



International Biodiversity Day Thursday 22nd May 2008

www.planetfriendly.net/calendar/events.php?id=8153



© British Hedgehog Preservation Society

Do one thing!

For the environment . . .

- **Use energy efficient light bulbs** - reduce your electricity bill. They produce the same amount of light as standard light bulbs but use a fraction of the electricity.
- **Switch off appliances and lights** - the UK has set a target to reduce CO₂ emissions by 20% by 2010. Almost half of the UK's emissions come from things we do everyday, such as leaving the TV on standby.
- **Cut down on your heating costs** – shut doors, draw curtains, draught proof doors and windows and turn down the central heating thermostat.
- **Save water** - only heat what you need, switch off the tap while doing your teeth and put 'clean' waste water onto the garden and patio plants.
- **Start a compost heap or buy a composter** for all garden waste, including grass cuttings, prunings, leaves, hedge trimmings and vegetable waste from your kitchen. Your local council may help you get a composter. Composting instead of sending green waste to landfill sites helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Recycle paper, card, plastic, metal and glass and buy recycled products** - the average person in the UK throws out their body weight in rubbish every 3 months. Most of this could be reprocessed but instead is sent to incinerators or landfill.
- **Walk or cycle** to help to cut back on greenhouse gas emissions. Road transport is responsible for around a fifth of the UK's CO₂ emissions.



© Wikipedia



© Devon County Council

For your wildlife . . .

- **Take up gardening** - the one place where you can make a small but real difference. Avoid pesticides and peat and leave areas of long grass for grasshoppers and young amphibians. Plant and encourage native flowers, choosing ones which produce large seed heads and nectar-rich flowers to attract insects, particularly white ones for night insects.
- **Look after your wildlife and make space for more** by putting up bat roost boxes, bird nest boxes, bee 'hotels' and black sunflower seed holders for birds and voles. Create a dead woodpile in a damp shady area to encourage beetles and hedgehogs. Make a pond with gentle slopes and native plants for cover, with no fish that will eat other wildlife.
- **Get involved with your school or college** – encourage staff to leave wild verges and corners of playing fields that link up into wildlife corridors and to create an environmental area for curriculum activities.
- **Buy a copy of the 'Parish BAP'** and start a Parish Biodiversity Group. See our website for details - www.warwickshire.gov.uk/biodiversity
- **Lobby your Local Authority to sign the West Midlands 'Biodiversity Pledge'** which commits them to delivering their biodiversity duty (NERC Act, 2006).
- **Volunteer with a conservation organisation** - Warwickshire Bat Group, Warwickshire Amphibian & Reptile Team, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, Warwickshire Dragonfly Group, Butterfly Conservation, West Midlands Bird Club and British Trust for Conservation Volunteers all have websites.



© www.envocare.co.uk



Whatever takes your fancy, start doing it on May 22nd 2008!