

## Community Climate Action Email January 2012

Welcome to the latest edition of Community Climate Action, with all the latest news, events and resources in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. A special hello to new subscribers and those who responded to last month's newsletter to tell us that you'd read it. Reassuringly there were lots of you!

**Did you know that around 300 people subscribe to this e-newsletter? If you know someone who would appreciate receiving it why not forward this edition to them and ask them to email [cgan@mea.org.uk](mailto:cgan@mea.org.uk) to subscribe to future editions (they should use the title 'subscribe' and include their name, email address and the name of any climate change community group they belong to). It helps us if each reader subscribes individually as we then know how many people are reading the newsletter.**

### From the Editor....

*Happy New Year!*

*I'm just starting to think about what vegetables to grow (or try to grow!) in my garden during 2012. Whether your new year's resolutions involve being green-fingered, or making your lifestyle or community more green, there's bound to be an event, resource, scheme or source of funding mentioned in this edition of the newsletter to inspire you and help you get going. If you're running an event in your own community please let us know – we'd love to include it in a future edition of our newsletter.*

*Something that always inspires me is to find out what others have been up to (maybe I'm just nosey!) If you'd like to share a community project you've run with others – and get some publicity for yourselves at the same time - why not fill out the attached 'Case Study' form and we will add it to our website to help inspire others: [www.everybodys-talking.org/communities-area/community-projects-case-studies](http://www.everybodys-talking.org/communities-area/community-projects-case-studies).*

Caroline

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### **A. Local Events**

#### **Melbourne Forest Gardening Day**

14<sup>th</sup> January, 9:45am-3pm

St Brides Farmhouse, Stanton Hill, near Melbourne DE73 7NF

£10, to include home-cooked hot lunch

Organised by Melbourne Area Transition: [www.melbournetransition.org](http://www.melbournetransition.org)

Book tickets: Sarah on 07930 470565 or [admin@melbournetransition.org](mailto:admin@melbournetransition.org)

A fun and informative day of Forest Gardening at a Forest Garden being newly created near Melbourne in the National Forest. Come and find out what a forest garden is and how you can incorporate elements of an organic, edible, low-maintenance food forest in your own garden. Hear too about Melbourne Area Transition's other ambitious projects in the National Forest.

A practical day of learning and planting, with a farmhouse kitchen lunch, suitable for adults and children over 12 of all gardening abilities. Please bring wellies, gloves and warm clothes, and, if possible, a spade.

#### **Chesterfield Potato Day 2012**

28<sup>th</sup> January 2012, 10am-2pm

The Pavements Shopping Centre, Chesterfield

Organised by Transition Chesterfield.

For more information: [food@transitionchesterfield.org.uk](mailto:food@transitionchesterfield.org.uk)

A chance to buy your seed potatoes (and onions, garlic and shallots) and raise money for Transition Chesterfield at the same time. 44 varieties of potatoes will be available.

[www.transitionchesterfield.org.uk/sites/default/files/potato%20day%202012.pdf](http://www.transitionchesterfield.org.uk/sites/default/files/potato%20day%202012.pdf)

#### **'Low Energy Homes on Show' Exhibition**

21<sup>st</sup> January 2012, Exhibition: 10am-1pm, Tours: afternoon

St Paul's Church, Bounday Road, West Bridgford

Organised by 'Eco Houses Under Construction' – a project of Transition West Bridgford

No need to book, but it will help with catering: [info@wbecohouses.co.uk](mailto:info@wbecohouses.co.uk).

A free exhibition with information about a variety of eco houses including an internally insulated stone coach house, a typical solid wall brick house (super-insulated externally), a zero-carbon barn conversion and two local new builds.

From 10am until 1pm there will be displays and talks featuring each house. During the afternoon, there will be the chance to visit some of the houses featured and put questions to the home owners, architects, builders and product experts who worked on these projects.

[www.wbecohouses.co.uk](http://www.wbecohouses.co.uk)

### **Workshop: Introduction to Renewable Energy for Your Home**

The Carriage Shop, Derby College

Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 6pm-9pm

Free to anyone living in Nottinghamshire or Derbyshire.

Book by emailing: [caroline.harmon@mea.org.uk](mailto:caroline.harmon@mea.org.uk)

Organised by Marches Energy Agency. Funded by the Local Authorities Energy Partnership.

A chance to find out about more about:

- The different renewable technologies available for domestic buildings.
- How they work and which buildings they are suitable for.
- The costs and benefits (both environmental and financial) involved.
- The different funding options available.
- Community Bulk Purchase Schemes – how they work and how they could benefit you and your community.

[www.everybodys-talking.org/workshop-introduction-renewable-energy-your-home](http://www.everybodys-talking.org/workshop-introduction-renewable-energy-your-home)

### **Study Tour: Creative Energy Homes Project**

University Of Nottingham

Wed 7th March 2012, 2pm-approx.3:30pm

Free to anyone living in Nottinghamshire or Derbyshire.

Book by emailing: [caroline.harmon@mea.org.uk](mailto:caroline.harmon@mea.org.uk)

Organised by Marches Energy Agency. Funded by the Local Authorities Energy Partnership.

JUST A FEW PLACES LEFT

A chance to visit four innovative energy efficient homes built for research purposes at the University of Nottingham. The project aims to stimulate sustainable design ideas and promote new ways of providing affordable, environmentally sustainable housing that are innovative in their design.

One home is a replica 1930's house, subsequently updated to show how retrofit measures can improve a home's energy efficiency. Another aims to be as eco friendly as possible, but also affordable. A third reflects an aim to build an energy efficient masonry home that can be mass produced. We will be able to go inside some of the houses and observe others from the outside.

[www.everybodys-talking.org/study-tour-creative-energy-homes-project-0](http://www.everybodys-talking.org/study-tour-creative-energy-homes-project-0)

## **B. Local News**

### **Community Buying Scheme for Heating Oil in Derbyshire**

In last month's e-newsletter we highlighted a bulk purchase heating oil scheme in Nottinghamshire. A similar scheme exists in Derbyshire. Run by Rural Action Derbyshire it allows Derbyshire residents to benefit from cheaper prices per litre of oil by buying at the same time as others in their area. As with the Nottinghamshire scheme householders can also purchase a minimum of 500 litres of oil instead of 1000 litres without incurring extra delivery charges.

[www.ruralactionderbyshire.gov.uk/oil](http://www.ruralactionderbyshire.gov.uk/oil)

### **Community Action Grants Available in Derbyshire**

Derbyshire County Council are offering Community Action Grants of up to £1,000 to help small groups run projects that improve life in their local community. Groups are invited to apply anytime up until 14 December 2012. The council considers applications every three months and the next deadline is 27 January 2012.

[www.derbyshire.gov.uk/community/lottery\\_funding/cag/default.asp?vd=cag](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/community/lottery_funding/cag/default.asp?vd=cag)

### **C. National News**

#### **LEAF Funding Available – DEADLINE: 20<sup>th</sup> January**

Community groups have until 20<sup>th</sup> January to apply for government funding which is available to communities in England and Wales who are playing an active role in the development of a low carbon society. Money is available to finance projects that increase understanding and uptake of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies and help to make energy supply secure and affordable for everyone in your community. Interested groups can submit an online application.

[www.greencommunitiescc.org.uk](http://www.greencommunitiescc.org.uk)

#### **Low Carbon Community Network Conference**

14<sup>th</sup> January, 9am start.

King's Conference Centre, Oxford

Free. Please pre-book: [www.lowcarboncommunities.net](http://www.lowcarboncommunities.net)

Financial assistance for travel costs available for those who need support

This conference will focus on how we can develop strong local coalitions or groupings that link community level action to councils, to emerging community energy groups and social enterprises, to academics and to large and small private sector bodies active in the area. We've got a developing list of great speakers and workshops and we're still open to ideas.

[www.lowcarboncommunities.net](http://www.lowcarboncommunities.net)

#### **Successful Legal Challenge to FITS**

Friends of the Earth and two solar installers have successfully challenged the government's decision to cut FIT rates by half before ending a consultation on the issue.

Andy Atkins, Friends of the Earth's Executive Director said: 'We hope this ruling will prevent ministers rushing through damaging changes to clean energy subsidies - giving solar firms a much-needed confidence boost.'

The government have since confirmed that they intend to appeal the decision this week. Greg Barker of the Department for Energy and Climate Change tweeted that 'Budget means 4 every 1 new taker @ 43p, 2 homes won't get it at 21p.' He also pointed out that: 'many installers r telling us @ 21p solar pv still makes sense for right home.'

Critics of the government's decision have pointed out that it has caused local authorities and community groups to cancel schemes for social housing and community buildings despite having already put in lots of work on these projects.

[www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/success\\_stories/legal\\_challenge\\_win\\_34270.html](http://www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/success_stories/legal_challenge_win_34270.html)  
[www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/jan/03/solar-subsidy-confusion-government-appeal](http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/jan/03/solar-subsidy-confusion-government-appeal)

## **Final CSEP Funding Round for Community Buildings**

The Community Sustainable Energy Programme (CSEP) has opened a final round of funding. It will accept applications for capital grants for heat generating technologies and energy efficiency measures on community buildings until 29<sup>th</sup> February 2012.

[www.communitysustainable.org.uk](http://www.communitysustainable.org.uk)

## **New Funding Database**

The Energy Saving Trust's website has a new guide to funding and a searchable funding database. They report that: 'Initial feedback on both the guide and the database has been very positive. The guide and database include information on sources of funding for both energy efficiency and renewable energy measures, on council buildings, social housing, or other decentralised energy projects. We hope that you will find them useful in exploring opportunities for your authority to fund carbon reduction projects.'

The guide and database have been funded by organisations based in the West Midlands, but can be searched by region, with plenty of results currently available for the East Midlands.

[www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/england/funding/search](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/england/funding/search)

## **Renewable Energy Could Create Almost 12,000 Jobs**

The government has revealed that, so far this financial year, companies have announcement plans for almost £2.5 billion worth of investment in renewable energy projects in the UK, with the potential to create almost 12,000 jobs across the country.

The report also shows that in 2010 3.3% of energy consumed was generated by renewable sources, an increase on 2008 of 46%. The UK has agreed to an EU target of 15% by 2020.

## **Plans for Dealing with Impacts of Climate Change Published**

Defra has published plans to protect the UK's power supply from the impacts of climate change. Flooding of sub stations, difficulties in keeping power stations cool in hotter summers and damage to overhead wires and underground cables in periods of drought were amongst the key threats that energy firms found climate change could pose to their business.

The reports show that the energy sector has made progress in planning for these risks, but that more work will be required over the coming years to protect infrastructure assets and ensure new projects are designed to cope with conditions that will be very different to what they are today.

The reports will help Government assess the UK's readiness for climate change and the actions needed to adapt. Later this month Defra will publish the Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA), a world-leading report that will give the UK the most comprehensive overview of any nation of the challenges climate change will present.

## **Guide to the Co-operative Renewable Energy Sector**

The first co-operatively-owned wind turbines, Baywind in Cumbria, started turning in 1997. Since then, over 7,000 individual investors have ploughed over £16 million into community-owned renewable energy.

A new report summarises insights gained from visits to five co-operatively owned energy projects during the summer of 2011. It will be of interest to anyone thinking of starting a community or co-operative energy initiative as well as intermediaries such as business and energy advisers, policy and decision makers with an interest in renewable energy and community ownership, and members of existing energy co-operatives.

[www.uk.coop/renewable](http://www.uk.coop/renewable)

## **Different Politics, Same Planet**

A new report by WWF-UK and Oxfam argues that governments must lead a shift in values if we are to transition to a sustainable economy. The report's authors believe that public support for government action on the environment is built upon the same values that underpin public concern for the NHS or universal education.

<http://valuesandframes.org/talks-on-carbon-emissions-not-enough-governments-must-lead-a-shift-in-values-says-new-report/>

## **D. And Finally...**

### **Start Your Own Lending Library!**

If you want to cut down on resource use by sharing your books with friends, but also want to get them back when they've finished reading them, why not start your own library: [www.knockknock.biz/catalog/categories/kits/personal-library-kit/personal-library-kit/](http://www.knockknock.biz/catalog/categories/kits/personal-library-kit/personal-library-kit/).

Thanks to everyone who provided items for this newsletter. If you have any events or news you would like included in future newsletters please send the details to: [ccan@mea.org.uk](mailto:ccan@mea.org.uk). You can send comments about the e-newsletter to the same email address.

To read this e-newsletter as a pdf visit: [www.everybodys-talking.org/communities-area/community-bulletins](http://www.everybodys-talking.org/communities-area/community-bulletins).

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If you no longer wish to receive these emails please send an email with '**Unsubscribe**' in the title to [ccan@mea.org.uk](mailto:ccan@mea.org.uk).

The Everybody's Talking Website is the climate change portal for Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire: [www.everybodys-talking.org](http://www.everybodys-talking.org).