

Community Climate Action Email October 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.

From the Editor

Autumn Chills...

Autumn is definitely in the air – the mornings are getting chilly and the evenings are getting rapidly darker. Like many of us I switched my heating on recently and as I did I was glad of the insulation in my loft helping to keep the heat in. This winter is the last one where loft and cavity insulation will be available for free or at very low cost. For several years now government has heavily subsidised these measures but this is coming to an end and soon loft and cavity wall insulation will cost several hundred pounds each. To take advantage before it's too late find your local council-backed scheme here: www.everybodys-talking.org/insulation-offers.

I also felt very autumnal recently when I attend an Apple Pressing event at a neighbour's house which was organised by a local community group. Unfortunately the pear tree in my garden failed to produce much this year, but lots of other neighbours brought basketfuls of apples to turn into juice – one way of making sure their abundant harvest didn't go to waste. If you'd like to attend an apple pressing, or learn how to make bread or ginger beer see the Local Events section for workshops organised by local community groups.

Looking ahead, In March 2013 the CCAN is helping groups and householders to organise the first ever Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Eco Homes Open Day. For more information about how to get involved in this very exciting event see the Local News section.

Got Any News?

If you have anything you'd us to include in the next e-newsletter you please send it to us **by Monday 29th October**: ccan@mea.org.uk.

Contents

A. Local Events

- Greening Beeston Five Simple Changes Challenge Launch
- Introduction to Renewable Energy
- Heating with Wood Fuel
- Permaculture Design Course
- Bread Making Workshop
- Cromford Apple Day
- Level 2 Award in Environmental Sustainability
- Retro-Green Your House
- Ginger Beer Making Workshop

B. Local News

First ever Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire EcoHomes Open Day
Time is Running Out For Free Insulation
Free Resources from EcoTeams
New Energy Saving Co-operative in the East Midlands

C. National News and Events

Nuclear power subsidies 'could add £70 to annual household energy bills'
Benefits for Communities Hosting Onshore Wind
Green Deal Building Regulation Changes to Be Scrapped
Fuel Debt Customers Now Can Switch More Easily
Green Deal Women's Panel
UK to Fight Energy Product Ruling
65% of Landlords Looking to Take Up Green Deal
Landlords' Worries Over Energy Efficiency
Funding Available For Green Spaces
Green Graduate Futures Blog Contest

D. And Finally....

Community to Create Virtual Power Station

A. Local Events

Greening Beeston – Five Simple Changes Challenge Launch

Saturday 13th October, 2 - 4 pm,
John Clifford School, Beeston

An opportunity to make five simple changes to your life to reduce energy consumption and save money. Two years ago, a group of local people ran a successful campaign in Beeston Rylands, asking residents to make five simple changes and tell others about them by displaying the Greening Campaign's 'Leaf' card in their windows. After the cards were counted Rylands' residents were found to be making savings of about 46,000kg of CO₂, 67,000 litres of water and more than £8,000 per year, showing that together we can make a difference. Now the group are running the challenge again.

Find out more and how to get involved at www.greeninginbeeston.weebly.com or contact Janet Poliakoff on 0115 925 6368.

Introduction to Renewable Energy

13th October, 10am – 4pm
Derbyshire Eco Centre, Middleton by Wirksworth
£10 (on certain benefits) - £39

Hear about the options available to add low carbon energy to building projects at home and work. This course introduces renewable energy technologies and the practicalities and costs of installing them.

ecocentre@derbyshire.gov.uk or 01629 533038 for more details and to book.

Heating with Wood Fuel

Sunday 14th October, 10am – 4pm
Derbyshire Eco Centre, Middleton by Wirksworth
£10 (on certain benefits) - £39

Find out about the options available to you if you want to heat your home/office with wood fuel, using either stoves or biomass boilers. Includes the low-carbon case for wood-burning, plus consideration of the 'downsides', legalities and practicalities.

ecocentre@derbyshire.gov.uk or 01629 533038 for more details and to book.

Permaculture Design Course

Leicester
Introduction weekend: 20th and 21st October. Followed by various dates through 2012-13

On this course you will meet like-minded people and learn new thinking tools and practical skills to enable you to become a permaculture designer. You will learn about permaculture ethics and design principles and design processes and tools. You will apply permaculture thinking to many issues – from growing food to refurbishing your home. The course is interactive, friendly and fun.

On completion you will receive a Permaculture Design Certificate, accredited by the Permaculture Association of Britain and become eligible to study for a Diploma in Applied Permaculture Design.

<http://transitionleicester.org.uk/projects/permaculture/permaculture-2013/>

Bread Making Workshop

20th October, 2pm-5pm
Organised by Transition Chesterfield, £2/person

Learn how to make both yeast-risen and soda bread in a conventional oven.
For more details or to book a place, please email: hello@transitionchesterfield.org.uk

Cromford Apple Day

20th October, 1pm-5pm
Scarthin Promenade, Cromford

Organised by Celebrating Cromford and Scarthin Books. Bring apples, pears and grapes to press into juice. Entertainment will be provided by Ripley Morris Dancers and Highfields School Friday Night Folk Group. A workshop for children will begin at 1:30pm. Enter your apple-based baking (pies, tarts, strudel, crumble etc) into a competition by 2pm to win vouchers to spend in Scarthin Books.

www.celebratingcromford.org/next-event.html

Introduction to Greener Homes

3rd November, 10am – 4pm
Derbyshire Eco Centre, Middleton by Wirksworth
£10 (on certain benefits) - £39

This one day course discusses the ways in which we can reduce the emissions from and the ‘toxicity’ of our home. It will be of interest to anyone wanting to understand how to make their home as environmentally friendly as possible.

ecocentre@derbyshire.gov.uk or 01629 533038 for more details and to book.

Level 2 Award in Environmental Sustainability

9th & 16th November, 10am – 4pm
Derbyshire Eco Centre, Middleton by Wirksworth
£29 (on certain benefits) - £58

This qualification introduces the key issues in sustainability, raising awareness of the topic and encouraging participants to consider their role in helping others to make sustainable choices.

ecocentre@derbyshire.gov.uk or 01629 533038 for more details and to book.

Retro-Green Your House

Level 2 Award in Environmental Sustainability
10th & 11th November, 10am – 4pm
£20 (on certain benefits) - £78

This course is a mix of practical and classroom-based learning. It explores ways to make older properties more comfortable to live in and more thermally efficient, in an affordable way.

ecocentre@derbyshire.gov.uk or 01629 533038 for more details and to book.

Ginger Beer Making Workshop

24th November, 10am-12pm
Organised by Transition Chesterfield, £2/person

Learn how to make the real thing, not the pale imitation sold in shops. For more details or to book a place, please email: hello@transitionchesterfield.org.uk

B. Local News

First Ever Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Eco Homes Open Day

The Community and Climate Action Network is organising the first ever Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Eco Homes Open Day in March 2013. Over nine days householders who have made their homes more environmentally friendly will

open their doors to the public for a few hours each. So far homes in Netherfield, Chesterfield, Belper and Rushcliffe are involved and we're looking for more! Have you:

- Installed **renewable technologies**?
- Installed **solid wall insulation**? We're keen to include homes which have measures which householders will be able to use ECO and Green Deal funding for.
- **Eco-renovated a whole house or room or built a house?**
- **Made improvements on a tight budget.** We don't just want expensive high-tech solutions on show.
- **Made a rented home more eco friendly.**
- **Incorporated a lot of waste materials** into your improvements that would have otherwise ended up in landfill.
- **Produced a lot of your own food** in your garden. If you could provide a short tour of how and why you've done this, we'd love to include it.

MEA has produced a guide for households and groups that want to be involved in the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Eco Homes Open Day which will be available shortly. If you'd like a copy please email: ccan@mea.org.uk.

Time is Running Out For Free Insulation

Time is running out for Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire residents to take advantage of lofty savings on their energy bills. A number of free and heavily subsidised schemes operate in the two counties, however their funding is likely to end at the end soon. At present many schemes will install loft and cavity wall insulation for free. Once funding ends these measures are likely to cost several hundred pounds each.

For more information on the scheme operating in your area visit: www.everybodys-talking.org/insulation-offers.

Free Resources from EcoTeams

If you need an activity for a small group meeting or an event to help people explore energy or water use take a look at the EcoTeams pages on the Global Action Plan website. These activities can be printed out and used at event and are great for helping to start discussions. www.globalactionplan.org.uk/ecoteams

New Energy Saving Co-operative in the East Midlands

The Energy Saving Co-operative (ESC) is a new one-stop shop which carries out a full range of energy saving improvements in homes, workplaces and community spaces. The ESC offers free, no obligation advice visits to customers and carries out the work through trusted local trades people, which benefits the local economy. As a co-operative the profits are returned to members (including the householders and those who do the work) through dividends.

If finding money up front is a problem, the ESC enables its members to access new government schemes which help finance these home improvements, as well as offering impartial advice on a range of ethical alternatives.

To explore your energy saving options, please contact Tina Holt tina.holt@energysaving.coop or 07962 453037. www.energysaving.coop.

C. National News and EventS

Nuclear power subsidies 'could add £70 to annual household energy bills'

Ian Marchant, the Chief Executive of the energy supplier SSE has warned that subsidies for new nuclear power could add £70 to annual household electricity bills as the bidding process for consortia to finance and build new nuclear power plants enters a new phase: <http://bit.ly/SfZu9w>

Benefits for Communities Hosting Onshore Wind

Ed Davey, the Energy and Climate Change Secretary, has launched a call for evidence to look at ways to reward host communities, aiming to secure environmental, financial and social benefits for those communities that host onshore wind: <http://bit.ly/Sg2D9d>

Green Deal Building Regulation Changes to Be Scrapped

The government looks set to scrap plans that would have required homeowners to improve the energy efficiency of their properties when building an extension. This could mean that two million UK homes fail to adopt the Green Deal: <http://bit.ly/SNMecD>

Fuel Debt Customers Now Can Switch More Easily

A package of measures announced by OFGEM and agreed with energy suppliers should help prepayment customers struggling with fuel debt. The measures includes increasing the threshold for the amount of debt that can be switched between suppliers from £200 to £500, as well as increasing the awareness of the ability to switch, and improving the processes through which customers switch: <http://bit.ly/PfjzOg>

Green Deal Women's Panel

The Department of Energy & Climate Change has set up a Women's Panel to provide recommendations for effective communication and ways of influencing public opinion on the benefits of installing Green Deal measures. MP Margot James will chair the panel: <http://bit.ly/Sk5t1h>

UK to Fight Energy Product Ruling

The UK Government is to fight an EU ruling that the UK must raise VAT on energy efficiency products from 5% to 20%. <http://bbc.in/QI6Dcw>

65% of Landlords Looking to Take Up Green Deal

A Poll by the National Landlords' Association (NLA) finds that 63% of Landlords are aware of the Green Deal and 56% are considering taking advantage of the scheme. The NLA states many landlords see the scheme as cost-effective way to meet new government regulation on the energy efficiency of rented properties, whereby any homes found to have a poor energy efficiency performance rating (F or G rating) will be unfit to rent by 2018: <http://bit.ly/Tpb3lZ>

Landlords' Worries Over Energy Efficiency

A recent npower survey showed 84% of Landlords believe their properties aren't efficient enough with a further 69% identifying lack of money as the key reason behind high inefficiency. The survey also found that 60% of tenants believe it is the Landlords responsibility to carry out any energy efficiency work: <http://bit.ly/TpY1EB>

Funding Available For Green Spaces

A new government document sets out different funding options for green spaces. www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/greenspacefunding

Green Graduates Futures Blog Contest

What kind of message inspires people to re-think their choices and make a meaningful shift towards sustainability? Change Agents UK and *Green Futures Magazine* - published by Forum For the Future - are teaming up to get graduates talking about the power of positive! The *Green (Graduates) Futures* contest is giving graduates the chance to write a blog about the value of *positive* communications around sustainability, and why it's a more effective way of encouraging people to change their behaviour. Forget the doom and gloom - tell us what you've learned about selling sustainability and the importance of painting a positive vision of the future we want.

The winning blog will be featured on both the *Green Futures* and Change Agents UK websites, and the winning author will receive a year subscription to Green Futures magazine! To enter the contest, simply fill out the form and submit your blog here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/greengraduatefuturesblog> The contest closes on October 19th 2012 and the winner will be announced in November 2012.

D. And Finally...

Community to Create Virtual Power Station

A collection of community groups in Oxfordshire are looking to replace an inefficient power station with a 'People's Power Station'. At the moment about half of the county's electricity is generated by Didcot power station which is due to close in 2015. The groups have come together to try to replace the power it generates with community-owned renewable projects and energy reduction initiatives.

The first solar PV installation to be part of the project is a 12.65kW system on Eynsham Village Hall that was opened by the Prime Minister in September. The Didcot plant, which generates 2,000MW and was described by Greenpeace as the second most polluting power station in Britain, is closing because it doesn't meet EU standards.

The People's Power Station was set up by green group Low Carbon Hub with the support of Oxfordshire council. They plan to 'power down' by around 750 million kWh a year and 'power up' by producing 250 million kWh of electricity from households and communities, and 500 million kWh from businesses.

Thanks to everyone who provided items for this newsletter. If you have any events or news you would like to be included in future newsletters please send the details to: 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.

If you are receiving these emails via someone else, and are not subscribed to this e-newsletter but would like to be, please send an email with the title '**Subscribe**' to ccan@mea.org.uk. Include **the name of any community climate action group you belong to** (e.g.: a Transition group or Sustainable group) and **the area you live in** (E.g.: Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Nottingham or Derby).

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

The Everybody's Talking Website is the climate change portal for Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire: www.everybodys-talking.org.