



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



News Service

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GREAT TREES PROJECT HOSTS 'GREEN' CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

Tree wardens reduce their carbon footprint

A CONFERENCE on Trees and Climate Change organised by the Great Trees of East Devon Project is to be attended by 80 Tree Wardens from around the South West on Saturday 6 October.

Fifteen of the delegates are travelling by train (10 have taken up the offer of free rail travel), while the rest are car-sharing, so reducing the impact their journey has on global warming.

Climate modeller Dr Debbie Hemming will be presenting the latest research from the Hadley Centre at the Met Office, while Dr Mark Broadmeadow of the Forestry Commission will be explaining the likely effects for trees and woodlands across the West Country.

The conference, at the University of Exeter's Reed Hall, will include seminars on choosing trees for the future, the impact of new woodlands, pests and diseases in a changing climate and sustainable planning.

Free tickets

In a move to encourage green transport, First Great Western have offered free tickets to the first 10 tree wardens to book for the conference, travelling by train. These have been snapped up by tree wardens from across the region, bringing down the conference's carbon footprint.

First Great Western are currently investing £150 million rebuilding their High Speed Trains including fitting the cleanest diesel engine in the world - reducing emissions by up to 60 per cent.

Organiser Kate Tobin, who runs the Great Trees project for East Devon District Council, said: "With First Great Western's sponsorship, providing a shuttle bus from the station and spending some time organising car-sharing, we plan to reduce the carbon footprint of the conference by 50%.

"It will be a fascinating day, with a very practical slant. There are still a few places left for tree wardens or community woodland volunteers. Contact us on 01395 517 557 to find out more".

Notes for Editors

The conference is being organised by the Great Trees of East Devon project on behalf of the Tree Council, who run the national tree warden scheme.

The Great Trees of East Devon project runs for 3 years until March 2008. It is hosted by East Devon District Council and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, East Devon AONB Partnership and Natural England.

Ends

For information, please contact:

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www.eastdevon.gov.uk