

Community Climate Action Email August 2015

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.

From the Editor:

In a month where the government have announced cut after cut to a green policies (see national news section) it's easy to get disheartened. Yet there's plenty going on locally to be heartened by – why not attend one of the summer events in our Local Events section or do some summer reading? COIN have recently published a [free guide](#) to communicating climate change that can be read in less than an hour and gave me new ideas for fresh ways to talk about these issues.

Thank you to everyone who completed our survey on a possible community conference. We'll have more on the results in the autumn, and in the meantime two people won a book in our prize draw!

Happy Summer!
Caroline

Get news throughout the month:

www.everybodys-talking.org

Twitter: @CCANNetwork

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 September e-newsletter please send it to us by **Monday 31st August**: ccan@mea.org.uk

A. Local Events

Stop Gas Drilling in Calow – Gather at a Planning Inspection

Tuesday 4th August, 10am

Exact location on website

Organised by CAGE

Calow Against Gas Extraction (CAGE) are asking people to gather at the proposed entrance to a site of gas extraction at the same time as an inspection by the Planning Inspectorate to show support for refusing an appeal. An application for gas extraction was refused by Derbyshire County Council but the company who would like to extract gas have made an appeal. CAGE believes that fossil fuels need to be left in the ground to prevent dangerous climate change.

www.calowagainstgasextraction.org.uk

Conservation Day at Bestwood Country Park

Thursday 13th August 2015, 10am-3pm

Bestwood Country Park, NG6 8TQ

Free

Get involved at this beautiful park and see some wildlife along the way. Meet at the classroom near Alexandra Lodge to join in with various tasks across the park. Bring a packed lunch and stout footwear and dress for the weather. All tools and gloves are provided.

Booking is required: 0115 927 3674 or bestwood.country.park@nottsc.gov.uk

Mastin Moor Allotments and Garden Open Day

Sunday 16th August, 12pm – 4pm

Access to the site is from Worksop Road, Chesterfield

Free entry

In celebration of National Allotments Week, Mastin Moor is opening its allotments and gardens to the public. There will be a falconry display, face painter, barbeque, bouncy castle and so much more, so go along for 'allot' of fun!

www.mmaauk.plus.com

Seed Saving Workshop

Monday 17th August, 7pm - 9pm

Saints Parish Centre, Chesterfield, S41 7TD

Organised by Transition Chesterfield

Alan Booth, a local Seed Guardian for Garden Organic's Heritage Seed Library, will give a talk and demonstration covering such subjects as why save seed, basic botany for seed savers, preserving varieties and seed storage. He will focus on peas, beans and tomatoes as examples and hopes to provide a free booklet on seed saving guidance. All welcome, no need to book.

www.transitionchesterfield.org.uk

Community Grant Giveaway

Monday 17th August, 1:30pm-3pm

Ambey Valley CVS, 33 Market Place, Ripley

Does your Amber Valley-based group need funding for a project? Community groups can apply for £100-£1000. Contact Collette Watson: 01773 512076.

Nottingham Green Festival

Sunday 6th September

Arboretum Park, NG7 4HF

Free entry

Enjoy free live music, outdoor entertainment and community stalls with refreshments, ethical products and energy-saving technologies and information. The event is organised by community-based volunteers, with no statutory funding.

www.veggies.org.uk/events/nottingham-green-festival/

Hockerton Housing Project Tour

Saturday 19th September, 2pm-5pm

Hockerton Housing Project, Gables Drive, Hockerton, Southwell, Nottinghamshire, NG25 0QU

Intrigued by what an earth-sheltered home might look, or feel like, inside? Or wanting an overview of what it is to live sustainably? Join one of Hockerton Housing Project's small group tours, which are led by a resident of the project.

www.hockertonhousingproject.org.uk/how-we-help-you/sustainable-living-tours/

Theatre: Baked Alaska

Thursday 24th September, 7 for 7.30pm

Melbourne Assembly Rooms, High Street, Melbourne DE73 8G

Tickets £12, Concessions £9

From the four corners of the earth come inter-connecting stories of human beings living with the wild, unpredictable effects of climate change. Through the richly entertaining world of Baked Alaska, the realities of climate change are served up with flair and clarity. Riding Lights have created an inspiring show which is challenging but fun, urgent but hopeful.

Tickets from: melbournefestival.co.uk/events/baked-alaska/ / 07962 430450 / info@melbournefestival.co.uk

B. Local News

Job Vacancy: Nottinghamshire Warm Homes on Prescription - Programme Manager

The Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Local Authorities' Energy Partnership (LAEP) is looking for an experienced and highly motivated individual to develop and manage the delivery of a Nottinghamshire-wide 'Healthy Housing' affordable warmth programme. The post holder will be an experienced project manager, with the ability to develop excellent working relationships. Newark and Sherwood District Council is recruiting and hosting this full-time post on behalf of the (LAEP). Closing date: 5pm on Friday 14th August 2015

<http://bit.ly/1eCQTAq>

Job Vacancy: Community Food Hub Development Officer

South Derbyshire CVS is looking for an enthusiastic and self-motivated person, to establish and develop a local Community Food Hub. The ideal candidate will have good organisational and communication skills as well as experience of developing new projects, supporting community groups and working with volunteers. Closing date: Monday 10th August 2015 at 9a.

www.sd cvs.org.uk/vacancies

Enter the Nottingham Post Environmental Awards

Are you taking action to help the local environment in Nottingham or do you know someone who is? Then why not nominate them for the Nottingham Post Environmental Awards? This is a great chance for community groups, individuals and organisations in Nottinghamshire who are taking action on climate change and other environmental issues to get their work recognised.

[Enter now](#), read about some of the [entries already made](#), or find out what difference an award has made to some of [last year's winners](#). Nominations close on 28th August at midday.

Get Involved In the Derbyshire Cycling Plan Consultation

The draft Derbyshire Cycling Plan aims to get more people on bikes by 2025, to improve health, develop the economy, reduce air congestion and increase social inclusion. Take a look at the draft plan and complete a short questionnaire:

www.derbyshiresport.co.uk/derbyshirecyclingplan

Helping Rhubarb Farm Harvest Water

Rhubarb Farm, an environmental and social enterprise in Langwith, is hoping to save 66,000 litres of water per year by installing a water tank and pump in order to harvest water from their polytunnels. This will make a big difference to their mains water use, save the enterprise money in the long run and lessen their environmental impact. Nottingham University's Environmental Technology Centre have agreed to pay for 40% of the cost of the tank and pump, but Rhubarb Farm still needs to raise another £3043. The project uses a therapeutic organic horticulture to benefit a wide range of people.

www.rhubarbfarm.co.uk/donations/index.php

IGas Application For Borehole Monitoring

Frack Free Nottinghamshire is encouraging people living in the county to object to an application from IGAs Ltd to drill and install boreholes in four locations. The group believe this is a precursor to asking for permission to frack wells in the area and that the boreholes could also be used in the future to store nuclear waste.

<http://frackfreenotts.org.uk/take-action/monitoring-application/>

Better Derbyshire Dales Fund

Grants are available to support the work of new or existing community and voluntary groups or organisations that are working within the Derbyshire Dales to develop or strengthen communities and people's health and well-being. Up to £1000 is available for revenue projects and up to £5000 for capital projects. Forthcoming deadlines are 3rd August and 2nd November. Projects categories include those which improve the local environment and projects to improve the energy efficiency of venues.

<http://ddcvs.org.uk/projects/better-derbyshire-dales-fund>

C. National News

News:

Eco Home Owners Wanted To Appear In New BBC Series

Have you ever fancied a Home Swap Holiday? BBC One are looking for families, couples and friends who live in flats/homes in across the UK and would be happy to try a three day home swap holiday for TV series *Home Away From Home*. Do you live in a home or flat you'd be happy to swap with someone elsewhere in the UK for a short break? Would you like to see someone else experience the eco way of life whilst you have a three day break in a different area. This would be a good way to show off an Eco House and a sustainable way of living. Filming dates are three days before the end of August.

Contact: email mario.louis@bbc.co.uk or call 020 8008 3573 / www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04ks591

'Climate Change Should Be Taken As Seriously As Nuclear War' – UK Minister

Baroness Joyce Anelay, Minister of State at the Commonwealth and Foreign Office, has said in a foreword to a foreign office report that the threat of climate change should be taken as seriously as that of nuclear war. The report assesses the potential dangers of unchecked global warming, which include: threats to global security, an increased risk of terrorism, lethal heat levels and unprecedented migration levels.

www.csap.cam.ac.uk/projects/climate-change-risk-assessment

DECC Faces 90% Cuts to Staff Budget

The UK's Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) faces cuts of 90% to its 'resource spending', much of which is its staff budget, within three years. Eight leading energy academics have written to Oliver Letwin, the minister in charge of the cabinet, to express concern that the cuts could undermine the UK's ability to deliver climate policy.

www.green-alliance.org.uk/resources/What%20new%20spending%20reductions%20could%20mean%20for%20DECC.pdf

DECC Announces FIT Consultation

DECC have announced a consultation into a number of proposed policy changes, the most significant of which for community groups is the removal of preliminary accreditation under the feed-in-tariff (FIT). Preliminary accreditation allows potential projects to know what rate of FIT they will receive before their project is commissioned and critics fear that removing this will create a level of uncertainty that stops projects going ahead. Responses to the consultation must be made by 19th August.

www.bit.ly/1lmwQIJ

Report Looks Into Selling Energy Locally

Local communities could break the domination of the 'Big Six' energy companies by generating their own power and supplying it back to local people, according to a new report written by leading south west law firm Stephens Scown and RegenSW. The report calls on government and regulators to change the rules to enable local energy supply models to flourish.

www.bit.ly/1SFCKt6

Government Ends Support For Flagship Programme for Energy Efficient Homes

The government has announced it will cut all further funding to the Green Deal Finance Company, and also end grants for solid wall insulation and other energy efficiency measures. This is likely to lead to the company immediately halting the issuing of new loans.

The Green Deal offered loans to help people install measures such as insulation, boilers and renewables. The government launched it in 2013 claiming it would create the 'biggest home improvement programme since the second world war'. In reality, an upfront cost for an assessment and an uncompetitive interest rate has meant that only 15,000 loans have been issue or are currently in progress. The Green Deal Home Improvement Fund (GDHIF) offered grants of up to £6000 at one point for solid wall insulation and up to £1250 for householders who installed two measures from a list of 11, plus further funding for people who had recently bought their house.

The government says it still has a target to insulate more than 1 million homes in the next five years but it currently has no specific plans for replacing the Green Deal or the GDHIF. It says it will now work with the building industry and consumer groups on a 'new value-for money approach.'

A longer version of this article: <http://bit.ly/1lsf504>

Ending Fuel Poverty Requires More Energy Efficiency

A report from National Energy Action has found that eliminating fuel poverty in the UK is achievable but only if the scale of investment in domestic energy efficiency is increased. NEA believe the government must support the use of revenues from domestic energy customers or public infrastructure funds to adequately resource initiatives across the UK that make homes warmer and healthier and in turn encourage economic growth.

www.nea.org.uk/policy-and-research/publications/2015/fuel-poverty-monitor-2015

Resources

Ways to Communicate Climate Change More Effectively

Have you ever struggled with the communication of climate change uncertainties? Are you frustrated by climate sceptics using uncertainty – inherent in any area of complex science – as a justification for delaying policy responses? COIN has

published [a free guide](#) to help you communicate the risks of climate change more effectively. Useful for when you're having a discussion with your friends! The Uncertainty Handbook can be [downloaded for free](#).

COIN will be launching the guide with a [webinar](#) on 9th September.

New Neighbourhood Planning Handbook

The Centre for Sustainable Energy has released a new, free Neighbourhood Planning handbook, a guide for communities who are interested in getting involved with writing a low carbon neighbourhood plan for their local area.

www.cse.org.uk/neighbourhood-planning-guidebook

Funding:

Urban Community Energy Fund

The Urban Community Energy Fund (UCEF) is a £10m fund to kick-start renewable energy generation projects in urban communities across England. Community groups will be able to access grants and loans to support the development stages of a renewable energy project that will bring significant benefits to the local community. The next application deadline is the 25th September.

www.gov.uk/urban-community-energy-fund

Free Energy Audit & Measures For SMES

British Gas are offering micro-businesses a free on-site energy survey and full-funded installation of measures up to £6K. Measures could include LED light, a boiler replace or new insulation. Businesses must have less than 10 employees. For other criteria see the website:

www.britishgas.co.uk/business/energyefficiencyfund

Grassroots Giving 2015 Open For Applications

Grassroots Giving 2014 saw Skipton Building Society donate a total of £80,500 to 161 community groups across the UK. This year they have £81,000 to help 162 community groups.

www.skiptongrg.co.uk/apply-for-funding/

People's Postcode Community Grants Programme

The People's Postcode Community Grants Programme exists to support projects of up to one year in length that deliver a positive impact to local communities. The current funding round closes Thursday 6th August.

www.postcodecommunitytrust.org.uk/community-grants.htm

Awards for All England Funding

Awards for All provides groups with an easy way to access small Lottery grants of between £300 and £10,000.

<http://bit.ly/1kuVJAC>

Find a Grant on Funding Central

Looking for a grant but not sure where to begin? Funding Central is a free guide to funding opportunities for community organisations.

www.fundingcentral.org.uk/default.aspx

Events

Green Open Homes Network Events

Bristol, Friday 7th August (www.bit.ly/1LFtprn)

Manchester, Friday 14th August (www.bit.ly/1IkCAMW)

The Green Open Homes network is hosting two events this August to give open home event organisers an opportunity to meet, share tips and learn skills to make their event a success.

Community Energy Conference 2015

Saturday 5th September 2015

Saïd Business School, Oxford University

Organised by Co-operative Energy

Free entry

Whether you're starting out in the world of community energy or you want to get up and running but don't quite know how, this event is for you. Like-minded, eco-conscious individuals from across the country will be coming together to share their tips and best practice. It's a great opportunity to gain knowledge and network.

<http://bit.ly/1laS7LD>

Community Energy Fortnight

5th-20th September

Organised by Community Energy Coalition and Co-operative Energy

The Community Energy Fortnight will run from 5th-20th September with events up and down the UK – from seeing inside a wind turbine to building your own solar panel.

www.ukcec.org/community-energy-fortnight

Join the Big Pathwatch

The Ramblers Association are asking people to walk all the footpaths on a 1km square of an OS map and report back any problems (Fallen trees, wonky bridges, locked gates etc). They will then try to fix them.

www.ramblers.org.uk/get-involved/join-the-big-pathwatch.aspx

Awards

Green Alley Award

Are you a green start-up or eco-entrepreneur with a brilliant idea in the green and circular economy sector? Then apply now for the Green Alley Award 2015. The Green Alley Award is Europe's first start-up competition focused on the circular economy. Green Alley is looking for great green ideas, new services, products and technologies that can turn waste into a resource. In return we offer strategic support, networking opportunities and financing to boost your business across Europe. Deadline: 15th September.

<http://green-alley-award.com>

Surveys

Survey on Switching Energy Suppliers

Stuart Turvey is working on a dissertation relating to switching energy suppliers. If you have three minutes please complete his online questionnaire by [clicking here](#).

News in Brief

- Heatwaves to become the norm in Nottinghamshire?: <http://bit.ly/1ItS7Kq>
- Nottingham's air pollution problems: www.leftlion.co.uk/articles.cfm/title/cycling-in-nottingham--july/id/7545
- Survey on reducing household waste: www.everybodys-talking.org/news/survey-reducing-household-waste
- Annual update on fuel poverty released: 4.5 million households unable to adequately heat home: <http://bit.ly/1LSVEmB>
- Committee on Climate Change Releases its first report to parliament: <http://bit.ly/1LZvbFx>
- Government scraps the 2016 Zero Carbon Housing Target: <http://bit.ly/1J9mLoC>