

MP Launches 1500 Balloons to celebrate World Environment Day

The sky around Gateshead Millennium Bridge was awash with 1500 black balloons today as Newcastle and Gateshead Warm Zone's joined together to celebrate World Environment Day.

Each balloon released represented 10 tonnes of carbon emissions saved by the installation of energy efficiency measures in homes in Newcastle and Gateshead by the Warm Zones.

To date, the carbon savings in the areas amount to around 15,000 tonnes.

Tyne Bridge MP David Clelland attended the event as well as the Mayor of Gateshead; Councillor Maureen Goldsworthy and the Lord Mayor of Newcastle Councillor Diane Packham and several key politicians from both councils.

David Clelland said "It's very satisfying to see the work being done to reduce carbon emissions by the Warm Zones. It's up to everyone to do what they can to save energy and these projects go a long way to help us achieve that."

Both the Warm Zone projects aim to rescue thousands of people from fuel poverty - a condition where more than 10% of income is spent simply trying to stay warm - and to improve energy-efficiency and benefits take-up for all the homes in Newcastle and Gateshead.

Over the next four years, Warm Zone workers will visit more than 210,000 homes in both areas fitting free insulation, and in some cases even central heating, in homes that are eligible.

The Newcastle and Gateshead Warm Zone's are not for profit organisations working in partnership with Scottish Power, National Grid and the respective councils and housing companies of Newcastle and Gateshead.

Over the duration of the project, more than 210,000 homes will have been visited in Newcastle and Gateshead and it is thought that more than 75,000 households will benefit from free energy saving measures.

