



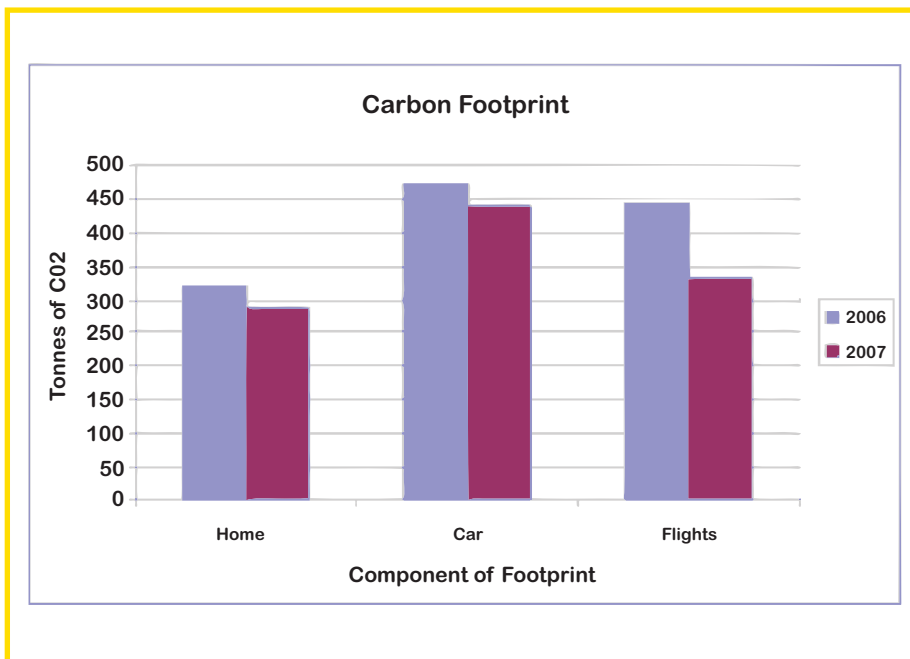
## Ashton Hayes Going Carbon Neutral Project Autumn 2007



### AUTUMN UPDATE

It has been a busy time on the project since we returned from our summer break in September. During summer Roy Alexander (now Professor Roy!) and his team at the University of Chester analysed the summer energy survey results and produced a detailed poster that is now on display in our notice board at Village Farm, Church Road.

### EXCELLENT SURVEY RESULTS



The results show that we have saved 20% on our community carbon emissions. We get the figure of 20% whether we scale up the general results from the survey to the whole village or just look at the information from nearly 50 houses that gave us details of their fuel usage. This is an excellent result and rather higher than we expected – so everyone who made an effort deserves a real pat on the back.



The data showed that we have made cutbacks on our domestic energy use, car travel and, significantly, number of flights. There is still plenty to do however so please do keep up the good work and look at ways in which you can reduce your carbon emissions still further. Suggested actions have been sent to all those who took part in this year's survey and we can supply suggestions to anyone who asks. Just email Roy at [r.alexander@chester.ac.uk](mailto:r.alexander@chester.ac.uk)

We are aware that some people never received survey forms or a visit from the student team and we apologise for this. Next year we are going to revise the way we carry out the survey and augment the student support with help from people in the village who have already volunteered to do door-to-door surveys.



## RECYCLING

Ashton and Barrow topped Chester City Council's recycling league table in November, recycling 35.56% of its domestic waste. Tarvin came in second with 31.94% and the average for all areas was 23.14%. This is the best result for the village since records began, so well done to one and all.

There is now a recycling facility behind the Golden Lion for paper based liquid food and drink cartons such as Tetra Paks (typically used for milk, soup and fruit juice for example). Once collected they are recycled into a number of different products, ranging from plasterboard liner to high-strength paper bags and envelopes.

## FUTURE PLANS

In the coming months we shall continue to help and encourage everyone to do what they can to reduce our footprint even more and we shall also be investigating ways in which we might use renewable energy of some kind to help to power the community. Several ideas have been put forward by our project team and our plan is to present possible options to the community when we have useful information to share with everyone. EA Technology and the University of Chester are leading this research and we are getting offers of support from energy suppliers and funding bodies. More on this soon we hope.

United Utilities is keen to demonstrate an innovative small scale methane digestion system that they think could have application in Ashton Hayes and help us to produce renewable energy for the community. UU has a prototype plant at Ellesmere Port and is inviting us to view this on the evening of 24th January. UU has kindly arrange free transport from the village for anyone who would like to come along. Please email or call Garry Charnock if you'd like to come along and more details will be provided.

## SHARING THE NEWS

Numerous communities across the UK are now asking us to share our experiences and several members on the Going Carbon Neutral Team enjoy giving talks up and down the UK. Demand for these presentations is on the increase and if anyone would like to help present our activities we can cover travel costs and expenses and provide training, a laptop and a PowerPoint presentation. Please contact Tracey Todhunter or Kate Harrison if you fancy doing some public speaking!

This can be a very rewarding experience and everyone in the village should be aware of how grateful other communities are for our willingness to share what we have done. Many people have said that they find the example of our community action to be a tremendous inspiration to them in their efforts to develop their own projects. Everyone in the village should be proud our community's achievements. We also learn an awful lot from what people are doing elsewhere.

## BUSINESS

**Andy Foster Architects** have recently recruited a specialist in sustainable building design and have told us that they are moving ahead with ideas for the straw bale insulation project for the primary school 'mobile classrooms'. We are also told by Cheshire County Council that they are actively trying to buy land and build a new footpath to the railway station.

Local firm **earthBorn Paints** recently repainted the interior of the Parish Rooms using VOC free, environmentally friendly paint. It's now brighter and healthier for everyone who uses the rooms. earthBorn will be offering a 10% discount on purchases through local stockist Robinson & Neal until the end of the year.  
[www.earthbornpaints.co.uk](http://www.earthbornpaints.co.uk)

A TV company, **Change productions**, has asked us if any Ashton Hayes residents would like to participate in a 'Dig-for-Victory' style programme that is planned for Channel 4 next year. The programme producers will be coming to Ashton Hayes to explain their idea in the New Year. We have already had an informal chat with them in London and basically they are keen to film people who want to try growing vegetables on an allotment or in their gardens or spare pieces of land. They will provide seeds and advice and might even give the volunteers some livestock. The idea is to see if people can

manage by growing/rearing their own food and maybe adopt a 'ration-book' approach to life for 6 months. As part of the programme the health of volunteer participants would be monitored. They are keen to see if the health of the nation would improve, like it did in wartime. Anyone who joins this is likely to become famous or infamous – so think about it carefully! Call Garry Charnock (see below) if you are interested or have any memories of wartime that you can share on camera. Three families have already expressed an interest. More details of the TV company meeting will be issued soon.

We have had several offers of help from sponsor companies in the energy business. One company, **HES (Heating Efficiency Services)** is offering to carry out a FREE Energy Performance Survey of an entire street of houses. They are keen that we pick a street with a variety of shapes, sizes and ages of houses and our current plan is to ask residents of Peel Hall Lane if they would like to take part. The survey takes an hour or so and each house owner will get a free energy performance certificate and a great deal of information on how they could save money and improve the energy efficiency of their property. We shall be putting notices through doors in Peel Hall Lane to invite residents to participate. Once the survey is completed we shall share average data (not individual house data) with the community. If you fancy having a free survey, please let us know.

**M&M Communications** has recently installed videoconferencing equipment suitable for small meetings of 6 – 8 people in order to cut down its own travel. The facility can also be used by anyone resident in the village, so if you know a customer or branch office has a similar facility, why not try a 'virtual' meeting? M&M will make no charge for use of the equipment, but a donation to the Parish Council's Carbon Neutral budget would be appreciated. Call Richard or Lynn May on 01829 752751 for details.



## AWARD WINNERS

We were delighted to win the IVCA Clarion Award (no cash though!) for our DVD entitled 'Our Footprint, Our Journey' that we premièred to the community at our anniversary event in January. This is the biggest award in Europe each year and we pipped B&Q and other leading brands to win a top prize. Special thanks should go to Steve Holland and Marie Friend for making the film, and to DEFRA and tes who funded most of the production costs. The film is now featured on the web on [www.green.tv](http://www.green.tv) and on the Friends of the Earth YouTube site. Steve is now planning a newer version of the film that will also feature actions in other communities. Ashton Hayes also won the Energy Institute Community Initiative Award on 15 November – sponsored by Deloitte and Hindustan Petroleum (again no cash!).



## COMMUNICATIONS

We are planning to issue regular newsletters (each quarter) to the entire community as we are aware that many people don't have access to our website on the internet. If you can access [www.goingcarbonneutral.co.uk](http://www.goingcarbonneutral.co.uk) you'll see that we update our events pages regularly and add photos and news items when we can. We've all been a bit overwhelmed with requests for support in the past few weeks and so major website overhauls are a bit difficult to manage.

Nevertheless, our website now has around 175 individual users per day, many of whom download lots of information to use in their own communities.

We are also aiming to hold a public meeting at the primary school in spring to discuss future plans and show our new video that features comments from many other communities around the UK. Notices of the meeting dates will be issued well in advance.

Finally, we'd like to remind everyone that there is a short update on the project at monthly Parish Council meetings in the Parish Rooms (see notice outside the Post Office for times etc) and we welcome anyone who would like to get more actively involved in the project. There are between 20-30 people helping with the project activity and it is a great deal of fun. Whatever skill or time you have will be really appreciated.

Thanks to everyone for the continued support

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