

Carbon calculator set to launch for carbon conscious farmers



Climate Friendly Food

Climate Friendly Food (CFF) is set to launch a free online carbon calculator to revolutionise carbon reduction techniques for farmers and growers. Supported by the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) Big Green Challenge Plus competition, CFF designed the comprehensive calculator to allow food producers to pinpoint areas in which they can reduce their carbon output and increase the resilience of their business.

The UK is legally committed to cutting carbon emissions by 80% by 2050. In the UK food consumption makes up over 30% of an individual's carbon footprint so cuts in carbon emissions from the food sector will play a vital role in meeting these targets.

CFF was founded by growers who believe that food production can be capable of becoming a carbon absorber rather than an emitter as is currently the case.

XXX of Climate Friendly Food said, "Carbon footprints are a good indicator of a farm's ecological health, as lower carbon footprints tend to accompany a move away from the use of fossil fuels, encourage biological sources of fertility and improve biodiversity.. This new carbon calculator will allow farmers and growers to easily work out their carbon footprint, helping them identify areas where they could reduce emissions and increase resilience in the face of peak oil."

The launch of the calculator coincides with the world's first low carbon food certification scheme also developed by CFF and funded by the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC). CFF will offer the low carbon certification to farmers and growers in the UK that produce low-carbon food through rich-soil farming. Farmers will be awarded a bronze, silver or gold award depending on where they rank on their journey to reducing their carbon footprint. They will then undergo a farmer-to-farmer inspection to verify their award.

The launch of the carbon calculator on October 12 at Schumacher College near Totnes will feature guest speakers including Rob Hopkins (Transition Network), Martin Crawford (Agroforestry Research Trust) and Ben Raskin (Soil Association). The event marks the start of a week of activities where Mukti Mitchell and Jonathan Smith of CFF, will cycle between organic farms, holding educational events for farmers and growers. This will culminate in an appearance at the Schumacher lectures on Saturday October 17th in Bristol.

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For more information, or to arrange an interview, contact Jonathan Smith at Climate Friendly Food on 07528 136678.

About Climate Friendly Food

www.climatefriendlyfood.org.uk

The aspirations of Climate Friendly Food's (CFF) core group are to bring about widespread recognition of the powerful carbon storage potential of soil and biomass, which may help to turn back the carbon clock. CFF is developing techniques and language that all farmers can adopt. In the long term CFF aims to influence international policy on agriculture, the effects of which could play a major role in averting runaway climate change.

Climate Friendly Food is registered as Community Interest Company 6815026. It is a not-for-profit social enterprise that offers carbon footprinting and low-cost participatory certification for farmers. Farmers can complete the free online carbon footprint calculator and then enter the "participatory certification" if they wish to market low carbon food to their customers.

The Climate Friendly Food tour venues are:

- Monday 12th October, 10.00am to 1.00 pm: Schumacher College, Dartington, Totnes
- Tuesday 13th October, 10.00am to 1.00pm: Shillingford Organics, Shillingford, Exeter
- Thursday 15th October, 10.00am to 1.00pm: Brown Cow Organics, Pilton, Glastonbury
- Friday 16th October, 10.00am to 1.00pm: Woodbarn Farm, Chew Magna, Bristol
- Friday 16th October, 5.00pm to 6.00pm: Bordeaux Quay, Harbourside, Bristol
- Saturday 17th October, 9.45am to 5.30pm: Schumacher lectures, Bristol

All events are free to attend, but donations will be appreciated to help cover costs of running the events. All events will have refreshments served, but an "organic lunch" is available (charged at cost) at the Schumacher College event.

As places are limited, please book on events by ringing Jenny Hall on 01744 894284 or e-mailing jenny@climatefriendlyfood.org.uk

About NESTA

www.nesta.org.uk

The National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) is the largest independent endowment in the UK and its mission is to support innovation to drive economic recovery and solve some of the UK's major social challenges.

NESTA is a world leader in its field and is in a unique position to support and promote innovation through a blend of practical programmes, policy and research, and investment in early-stage companies.

About Big Green Challenge Plus

www.biggreenchallenge.org.uk

The 17 projects selected for the Big Green Challenge Plus will receive up to £20,000 in funding, depending on the size and scale of the project, as well as a support package, which

together are worth a total of £600,000. All the funding is provided by DECC. The support package will be offered by NESTA and includes up to 10 days business advice, one-on-one expert project advice, attendance at workshops, and help from the University of East Anglia's Low Carbon Innovation Centre with monitoring carbon emissions. NESTA will administer the Big Green Challenge Plus. The groups which will receive new funding are not eligible for the £1 million prize from NESTA under the initial Big Green Challenge contest.