



# Community Eco-Challenge A Step in the Right Direction

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# Community Eco Challenge Project

To demonstrate how communities can contribute to two strategic objectives of the NI Sustainable Development Strategy

- Minimise the unsustainable impacts of consumption
- Stabilise Northern Ireland's ecological footprint by 2015 and reduce it thereafter



# Community Eco-Challenge Project

- SGEHC in partnership with WWF
- 2 year Duration
- £270k from DOE NI
- Partners
  - WWF
  - Investing for Health
  - Action Renewables
- 2 Officers on the ground



# Community Eco-Challenge Project

- Impact of Consumption
  - Local and Global
- Collaborative Action
- 5 Community Groups
  - 100 householders
  - urban, rural and social mix
- 9 Month engagement period





**Southern Group**  
Environmental Health Committee  
*a vision for the future*



# The 4 Big Hitters



**Food**

**Energy**



**Transport**

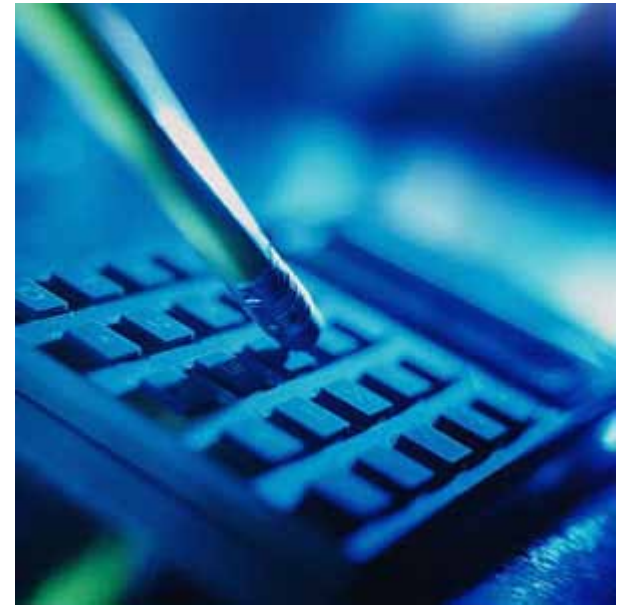


**Waste**



# Measure and Reduce

- Community Calculator
- Resource and Energy Analysis Programme



# Community Calculator

- What if ?
- Community Development
- Community Action
- Community Planning





# Food

## Groups achieved a footprint reduction of up to 15%

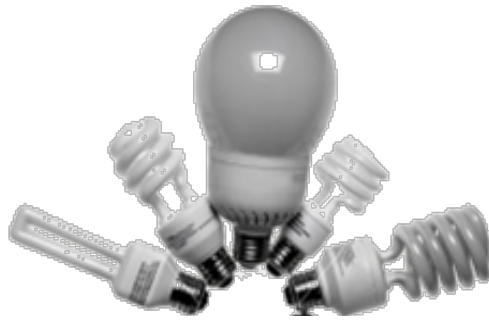
- **Buying more local/season produce**
- **Growing Organically**
  - **Financial barrier**
- **Approx 92 householders growing their own organic vegetables**
- **Saving approx £20 per week**
  - **Growing**
  - **Less waste**



# Energy

**Groups achieved a footprint reduction of up to 38%**

- Installing energy efficient light bulbs = £50 pa
- **50% householders saving** = **£17m pa** (58,000t CO<sub>2</sub>)
- Radiator foils + reduce thermostat = £89 pa
- **50% householders saving** = **£30m pa** (170,000t CO<sub>2</sub>)



# Energy

**Groups achieved a footprint reduction of up to 38%**

- **Also other energy saving techniques  
i.e. switch off stand by**

**= £37 pa**

- **50% Householders saving**

**= £12m pa (39,000t CO<sub>2</sub>)**



# Waste

**Groups achieved a footprint reduction of up to 26%**

- **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle message reinforced**
  - **Composting (Willowbank)**
  - **25% Wormeries**
  - **Reusable shopping bags**
  - **Reduced packaging**
  - **Recycling**
- 
- **Each household diverting 7 wheelie bins per year**
  - **50% householders- 2.4 million wheelie bins (60,000t)**



# Transport

**Groups achieved a footprint reduction of up to 58%**

- Promoted walking / cycling journeys under 2 miles
- Promoted Public Transport
- Partnered with Community Transport
- Promoted driving efficiently & car sharing
  - £10 per week saved driving more efficiently



# Big Steps to a Smaller Footprint

- Achieved a footprint reduction of up to 25%
- Groups committed to on-going changes that would reduce the footprint by up to 33% from the baseline

# Community Garden In Cullaville



**Cost**  
**£1,500**

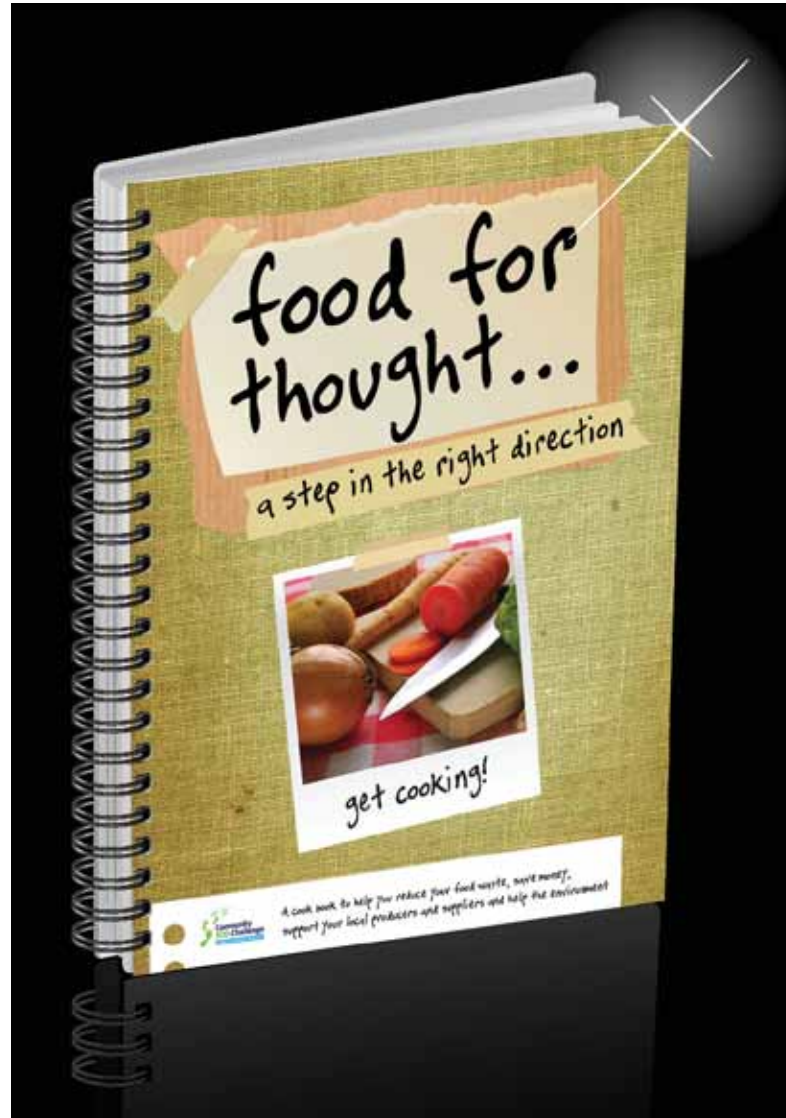
# Sustainable Transport Scheme



**Cost**  
**£5,200**



# Cook Book



**Cost**  
**£3,150**

# Waste

- Knitted items from industrial wool waste for a Children's Orphanage in Thailand
- Diverted waste from landfill
- **Cost £0**



# 2 Significant Issues

- **Climate Change**
- **Credit Crunch**



# Positive Impacts

- Improve Health and Well-being
- Stimulating Local Economic Development
- Supporting Rural Economy
- Waste Management
  - Improving recycling rates



# Invitation to take up the Community Eco Challenge

