

Community Climate Action Email May 2014

Welcome to the Community Climate Action newsletter, with all the latest news, events and resources in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. A special hello to new subscribers and thanks to those who have contributed items this month.

Eco Open Homes Events Almost Here!

I know we've told you about this lot of times before, but we're very excited! After months of preparation dozen of eco homes in and near Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire are set to open their doors to the public this month. Four events are taking place in and around the area:

- Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Eco Open Homes, 10th-18th May, <http://everybodys-talking.greenopenhomes.net>
- Transition West Bridgford Open Homes, 4th-18th May, <http://nottingham.greenopenhomes.net>
- Green Homes Sheffield, 12th April – 18th May, <http://sheffield.greenopenhomes.net>
- Loughborough Energy Efficient Homes, 17th-18th May, <http://loughborough.greenopenhomes.net/>

Technologies on display will include both the low-tech and inexpensive such as LED light bulbs, thermally lined curtains and DIY draught-proofing; and the high-tech such as solid wall insulation, solar panels, triple glazing, rainwater harvesting and ground source heat pumps. There are homes which are mid-refurbishment allowing you to see things that would normally be hidden and homes that are aiming for Passivhaus standard. There's even a community hydro project and some research show homes on a university campus.

Whatever your budget (even a non-existent one), no matter how much or how little time you have, and whether you've never done anything to make your home energy efficient before or you've already done quite a bit, there's something to inspire everyone.

Follow us:

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/ccan.network

Got Any News?

Most of the items in this newsletter are contributed by readers. If you have anything you'd like us to include in the June e-newsletter please send it to us by **Thursday 29th May**: ccan@mea.org.uk

A. Local Events

Warm, Wet and Windy

Thurs 1st – Sun 4th May

Cromford Wharf, Cromford Mills, Mill Lane, Cromford, Matlock, DE4 3RQ

This annual festival will feature a wide range of exciting events to raise awareness of climate change. Saturday's Family Day will include films, talks, music, stalls, demonstrations and displays. Lectures will cover key climate change and energy issues from some of the country's top experts and science communicators. On 3rd May a Transition Café event will see local groups gather to present on their activities before exchanging ideas and working out ways to support and help each other.

Full timetable: <http://cromfordmills.org.uk/content/warm-wet-and-windy-2014>

Transition West Bridgford Open Homes

4th-18th May

Organised by Transition West Bridgford

Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Eco Homes Open Event

10th-18th May

Organised by Marches Energy Agency

Homes across the two counties will be opening their doors to show you what they have done to save energy, money and the planet. See the item at the start of this newsletter for more information or visit the websites: www.everybodys-talking.org/ecohomes / www.wbecohouses.co.uk

Nursery Open Day

Sat 10th May, 10am - 3pm

Woodthorpe Park, NG5 4HA

Organised by Nottingham City Council

FREE entry

A chance to visit the council's plant nursery. Plants for sale, find out about wildlife-friendly gardening, planting activities and advice, and a chance to visit the beehives.

Forest Gardening Evening

Wed 21st May, 7pm

St Brides Farmhouse, Stanton Hill, Stanton by Bridge, DE73, 7NF

£7.50 to include food and a glass of wine or cider. Discounted to £5 if you bring a homemade drink to share.

Sarah will offer a guided tour of the forest garden planted two years ago. This will inspire you for your own forest garden (big or small) and to get involved in the planting at Whistlewood Common. Forest gardens are multi-layered, edible and productive woodland that you can create in a small garden or larger space. They are low maintenance and largely self-sustaining. Book your place:

admin@melbournetransition.org

Repair Café

14th June, 11am-3pm

Loundsley Green Fun Day, Chesterfield

Transition Chesterfield are looking for people with fixing skills to help out at a Repair Café. The community centre is in the middle of the area, so it will be possible for people to discover the café and go home to fetch an item to be repaired. If you can help, even for part of the day, contact hello@transitionchesterfield.org.uk

Anti Fracking Events

Anti Fracking Speaker Training

Tues 6th May, 7pm. Mattersey, North East Bassetlaw

Organised by Frack Free Nottinghamshire, Email jeanniethompson2@aol.com

Lush Nottingham Anti Fracking Day

Sat 10th May, 9am-4pm. Frack Free Notts have been invited to hold a stall in Lush's shop to promote the group to customers. If you're interested in helping out, please email frackfreenotts@gmail.com. www.facebook.com/events/1452850511616471

Frack Free Notts Meeting

Tues 13th May, 7pm. Govindas Restaurant, Thurland St, Nottingham

Bassetlaw Fracking Awareness Public Meetings

Tues 20th May - Everton, Tues 21st May - Mattersey

Misson, Beckingham, Harworth/Bircotes, Tuxford are all TBC. Please get in touch if you would like to attend: frackfreenotts@gmail.com

Fracking Freak Out Benefit Gig

Sat 24th May, 4pm-10pm, The Chameleon Arts Cafe, Angel Row, Nottingham.

www.facebook.com/events/428221137314112

B. Local News

Transition Chesterfield Win 'Community Group of the Year'

Congratulations to Transition Chesterfield who recently won Community Group of the Year at the Derbyshire Times Award.

www.derbyshiretimes.co.uk/news/grassroots/inspiring-derbyshire-heroes-pick-up-pride-awards-1-6543765

Community Woodland Planning Application

Whistlewood Common, a community-owned woodland, have applied for planning permission for a number of items including a timber-framed roundhouse, compost toilets, disabled parking and the creation of a pond. You can write a comment in support of this application: www.planning.south-derbys.gov.uk/ApplicationDetail.aspx?Ref=9/2014/0329

www.whistlewoodcommon.org

£35K on Offer From Nottingham Post

The Nottingham Post have teamed up with the Nottingham Building Society to give away £35,000 to the local community. Applications are being accepted from 150 local causes on a first-come-first-served basis. Every organisation/group will receive a share of the prize pot. Coupons will be printed in the Nottingham Post from 2nd June to 28th June which anyone can collect.

Each registered group will receive a share of the £32,000 prize fund, based upon the proportion of the total coupons they collect. The three groups that collect the most coupons will each receive an additional £1k. In order for your coupons to count you must be registered, so make sure you register now to claim your share of £35,000. www.nottinghampost.com/Grab-share-35-000-group/story-20929014-detail/story.html

C. National News

EVENT: Green Homes Sheffield

12th April – 18th May

Visit all kinds of energy efficient homes in Sheffield.

<http://sheffield.greenopenhomes.net>

EVENT: Loughborough Energy Efficient Homes

17th- 18th May

Visit homes across Loughborough and Charnwood which have had energy efficiency measures and domestic renewables installed.

<http://loughborough.greenopenhomes.net/>

TRAINING: Communities Training

Organised by Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE)
Bristol, Free

CSE are organising free training for members of community group to gain new skills they can use to benefit their local area.

- Basic energy assessment of a community building: Wed 30 April, 10am-1pm
- Understanding switching tariffs: Wed 11 June, 3:30-5:30
- Draught proofing workshop: Wed 16 July, 3:30-5:30

The first session on 30 April will focus on how to carry out a walk-around audit using a checklist, identifying potential building improvements and creating an action plan to prioritise recommendations. The sessions are free for members of community organisations and will be held at our offices in Bristol. Further details:

communities@cse.org.uk

EVENT: Community Energy Fortnight

13th-28th September

The Community Energy Fortnight is an opportunity to explore and celebrate communities generating, owning and saving energy, featuring events across the UK. This year's 'lowering bills' theme will showcase how communities are working together to help those most in need to save energy and alleviate fuel poverty. If you have an event scheduled for this fortnight, or want to set one up, it will feature on the Community Energy Coalition website (www.ukceec.org) and you'll receive an event information pack (including posters, fact sheets etc. Email communityenergy@forumforthefuture.org to get involved.

In 2013, events included a walking tour of mountain hydroelectric schemes in Snowdonia, a visit to Westmill wind farm and solar park, as well as workshops on community heat and making DIY solar panels for low-income groups.

www.ukceec.org

EVENT: It's Time to Act!

Thurs 29th May, Doors: 6:30pm, event: 7pm-9pm
Quaker Meeting House, S1 2EW

A discussion led by Suzanne Jeffery from the National Campaign Against Climate Change. The Time to Act! Campaign sets out to build a base, aiming to bring the political pressure needed to commit Government and the European Commission to a carbon-free future.

www.campaigncc.org/timetoact / www.facebook.com/campaigncc

EVENT: Power Shift UK: Breaking Down the Barriers and Diversifying the Climate Movement

Sat 3 & Sun 4 May 2014
UCL, London
FREE

Join Campaign against Climate Change and Power Shift UK for a weekend of talks, strategy-building workshops and an opportunity to link up with groups and communities in a growing movement across the UK and the world. Speakers confirmed from Friends of The Earth, Occupy London and many more.

<http://world.350.org/uk-gps/2014/04/03/get-ready-for-action-at-power-shift-uk-2/>

NEWS: Renewable Heat Incentive Launches

The domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) has finally launched, offering homeowners payments for heated generated through renewable mean in their homes. RHI is a world first and covers solar thermal panels, biomass and heat pump (ground, air and water). The scheme is open to home owners, social and private landlords, and people who build their own homes. It is available to households both on and off the gas grid.

www.gov.uk/government/news/new-scheme-offers-cash-incentive-to-households-using-renewable-heating-systems-in-their-homes

WEBSITE: Start a Petition!

350 Campaigns is a website which allows anyone to start an online campaign to help solve the climate crisis. <http://campaigns.350.org/>

FUNDING & ADVICE: Pure Leapfrog

Pure Leapfrog provides social investment and professional support to community energy projects in the UK. They have provided low cost loans and professional support to over 100 community energy projects. This has included the first social housing solar PV project by a community project and the first community-owned LED project. They have also supported a project in Mansfield:

www.pureleapfrog.org/filelibrary/Case%20Studies/Mansfield-Bowling-Club---Pure-Leapfrog.pdf

www.pureleapfrog.org

GRANT: Western Power Distribution Community Chest – funding still up for grabs

The WPD Community Chest closes its lid on Friday 30 May. So far grants have been given for loft insulation, draught proofing, LED lighting, energy efficient doors, secondary glazing, heating system improvements and more.

If you know of a community building that could benefit from any of these things, or any other energy improvements, then encourage them to get an application in before it's too late! The maximum grant is £1,000 and funding cannot be used towards paying for something much more expensive. To check eligibility and to find out more visit www.cse.org.uk/wpdcc or email wpdcc@cse.org.uk.

GRANT: Green Open Home Grants Still Available

Grants are now available for green open home events taking place at any point during 2014. Eligibility includes organisers who also belong to the Federation of Open Homes.

www.greenopenhomes.net/support-for-organisers/competition

National News in Brief

- Share offer for community solar scheme: www.brendonenergy.org
- UK launches Europe's first dedicated solar strategy: www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-solar-pv-strategy-part-1-roadmap-to-a-brighter-future
- Conservatives would end support for onshore wind if they win the next general election: <http://publicsectorenergy.memberise.com/news/view/tories-confirm-plans-to-scrap-onshore-wind-subsidies-648>

- Town and Parish Councils want power to sell electricity: <http://publicsectorenergy.memberise.com/news/view/town-and-parish-councils-call-for-new-energy-powers-645>
- New report on food waste: <http://england.lovefoodhatewaste.com/blog/2014/04/house-lords-releases-report-morally-repugnant-food-waste>
- Green Gas to heat 30,000 homes next year: www.greengas.org.uk/news