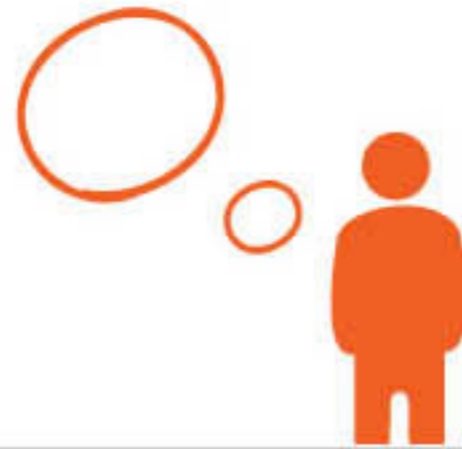


At energyrethinking we're helping each other to rethink how we can use energy differently to save money and do our bit for the environment.



energy



RHS Chelsea Flower Show

Gardens Matter at Chelsea



...and so do movie stars, apparently

But amid all the hooplah and celebrity endorsements, serious environmentalism came to the fore at this year's Chelsea Flower Show.

The Royal Horticultural Society(RHS) opened its annual flower and garden extravaganza with a new research report that put urban plants and gardens right in the thick of the energy efficiency movement and efforts to reduce urban warming.

The report, *Gardening Matters: Urban Gardens*, compiled by the RHS together with Reading and Sheffield Universities, suggests that urban gardens:

- can reduce both heating and air conditioning energy consumption by providing shelter and insulation
- reduce flood risks by absorbing rainwater and
- make an important contribution to bio-diversity.

Top ten urban garden tips from the RHS

Lead author Dr. Tijana Blanusa, explained the research was the first effort to unite UK and international research looking at how gardens affect air temperatures in cities and towns.

Dr. Roger Williams, RHS head of science, said, "We are now looking at plants in a slightly different way; in terms of the eco-system services they are providing in cities."

Among the report's findings, careful placement of plantings around buildings could reduce summer cooling energy costs by an estimated average of 30%... [Read more](#)

Also at Chelsea

Sustainable living was a big theme at the show. Gwyneth Paltrow was among the celebrities giving B&Q's vertical edible garden the once over. "The Power of Nature" by the Worcester, Bosch Group

Sustainability is in the bag

Eurostar upcycles

Eurostar managers will soon be sporting their colleagues' old uniforms and antimacassars on the job.

It's not an austerity measure but a clever "upcycling" scheme through which old Eurostar raincoats, uniform suit linings and train seat headrests have been turned into stylish bags.

This world first is part of the train operator's **Tread Lightly** commitment to sustainability. The programme emphasizes recycling and upcycling uniforms and train parts as well as sourcing supplies responsibly.



The bags, created with upcycling company Worn Again, were designed by **Benjamin Shine** and manufactured in Woolwich by **Barrow & Gale**, the traditional British bags manufacturer that makes Royal Maundy purses for HM the Queen.

Find out more about Upcycling

Shell Eco-Marathon

How far can you go on a litre of petrol?

That's what 3,000 student designers, student engineers and their teachers set out to discover when they competed in the Shell Eco-Marathon Europe at the Eurospeedway in Lausitz, Germany last week.

So how far did they go? Is 3688.2km on one litre impressive enough? How about 1,108 kilometres on 1 kWh. These are just a few of the astonishing

Electric Car Report

Do you have Range Anxiety?

Range anxiety has nothing to do with fear of wide open spaces so if that's your problem, you need to look elsewhere for therapy. But if worry about how far you can travel in an electric vehicle (EV) is keeping you from even considering one, we may have some information to help.

Range anxiety is how people in the motor trade refer to some people's fear that EVs simply won't have enough juice to get them where they're going. But some figures pulled together by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT), in their *Electric Car Guide 2011*, could calm those fears.



Plug and Play

Most pure electric cars available today - that's cars powered solely by batteries recharged with mains electricity - have a range of up to 100 miles. The average individual car journey in the UK, according to national statistics, is 8.6 miles and most drivers average no more than a total of 25 miles on a daily basis.

In fact, throughout Europe, according to a survey of France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the UK, more than 80% of Europeans drive less than 63 miles per day. So EVs are capable of a significant number of typical motor trips.

Watch for excerpts from this fascinating report in the coming weeks. Or visit the **SMMT website** to download your own copy of *Electric Car Guide 2011: Questions and Answers*.

Photo courtesy of Mitsubishi

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