



ALTON CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN 2023



BACK ON THE RACK IS BACK!

Young ACAN is excited to announce that this month's Back on the Rack is our first Young ACAN partner event with support from each of our partner schools as well as Alton College, sending out a message that we are working together to help tackle the climate crisis.

Back on the Rack first started in 2022 thanks to funding from the National Lottery. The aim: to provide young people in our community with a sustainable alternative to fast-fashion. This time, Back on the Rack 4 has a seasonal theme - it's a festive clothes swap! We are therefore asking you to have a sort out and to donate clean, good-quality pre-loved winter clothes especially Christmas jumpers, warm winter coats and clothes and party wear. Your donations can be left at your child's school if they have a drop-off point or at Alton Maltings from Monday 20th November.

The event coincides with the 'Alton Christmas Lights Switch On' so mark the date on your calendar and come along and support both events. Apart from offering festive clothing, there will be a cafe and an upcycling/repair zone providing inspiration to get creative with pre-loved clothes as well as offering advice about repairs.

The entire event is organised by ACAN volunteers supported by our own Young ACAN ambassador team and students from Amery and Eggar's. The clothes are free but we would appreciate donations to enable us to organise further Back on the Rack events.

Email Emma at young.altoncan@gmail.com for more details.

BACK ON THE RACK 4
FESTIVE CLOTHES SWAP!
ALTON MALTINGS GU34 1DT
FRIDAY 24TH
NOVEMBER
3:30 PM - 6:00 PM
Swap your pre-loved festive & winter clothes
Christmas Jumper Swap
Upcycling Zone & Cafe
Clothes Drop Off Points at Alton Maltings from 20th November and many local schools
Suggested age range 4 -18 years



Students from Eggar's volunteer their time to sort clothes for Back on the Rack 4!

INTRODUCING HESTA - HOME ENERGY SUPPORT TEAM ALTON

Have you been thinking about improving the energy efficiency of your home, but are not sure where to start? Saving energy means saving money, having a more comfortable home and reducing your carbon impact.

Energy Alton, a volunteer-run community group, is launching a new project to make it easier for residents to get advice on what they can do and to then actually get it done. Home Energy Support Team Alton (HESTA) is funded by East Hampshire District Council and Alton Town Council. All the advice and support provided by Energy Alton is free of charge and there is no selling involved.

Energy Alton volunteers have provided over 500 free energy surveys over the last 10 years. They have found that one of the biggest challenges for residents wanting to have energy saving measures installed is finding someone to actually do it.

HESTA includes a list of several local handypeople who can install loft insulation, secondary glazing, draught proofing and other measures. HESTA also provides grants of up to £100 towards the cost, for properties in council tax bands A, B, C or D.

Volunteer Green Home Champions are also available to talk to for advice. These are local people who have already had energy saving measures installed, who are happy to share their experience so that you can find out the benefits, challenges and lessons learned from someone who has already started making their home more sustainable.

You can find out more at <https://energyalton.org.uk/energy-advice/home-energy-support-team-alton-hesta/> or just search online for Energy Alton and click on the HESTA link on the home page. You can also call Energy Alton on 07811 462 659.

PUPILS AT ST MARY'S BENTWORTH EMPOWERED TO SOLVE LITTER PICKING ISSUE

In July 2022 a team of pupils from St Mary's Bentworth attended the Young ACAN Schools Eco Conference where they designed a solution to the issue of a lack of litter picking resources available in their school community for families to use at the weekend.

The Litter Picker Backpack was launched at St Mary's the following September and since then has inspired a further 5 local schools to get involved, thanks to a grant from EHDC Cllr Ginny Boxall which enabled Young ACAN to buy foldable litter pickers for the participating schools.



Wootey Infants School is one of the participating schools in the Young ACAN Litter Picker Backpack project.

Home Energy Support Team Alton



Help from Energy Alton to:

- Lower energy bills
- More comfortable home
- Reduce your carbon impact

Free Home Energy Surveys
Green Home Champions
Local Handyperson List
Small Grants Scheme
Support & Advice

Website energyalton.org.uk
Email info@energyalton.org.uk
Call or text 07811 462659



Home Energy Support Team Alton is a community project, run by Energy Alton and funded by East Hampshire District Council and Alton Town Council.



Tips for lower energy bills

We want you to be warm and comfortable in your home, but we know that cutting down on costs is important too. Follow our easy tips on using energy economically.

Turn your heating down by one degree.

You won't notice the difference and could save up to £160 a year. Don't go below 18°C if you are elderly, ill, or have small children.



Move your furniture away from radiators. It will be absorbing the heat.



Keep the heat in. Close the curtains when it's getting dark and tuck them behind the radiator.

Set your hot water timer. If you're on Economy 7 make sure your water is heating up at night. An hour a day of on peak water heating adds around £400 to your annual bill.

Get a hot water cylinder jacket. A thick insulating jacket can save around £100 on bills a year.

Get an energy monitor. Energy monitors show how much energy you are using and which appliances use the most. People monitoring their use in this way typically save £100 a year.



Turn down your wash.

Washing at lower temperatures will help to reduce the energy used by your washing machine - and it's better for your clothes.



Dry your clothes outside

Tumble dryers use a lot of energy and drying your clothes outside will freshen them up.

Dodge the draught!

Fit draught excluders to your front door, letter box and key hole to keep cosy.

Buying a new TV, washing machine or dishwasher?

Look out for the energy efficiency rating, and go for A-rated or better.



Use LED bulbs. Each LED you fit can make you a lifetime saving of £360. Plus they don't need changing as frequently.

Be a friend to your freezer. Defrost it regularly and keep it as full as you can. A defrosted freezer costs around £300 less a year to run.

Turn down radiators in rooms you don't use much. Use your central thermostat to control overall temperature.



Find all our energy advice leaflets at cse.org.uk/advice-leaflets

Fill up your dishwasher.

Doing a full load every other day is more efficient than doing half-loads, and uses less energy than washing up by hand.



Keep the oven door shut as much as possible when cooking. Every time you open it you'll lose a quarter of the heat.

Cuppa tea? Only fill the kettle with as much as you'll actually use (though make sure you cover the element at the bottom). This will save up to £40 a year. And remember, it's cheaper to use a kettle to boil water than an electric hob.



Make a big batch. Cook more than one meal at a time and freeze it for another day. And use a microwave rather than the oven to reheat meals.



Taking showers instead of baths saves around £200 a year on water heating.

Electric showers use a lot of energy, so if you have one and want to save you could get a shower timer. Taking 4-minute showers can save you £260 a year.



Keep the lids on saucepans.

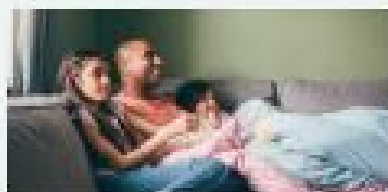
You'll be able to turn down the gas or electricity, and save money. And use the right size ring for the saucepan.



Get extra help

Contact us if you want more information **0800 082 2234**

If you're really struggling with your bills you might be entitled to extra support:



The [Warm Home Discount](#) is a rebate on your household electricity bill (it was £150 for the winter of 2021-22).

A [Winter Fuel Payment](#) of between £250 and £600 is available if you were born on or before 25 September 1956.

[Cold Weather Payments](#) are made when the temperature in your area falls below an average of 0°C or for seven consecutive days.

You could get help through the [Energy Company Obligation](#) to insulate your house. This will make it cheaper to heat.



St James Court,
St James Parade,
Bristol BS1 3UH

0117 934 1400
www.cse.org.uk
info@cse.org.uk

Charity: 298740
Founded: 1979

We're a charity supporting people and organisations across the UK to tackle the climate emergency and end the suffering caused by cold homes.

Our Home Energy Team offers free advice on domestic energy use to people in Bristol, Somerset, Wiltshire, South Gloucestershire and Dorset.

Contact us:

PHONE 0800 082 2234

EMAIL home.energy@cse.org.uk

WEB www.cse.org.uk/loveyourhome

TWITTER @HelloCSE

Hitting the Cold Spots

Keeping your home warm and your family healthy can be expensive and sometimes difficult. Our Hitting the Cold Spots Advisors are here to help you keep warm at home and reduce your energy bills.

Call us today

For advice and support call our Hampshire information line, where a local team of friendly, trained staff are ready to help.

0800 804 8601

Hitting the Cold Spots services are available until March 2013 – call now!

“ I did not know where to start. I called the freephone number and spoke to a real person who is now helping me to sort out my fuel bills and benefits.” Mr W from Romsey

“ The advisor was brilliant. She came to see me and we sorted out my hot water tank, it had been broken for 6 months. Thank you.” Mrs T from Farnborough



What do I do now?

Call our Hampshire information line on

0800 804 8601

where a local team of friendly, trained staff are available to **anyone** wanting information, advice or a visit from our Hitting the Cold Spots Advisors.

You can also contact the team by e-mail
staywarm@environmentcentre.com

Remember this service will not be available after 31st March 2013.

Please call **0845 603 5630** to request this leaflet in another language or format where required; braille, large print, easy read, word and audio files.

The Hitting the Cold Spots project has been funded by the Department of Health. The carbon monoxide detectors have been donated by Southern Gas Networks.

Note: 0800 numbers are often free and 0845 numbers are charged at the local rate, but this may vary depending on your service provider.

How we can help

The Hitting the Cold Spots team could help you with:

- Hot water and heating system repairs.
- Support with alternative heating measures (electric oil filled radiators) if you are without heating.
- Access to small grant support to help cope with winter fuel emergencies.

Other services

- Practical support and advice with debt, money and benefits.
- Free Home Safety visits which can include a carbon monoxide monitor, smoke detector and a fire safety plan.
- Access to free insulation (cavity wall, loft and solid wall).
- Assistance to switch your energy provider or tariff to help give you savings on your fuel bills.
- Assessment for funding for a gas mains to be laid to your property and a central heating system to be installed.
- Support from a Hitting the Cold Spots Advisor when any visits or works are being undertaken in your home.

** Some of the above services and emergency relief are subject to availability and conditions apply.*

**Hitting the cold spots
- helping you to stay warm**

Winter 2012-13

Call 0800 804 8601



**Hampshire
County Council**





Helping Amphibians and Reptiles in our Gardens

– a talk by

JAMIE NEAVES

Jamie is a local reptile surveyor, who has worked as a herpetologist and in several conservation roles, including for Natural England.



ALL WELCOME – share your own experiences

MONDAY 27th NOVEMBER,

7.30 – 9.00 pm

**ALTON COMMUNITY CENTRE,
Amery Street, GU34 1HN**



An Alton Climate Action Network event

www.altonclimatenetwork.org.uk

Email altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com

5 TOP TIPS FOR A SUSTAINABLE (AND CHEAPER) CHRISTMAS

1. BAKE YOUR OWN

From mince pies to gingerbread, Christmas is a great time to get baking. It's a brilliant way to get the children in the kitchen and home-baked is tastier, healthier and definitely better for the planet. Why not shop in Fill Up, Alton where you only buy the ingredients you actually need - preventing waste and saving money! Many bakes can be made now and frozen ready for when you need them.

2. CHOOSE PLANET-FRIENDLY WRAPPING

Wrapping paper is often not recyclable so look out for recycled and recyclable gift wrap or alternatively use fabric instead, as well as fabric ribbons and reusable gift bags. To save money, get creative with rolls of recycled brown paper or other paper like newspaper, old maps or sheet music.

3. MAKE YOUR OWN CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

Christmas Crackers generally contain plastic tat that nobody really wants. Why not make your own crackers from scratch or buy a kit to add your own surprises. Covering used toilet rolls with paper is definitely the cheapest option but you can buy empty crackers to fill from Oxfam, WHSmith and M&S.

4. SHOP SECOND-HAND

This year why not choose second-hand gifts rather than buying something new. Support local shops by shopping in Alton's charity shops or alternatively use sites like Ebay and Vinted to find something more unique and unusual for your loved ones.

5. FINALLY, PLAN AHEAD FOR NEXT YEAR!

Sustainable living requires planning ahead. So, as the curtain closes on Christmas 2023, start thinking about Christmas 2024! Yes, really! Save this year's cards and tags to reuse next year!

