to the Government laying out proposals for doing this.

Please tell the Treasury to put tackling climate change at the heart of transport Go to:

[http://www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/transport/press\\_for\\_change/csr\\_07/index.html](http://www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/transport/press_for_change/csr_07/index.html)



## Bus Routes Overhaul

Major changes to Bus Schedules/Routes are expected in a time when you are encouraged to leave your car at home the Bus may be taken away. There is a consultation period that will continue until Tuesday, August 7. The changes will be implemented on Monday, October 22. Swindon residents can express their views by writing to Thamesdown Transport Ltd, Barnfield Road, Swindon, and SN2 2DJ. See Adver Article [http://www.swindonadvertiser.co.uk/news/swindonnewsheadlines/display.var.1534585.0.bus\\_sha.keup.php](http://www.swindonadvertiser.co.uk/news/swindonnewsheadlines/display.var.1534585.0.bus_sha.keup.php) or visit Thamesdown Transport Website <http://www.thamesdown-transport.co.uk/>

## 'Swindon Standard' for Sustainable Building Design and Construction

Swindon Borough Council is consulting on the second draft of its supplementary planning document (SPD) on sustainable building design and construction, until 10 August 2007, and we are asking SCAN members to input. The SPD seeks to set a 'Swindon Standard' for construction of new residential and commercial buildings. It will significantly affect Swindon's contributions to climate change for many years to come, because construction and operation of buildings contributes to more than 50% of CO2 emissions and because Swindon has been targeted as a national growth point. It is crucial that this SPD sets strong targets, and SCAN will be calling for this. Although SCAN will be sending a response, it's also important that the Council receives a strong message from as many individuals as possible. The SPD and comments form can be found

at <http://www.swindon.gov.uk/supplanningdocs>.

## Upcoming Events

- **September 1<sup>st</sup> Forest Festival**, The Lawns
- **September 5<sup>th</sup> SCAN & TUC Meeting on Public Transport**
- **September 15<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> Climate Friendly Community Fortnight**
- **September 22<sup>nd</sup> In Town Without My Car**
- **Email:** [info@swindonclimate.org.uk](mailto:info@swindonclimate.org.uk)
- **Web:** [www.swindonclimate.org.uk](http://www.swindonclimate.org.uk)
- **Tel: 07791 751877 or 01793 791114**

## Calculate Your Carbon Footprint

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs launched an online calculator which uses government-recognised data and calculations to enable people to calculate their carbon footprint. Visit their website at

[http://www.policyhub.gov.uk/news\\_item/carbon\\_calculator07.asp](http://www.policyhub.gov.uk/news_item/carbon_calculator07.asp)

and calculate your carbon footprint.



Please consider the environment before printing this newsletter.