

NEW PROJECT TO SAVE MONEY – AND ENERGY

FOLLOWING on from the success of their community carbon footprint project last year, the Teme Valley Environment Group – aimed at saving money, energy and the environment.

The average carbon footprint for the UK is 4.5 tonnes of carbon per person or 10.2 tonnes of carbon per household.

In Knighton and the Teme Valley the average carbon footprint 6.2 tonnes of carbon per person or 13.2 tonnes of carbon per household. The figures are so much higher than the national average is mainly due to a combination of so many properties not being on mains gas and that so many properties are old and draughty.

There is a lot that people can do to reduce their carbon footprint – and this

Knighton

new project, known as the Household Energy Service (HES), can help. Local volunteers are trained to come into people's homes and carry out an in-depth survey about how energy efficient the home is.

Following each survey a report is sent to the householder letting them know their latest carbon footprint and giving plenty of specific information about how to make their home more energy efficient. The surveys are free, although householders are asked to give a small donation if they can afford it.

Local volunteer Alice Goldstone said: "This is a really exciting project. At this time of year we are all getting our winter fuel bills, which can be very depress-

ing, and lots of companies are putting their gas and electricity prices up at the moment. The survey reports will give lots of information about how you can reduce your bills.

"Also we have recently seen some very unseasonable temperatures in Wales. This may be due to climate change, and becoming more energy efficient can help to combat this."

Rising

Alice also went on to say that peak oil is rising up a lot of people's agendas and is another reason to use energy as sustainable as possible. Peak oil refers to the point at which the world has got the optimum amount of oil out of the ground that they can, and production from then on starts to increase. This will almost certainly put fuel prices up even more.

HES is being provided by a new organisation called Light Foot and anybody who lives in the Knighton and Teme Valley area can request a survey.

More information and a sign-up form can be found at the Teme Valley Environment stand at the Farmers' Market tomorrow (Saturday).

Alternatively people can call Dave Green on (office) 01588 638738, (home) 01743 244150 or (mobile) 078 116 95102. e-mail daveg.hes@hotmail.co.uk