



environment

Global warming has been a hot topic, so to speak, for a number of years now. Reducing our carbon footprint is imperative. Whether we believe it could save the planet or not, we all have to admit that a majority of our lifestyles are out of balance. Reducing waste, regaining our connection with nature and caring about the bigger picture, could create a better future...

a splash of milk

by Viv Goodings

Recently, a friend bought a solar phone charger. This complex monocrystalline panel and moulded plastic box of chips and wires came all the way from China. It produces a tiny trickle charge. These type of amazing gizmos, gadgets and new technologies are seemingly produced to help us live 'more sustainably'. But despite their brilliance, they just encourage us to consume more.

As for me, I've just bought a doily. Lovingly hand-made by an old lady, it has glass beads sewn around the edge. Draped over my milk jug it keeps the flies off, brings a touch of sophistication and reminds me of my three golden rules for sustainable living.

1. Consume less stuff.
2. Lots of little changes make a massive difference.
3. Be grateful for everyday miracles like fresh milk, clean drinking water, electricity and a nice cuppa.

Open the fridge for a splash of milk, the dense cold air inside falls out and warm air goes in. The thermostat clicks and away down the power lines a little more coal burns and a little more CO2 creeps into the atmosphere.

Filling the milk jug once a day then leaving the fridge closed saves 250 watts of electricity. A kilo of coal produces around 2kw. There are more than 22 million households in the U.K.

If you like a tea-break challenge, forget sudoku and play with these numbers!



NOT STUPID!

One of this year's most talked about films, *The Age of Stupid*, is ready to go global!



After the success of the UK premiere in March 09 and the Australian and New Zealand premieres (19th Aug 09), Franny Armstrong (Director) and Team Stupid are now working tirelessly towards the global premiere. This one night event will be simulcast LIVE from a solar tent located in downtown New York to over 400 movie theatres across the U.S. on Monday, September 21st. For only one night, people from over 60 countries will gather together to experience *The Age of Stupid* and hear from a panel of experts about the effects, consequences and solutions regarding climate change.

The in-theatre event coincides with UN Climate Week, when 80 Heads of State will gather in New York. The premiere will include a live pre-show from the green carpet (made from recyclable soda bottles), the debut screening of the film, plus a panel discussion on the problem of climate change including the likes of Kofi Annan, Gillian Anderson, the film's director Franny Armstrong, the star of the film Pete Postlethwaite, and other leading thinkers, celebrities, and political figures from around the world. The evening will finish with a live performance by Radiohead's Thom Yorke.

The Age of Stupid was first released back in March and the incredible response to the film has encouraged the team to launch the Not Stupid Campaign. Not Stupid is a crowd-sourced drive to start taking action against climate change. There are plenty of ways to get involved, so head on over to www.notstupid.org and take a look. You can make a pledge to stop Ed Milliband commissioning another coal power station or support Piers Guy in his bid to install a windfarm capable of saving 5-12,000 tonnes of CO2 each year!

The Not Stupid Campaign is counting down to the decisive climate meeting in Copenhagen in December, which the Not Stupid team argue could be the most important meeting in human history. "Right now, the most ambitious plans being put forward by any rich nation would give us a 50% chance of avoiding catastrophic climate change. We think humanity deserves better," contends Franny Armstrong.

Visit www.ageofstupid.net/globalpremiere for more details about the global premiere and info on how to buy tickets.