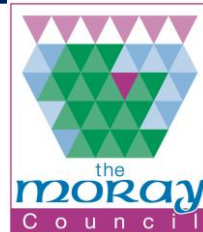




# Carbon Campaign Newsletter - July 2013



## WHAT'S ON IN JULY 2013?

The Moray Council Programme of Summer Holiday Activities is now available and is full of ways to keep fit and active over the summer break. Along with the Country and Coast Summertime Events you could find yourself:

- Starting the Commonwealth Games Countdown
- Becoming a soccer star
- Playing rugby and meeting professional players
- Pond dipping
- Hunting mini-beasts
- Climbing Ben Rinnes
- Joining the wildlife warriors

See the full programme:

<http://www.moray.gov.uk/downloads/file86573.pdf>

### Clarity Core



Leonardo Di Caprio is often famed for his Hollywood roles but did you know that he also has so much love for the planet that he has formed a foundation for promoting sustainable ventures and produced a film about the need for us all to be more environmentally aware and take responsibility for our carbon-rich lifestyles?

'The 11<sup>th</sup> Hour' looks at the causes of global warming before exploring solutions.

Log onto Leo's own eco site <http://www.leonardodicaprio.org> for information about this film, and other climate films he has been involved with, as well as all things eco Leo is concerned about.

## Introduction

Welcome back to the newsletter, part of the Moray Council energy awareness campaign.

It's important to us that the newsletter is useful to you. If there's anything you'd like to see featured, we'd like to hear from you. Please email [energy@moray.gov.uk](mailto:energy@moray.gov.uk). This month we look at the rainforest, how important it is for human health and offer advice about how we can stop supporting its destruction. We also focus on the issue that is climate change and provide some useful links to the facts and figures to help you make your own mind up about what's happening to Planet Earth.

## Websites of the Month

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/weather/hi/climate>

<http://www.ipcc.ch/>

<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate-change/>



So much is made of climate change and global warming these days that it's sometimes hard to know what to believe. Above is a list of websites with facts, figures and information concerning what is happening to our climate and how much of the change is attributable to humans. The websites range from easily understandable to hardcore scientific facts to hopefully give you a panoramic view of what is happening and how we can help prevent disastrous change.

## Moray Council - Flood Alleviation



Moray has a history of flooding. Floods in July 1997, November 2002 and September 2009 caused widespread damage to homes and businesses. The Elgin flood alleviation scheme is currently underway and due for completion in Spring 2015. Sustainability, environmental and ecological considerations are key to the scheme's philosophy and have been considered at all levels. For example:

**Sustainability** - all material excavated during the flood plain lowering and channel creation is being re-used on site for embankments and landscaping. **Environmental** - The quietest machinery has been selected where possible and screens to reduce noise have been installed at Deanshaugh and around the Mansion House Hotel. **Ecological** - 1,000 trees have been felled and 32,000 tree seedlings will be planted in their place, these will be thinned out over time so that the strongest 2,000 will be kept. To read more about the environmental issues associated with the flood alleviation works use this link:

[http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray\\_standard/page\\_81729.html](http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_81729.html)



## Tropical Rainforest in focus

*Much is written about the rainforest and how much we are destroying it, but just how important is it to life on Earth? Sustainability Matters focuses on the facts about tropical rainforests to help us all realise why it's so important for us to protect and conserve them.*

Tropical rainforests help us minimise climate change impacts by absorbing nearly 1/5 of all CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. They are home for over 50% of the world's species on just 6% of the world's land. But when they are burnt down for commercial logging, mining, agriculture, pasture or development purposes they release all the stored CO<sub>2</sub> back into the atmosphere and destroy the homes of these species. Rainforests are currently being destroyed at the rate of an area the size of a football pitch every four seconds. The alarming global scale of this rapid rainforest burning means that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from tropical deforestation are higher than the entire global transport sector. Deforestation of tropical rainforests causes species extinction, the loss of important ecosystem services



and renewable resources. Whilst a rainforest can regrow, the cycle from rebirth to maturity takes decades and many species will be lost forever. Scientists estimate that if humans continue to pollute the planet at the current rate that estimates of life expectancy of surviving rainforests range from 20 - 40 years. This loss will impact human life.

### SO WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP?

1. One of the things we can do is to learn about tropical rainforest in order to educate others.
2. The second action we can take is reduce our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.
3. The third thing we can undertake is to support companies who actively help the rainforest and avoid purchasing items from companies who destroy it.

If you'd like to read more, the following websites are very informative:-

- [www.mongabay.com](http://www.mongabay.com)
- [www.rain-tree.com](http://www.rain-tree.com)



## Exploding Environmental Myths

***"Leaving a fluorescent light on will save money."***



**ANSWER:** No, it won't. You may have heard people say: "It's best to leave fluorescent lights on: it's cheaper than switching them on and off". People who promote this are probably well meaning, but wrong. Usually they say it takes a lot of energy to start up a fluorescent and secondly, they say that switching on/off lights reduces the lamp life so replacing the lamp is a regular expense.

The energy consumed to start a typical lamp is the equivalent of 2 seconds running time. So it is wrong to say it takes a lot of power to start them. (It is true there is a current surge but this takes place in less than one-eighth of a second and because it happens so quickly it takes very little energy).

It is true that switching on/off fluorescent reduces lamp life but lamps are designed to be switched on/off up to seven times a day without any effect on their life. How many times a day do your colleagues switch on/off to save energy? Probably not enough times to reduce the lamp life.

So the advice on fluorescents is simple: when not in use - switch them off!