

the green page

News and information from the Hebden Bridge Alternative Technology Centre

ATC CONTACTS

HB Alternative Technology Centre,
Hebble End Mill, Hebden Bridge, HX7 6HJ.
Tel: Daytime: 01422-842121
Fax: 01422 84 31 41
info@alternativetechnology.org.uk
www.alternativetechnology.org.uk

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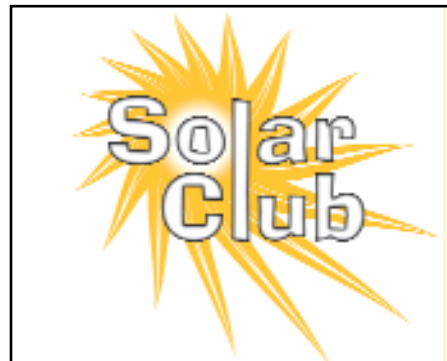
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This month's nomination for Green Room 101 has been submitted by Billy Frugal from Broughton Street in Hebden Bridge.

The subject of Billy's wrath is..... the DAIRY INDUSTRY.

The dairy industry is bad news.

First of all, it's bad news for cows. In order to produce milk for human consumption, cows are subjected to yearly pregnancies, losing their calves a few days after birth. The cow is then milked twice a day, including the 6 or 7 months that she spends pregnant with her next calf. Instead of producing a natural amount of milk, about 3 litres per day, she produces up to 30 litres for human consumption and her full udder can

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Even a simple definition is elusive, conjuring up more questions than answers. Being green is not about subscribing to every principle in some mythical charter. It is, I trust, a broad church, not a rule-bound clique. There should be room for many shades of green, various degrees of commitment. What about meat-eating cyclists? Vegetarians who smoke? Vegetarians who, bafflingly, reckon it's OK to eat chicken and bacon? People who drive five miles to the bottle bank and drive five miles

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There seems such a huge gap between who we are and who we would like to be. When the gap grows too wide, disillusion sets

in. We're tempted to close our eyes, cross our fingers, burrow under the duvet and hope the problems will go away.

So I doff my hat to whoever it was who first coined the motto 'Think globally, act locally'. We hear it so often that it's in danger of becoming just another cliché. Yet these four well-chosen words achieve the near-impossible: they bridge that yawning gap between thinking and doing, between the ideal and the pragmatic. Our contributions, however small, are important. Every little bit helps - whether it's planting a tree, buying FairTrade products or giving a few quid to Greenpeace.

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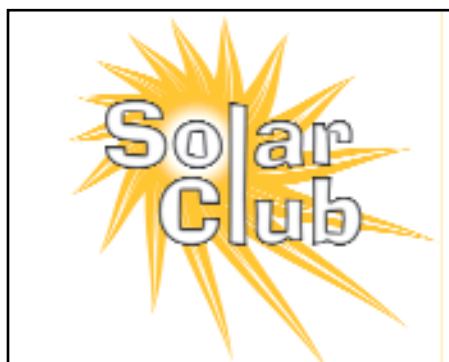
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