

## WHAT WILL A LOW CARBON COMMUNITY LOOK LIKE?

What will people's lives be like? How will people get around?

What sort of industry and commerce will be thriving?

Very soon ...

- Quality of life is the new status symbol
- We will each have a personal carbon allowance, stored on a plastic card, which we will choose to use carefully for selected carbon-consuming activities (operating within national and international carbon cap and trade schemes)
- Environmentally-derived natural resources will all be priced at a realistic level, i.e. much higher than now, which will radically reduce consumption of material goods. More with less ...
- There will be no petrol driven cars – all private vehicles will be renewably powered or zero emission; the motorways will be closed to cars – fleets of coaches will take people from city to city
- The road building programme will be converted into a massive public transport expansion programme
- Several airports will close or their traffic will be substantially reduced
- Urban residential areas will be closed to car traffic and people will get around on foot, by bike, or by bus
- Children will all go to school by bus, bike or on foot.
- All houses will be carbon-neutral, retro-fitted with a package of insulation and technology – all suitable houses will have micro-generation, and there will be solar panels around local community sites
- Fuel poverty and its associated morbidity and mortality will be a thing of the past
- All houses will have visual displays giving information on carbon consumption
- There will be very little flying – perhaps a trip as a retirement present or a 21<sup>st</sup> birthday present
- Holidays will mainly be taken locally, giving time for arts and crafts, horticulture etc.
- There will be much more emphasis on local activities and community interactive events
- The obesity epidemic will be a thing of the past. People will be fitter, healthier and happier.

**A good panel question: what is the most life-enhancing thing that could come from a low-carbon society?**

**Some answers:**

All the things that matter to me in life are low-carbon: families, friends, communities, the arts. I look forward to the rediscovery of those joys.

Consuming more definitely does not make you happy. I will delight in the fact that less is more ...

I will grow my own veg and cook more ...

No more airport queues, no more traffic jams

Birdsong – and much more of it than now!