



Press Release for Gazette 22 March 2007

PHOTOS of volunteer householders attached

It's not easy being green but volunteers find ways to save energy and money!

Earlier this year several local households volunteered to find out how to save energy in their homes as part of Sustainable Thornbury's energy saving drive. Recently several volunteers completed a simple energy check of their home and found out how much energy they could save by making some changes. Suzanne Leighton's report showed the potential for £402 savings on her annual energy bill and a reduction in CO2 of 3 tonnes.

Three of the older Thornbury houses have all the problems associated with stone walls and listed buildings. Some houses had old central heating boilers and the reports showed that by replacing them with modern efficient boilers could save £133 per year on their energy bills and save 1.1 tonnes of CO2. A problem which they all have is how to insulate windows in listed buildings or conservation areas. Secondary Glazing (see this week's energy saving tips) is an option that they are considering.

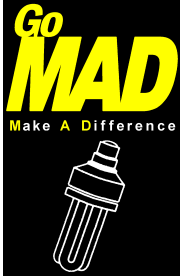
Val Harding's modern house in Alveston has different problems. The energy check showed that she should increase the amount of loft insulation but the downlighters in the upper rooms could be a potential fire hazard if they are covered by the insulation. Anyone with downlighters in rooms below the loft will need to take advice as to how much space they need to leave above each light.

Energy Efficiency Co-ordinator Margaret Pinder says: "Doing a home energy check on-line at www.est.org.uk/myhome/whatcan/ is simple and only takes about 20 minutes. You get an instant personalised report and help to access any grants or offers which might help take the measures suggested. Alternatively you can complete a paper questionnaire by contacting your Energy Efficiency Advice Centre on 0800 512 012."

Anyone who completes an energy check can enter the GoMAD competition on www.mythornbury.com or by placing an entry form in the boxes around the town (entry forms and boxes at town hall, Gazette offices, library and post office.) .April is the last month of the competition.

Note to Editor: **See overleaf for this week's energy efficiency tips**

This press release is in support of the Sustainable Thornbury energy reduction project. For further information tel: 01454 416778 or email thepinders@crumbly.plus.com



Sustainable Thornbury Energy Tip of the Week

Did you know?

Around a third of heat loss in an un-insulated home is through the walls, and that includes the windows

Double Glazing

- Single-glazed windows in draughty panes cost you money.
- Close your curtains at dusk to stop heat escaping through the windows.
- Draughtproofing saves you approximately £20 per year on your energy bills.
- If you don't already have double-glazing in your home, it's definitely worth thinking about. If you can't afford to replace all the windows, why not choose the rooms that cost you the most to heat? You could reduce heat loss through windows by half.
- Double-glazed windows come in a variety of styles but it's worth checking any restrictions on your house due to age and location, especially in any Conservation Areas. Fitting double-glazing when your existing window frames need replacing will save you time and money.
- Look for the energy saving recommended logo when choosing your windows you can be sure they are the most energy efficient, as the whole window (frame and glass) is assessed on a rating of A-G by the British Fenestration Ratings Council.

Secondary Glazing

- If you're on a budget, fitting secondary glazing could be the answer. It's less expensive than replacement double-glazing and will still save money by cutting heat loss and draughts.
- Secondary glazing allows the originals to be retained and is generally accepted by planning authorities for use in listed buildings - which can be a problem with some of Thornbury's older houses.
- The glazing can be found in a variety of styles - Vertical sliders for Sash Windows, with a tilting and removable sash facility for ease of cleaning, Horizontal sliders with removable sashes for 'picture' type casement windows, Hinged units for narrow casements, doors & French doors or windows.
- Some sashes can be lifted off and you can get lift out units for use when you only occasionally need to get to the window.
- You can also get cheap diy rolls of secondary glazing from most diy stores
- For more help and advice, contact your local Energy Efficiency Advice Centre on 0800 512 012 or check www.sustainablethornbury.org or call 01454 850 055.