

The first six months of 2016 have been the warmest half-year on record. These record temperatures, shocking as they have been, are what climate scientists expected and they haven't affected the targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. They have, however, highlighted the urgency for us all to take additional action now to avoid the need for more drastic cuts in carbon emissions in the future.

## Good vs bad news roundup

- 👉 The Paris Agreement signed by 195 countries last December to keep global warming well below 2°C, came into force earlier this month
- 👉 President Obama's Clean Power Plan to significantly reduce emissions from power plants, was hailed as the US's strongest ever climate action upon its introduction in the US last year and is now part of the UN climate agreement.
- 👉 US President-elect Trump, a climate change denier, puts the Paris climate agreement at risk following his election pledge to pull the US out of the agreement.
- 👉 Global carbon emissions from burning fossil fuels have seen "almost no growth" for a 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year mostly



due to China burning less coal.

- 👉 But the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere outstripped the safe level of 350 parts per million last year, with a record high of over 400 parts per million, and is unlikely to fall until we add almost no more carbon emissions to the atmosphere.
- 👉 China is the world's wind energy leader and is on track to generate more than a quarter of its electricity from wind power by 2030.
- 👉 But currently it's the world's largest greenhouse gas emitter, still producing more than 70% of its electricity from coal, partly to satisfy demand for manufactured goods bought throughout the world including in the UK.

## Damp and cold homes harm health

2.2million Europeans have asthma as a result of living in damp or mouldy homes. Living in damp homes increases the risk of asthma by 40% according to a recent study by a reputed German research organisation.

Making our homes more energy efficient is good for us and it's good for the planet. Reducing the energy lost from our homes helps to improve our health, makes our homes warmer, reduces our energy bills and helps to reduce our impact on global warming.

See overleaf for grants and support to do this.

## Come and join us!

We're looking for more people to help us cut carbon emissions in West Oxford and make a difference to our community. If you're interested in getting involved with projects or in helping steer LCWO's future direction by becoming a Trustee, please contact us to find out more on 07531 500955 or email [info@lcwo.org.uk](mailto:info@lcwo.org.uk)

Please like us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Low Carbon West Oxford](http://www.facebook.com/Low_Carbon_West_Oxford) and follow us on Twitter: [@Low\\_Carbon\\_West](https://twitter.com/Low_Carbon_West). Contact us at [info@lcwo.org.uk](mailto:info@lcwo.org.uk) or on 07531 500955 and visit our website at [www.lcwo.org.uk](http://www.lcwo.org.uk)

## Bin it to win it!

Pledge to recycle more in the city council's Blue Bin Recycling League, and be in with a chance of winning a prize worth up to £60.



You can also recycle clingfilm, bubble wrap, coffee machine pods & plant pots in your blue bin!

Every month the area of the city which improves its recycling rate the most, wins. If our area wins and you've signed up to the pledge, you'll be entered into a prize draw and along with local residents you'll be invited to vote for one of three local community groups or charities to win £400 towards their activities. LCWO is one of the three selected charities for our area. If we won we would put the £400 towards a new information board for Kingfisher Corner. More details from: [www.oxford.gov.uk](http://www.oxford.gov.uk)

## Affordable Warmth

If you're over 60 or on certain benefits and you're a home owner, you may be eligible for these city council initiatives aimed at helping you keep warm:

- free energy efficiency service
- handyman service for small repairs around the home at an hourly rate of £19
- flexible home improvement loans to help you stay safe and warm
- Winter Warmth Grant, offering discounted insulation, small energy efficiency measures and boiler installations.

Email [hia@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:hia@oxford.gov.uk) or call 01865 252788 for further information.

Well insulated homes with efficient heating systems make for warm homes with lower fuel bills.

Oxford City Council is keen to keep private-rented homes warm and affordable and will be targeting properties with the lowest energy efficiency certificate (EPC) ratings of F and G to recommend energy efficiency improvements. Landlords may be eligible for a grant towards installing energy efficiency measures. Further support may be available through The Ebico Trust to landlords of properties with EPC ratings D-G, subject to terms and conditions. Email [PREEG@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:PREEG@oxford.gov.uk) for details on how to apply or visit [www.oxford.gov.uk/preeg](http://www.oxford.gov.uk/preeg)

## Elfins look for small mammals in Kingfisher Corner

Osney Elfins were joined recently by the team from BBOWT's Wild Oxford Project to look for small mammals in Kingfisher Corner, the wildlife area created and maintained by LCWO volunteers. The site is an ideal habitat for voles and wood mice. Twenty two humane traps were carefully hidden and left overnight.

The group returned early the next morning looking for signs of disturbance. Although several traps had been sprung, no mammals were caught. Kingfisher Corner is very rich in seeds and berries at this time of year, so our BBOWT experts concluded the abundance of natural food meant that the food in the traps was ignored.



Osney Elfin Alex, aged 9, looking for small mammals