

Community Climate Action Email December 2013

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

I'm happy to announce our key note speaker for our free **Energy Efficient Communities** events taking place in February and March. Simon Ross works at MEA and has recently worked on the RECKKN (Reducing Energy Consumption through Community Knowledge Networks) project, which set out to research the best ways to encourage people to save energy and lower their bills and has had some interesting results. Simon has also worked on a number of other community energy saving projects and will be sharing his experiences. You can watch a video about the RECKKN project [online](#).

With all the talk about rising energy bills and green levies in the press recently, you'd think there was nothing we as individuals could do to lower our bills. That we're simply at the mercy of whatever comes out of the current bickering between government and energy companies over how much we pay for energy and who should cough up for green levies. The RECKKN project, and many other community-led initiatives, show that nothing could be further from the truth. There is plenty we can do ourselves to lower both our energy bills and our carbon footprint. The vast majority of households can save far more than £50 a year (the average household discount on bills recently negotiated by the government for us) by adopting energy efficiency behaviours and measures which also help tackle climate change.

So, regardless of what the government and energy companies are (or aren't!) doing when our events happen on 1st February and 15th March, we'll be equipping you with plenty of practical tools and ideas to help you get on with being more energy efficiency at home, tackling community change as you do so, and helping others in your community to do the same. No prior experience of energy efficiency required! <http://bit.ly/1eOTMZR>

And if you feel like you're the only one who cares, take heart: almost one in ten adults in the UK is a member of an environmental organisation, according to new research from the Environmental Funders Network! <http://bit.ly/IMSpRI>

Wishing you a very happy festive season and looking forward to seeing some of you at our events in the New Year.

Caroline

Twitter: @CCANNetwork – we now have over 100 followers!

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ccan.network

Got Any News?

If you have anything you'd like us to include in the January e-newsletter please send it to us by **Mon 6th January**: ccan@mea.org.uk

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A. Local Events

Courses at Derbyshire Eco Centre

Furniture restoration – Thu 5, Mon 9, Thu 12 & Sat 14 December (4 day course)
Willow garden and plant frames – Sat 7 December (1 day)
Traditional wreaths for Christmas – Sun 8 December (1 day)

Places are still available on the above courses. Why not treat yourself to an early Christmas present or come and make something you can give as a present? If you think someone you know would enjoy a course, why not buy them one for Christmas? You can either buy a voucher for a place on a named course, or a voucher that can be used against any of our courses for the amount of your choosing. Contact us today to buy one!

www.ecocentreexchange.org.uk

Transition Wirksworth Discussion Group

Thursday 19th December 7.30pm

The group will be discussing the book 'Cancel the Apocalypse' by Andrew Simms. Please email suecoopernewmills@hotmail.com for more details.

Sharing Sherwood Meeting

7th December, 10:30am
Sam Hall Pub

Transition Sherwood is on the lookout for new volunteers to help deliver Sharing Sherwood, a monthly cafe cooking up food that would have otherwise been thrown away. To find out more come along to this meeting or email info@transitionsherwood.org.uk

Awards for All Workshop

10am-12pm, 11th December
Rushcliffe Borough Council

Are you looking for money to run a new community project or to buy new equipment? Awards for All is the Big Lottery's quick and easy way to get grants of between £300 and £10,000. This briefing will talk you through what Awards for All will and won't fund, and how to approach the application form. Book a place: www.eventbrite.co.uk/event/9044043979 Alternatively, contact Susan Meech on 01636705447 or email focusonfunding@gmail.com

Local Government and the Climate Agenda

11th January, 12pm-4pm
The Quad, Derby
Organised by Derby Climate Coalition

A free seminar for climate activists and those trying to working with local government. The Derby City Climate Strategy was published earlier in November. We will be looking at this, and what other councils are doing. Despite the gravity of the climate situation we have seen national and local government under-cutting commitments to combating climate change. Without a national lead, coupled with massive attacks upon funding and resources, local governments are also finding it hard to ensure that the climate message is being heard and hard to sustain related activities. This is despite the opportunities for growth in the green economy.

Chris Church from LCCN, Charles Secrett from ACT!, an officer from Derby City Council, Darren Hall member of the Bristol Green Capital of Europe 2015 team and officers from the Campaign against Climate Change will be taking part. The event will hopefully be preceded by a short visit to the Council's Hydro-plant on the river Derwent, which supplies the Council with much of its own energy. This tour is tbc, but would take place at 11:30am.

Phone 07876 595993 for more information. Reserve a place: <http://local-governmentandclimate.eventbrite.co.uk>

Sustainable Living Tours

18th January 2013 or 15th March 2014
£20 (concessions and family tickets available)
Organised by Hockerton Housing Project

Intrigued by what an earth-sheltered home might look, or feel like, inside? Or wanting an overview of what it is to live sustainably? Visit Hockerton Housing Project to find out.

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

Free Smart Meter Workshop

21 January 2014, 9.30am-1pm

Nottingham

Organised by National Energy Action

FREE

With the rollout of smart metering already underway but not widely understood, fuel poverty charity National Energy Action (NEA), in partnership with British Gas, is organising a series of free half-day smart-meter workshops across England aimed specifically at community groups, support organisations, local authorities and housing associations. The workshops aim to demonstrate the potential of smart meters to benefit the fuel poor as well as other energy consumers, fuel suppliers and our energy infrastructure, helping communities get 'smart-ready'.

Details: www.bit.ly/1aC6QI2

Potato Day

25th January

The Pavements, Chesterfield (exact location to be confirmed nearer the time)

Organised by Transition Chesterfield

Pre-order your seed potatoes from this popular event by 7th December and pay less than on the day: <http://potatoday.wordpress.com/>

Rural Community Energy Masterclass

7th February 2014

£55-95 depending on income. Group discounts available

Hockerton Housing Project is a self-sufficient co-housing development. Five earth-sheltered homes are built with high thermal mass and high levels of insulation to eliminate the need for heating systems. Residents generate their own clean energy to meet their remaining energy needs. They also grow most of their own food, harvest their own water and recycle waste materials.

The project is an exemplar of community energy. Come and learn from their experiences of collective purchasing and billing of energy, having two wind turbines and seven solar pv arrays, and managing the financing and installation of a community-owned wind turbine in their parish. On this masterclass you'll gain a practical view on the key issues for communities and landowners such as project management, finance and potential pitfalls.

www.hockertonhousingproject.org.uk/renewable-energy/community-energy/

Low Carbon Schools Conference

7th March 2014

National College for Teaching and Leadership, Nottingham

Organised by Climate East Midlands and several Local Authorities

This event will explore what a low carbon school means in practice and why it's a desirable goal from a financial, educational and environmental perspective. Talks will include 'making it happen' and 'keeping the momentum going', 'approaching new build', 'improving old school buildings', 'using technologies' and 'financing energy projects'. Schools from across the region will be sharing their experiences, including pioneers like Silverhill Primary, Derby and Edwalton Primary, Nottinghamshire. Speakers include Brian Owens, Headteacher at Edwalton Primary School in Nottinghamshire and Morgan Phillips, the new Education Manager for Eco-Schools.

www.climate-em.org.uk/events/item/low-carbon-school-conference/

B. Local News

New Local Green Accreditation Scheme

Businesses and community organisations across Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire are now able to access valuable support in cutting costs and going green. NEP Energy Services (NEPes) has launched the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Investors in the Environment (iiE) programme, a not-for-profit environmental accreditation scheme and support service.

iiE provides all the help, support, promotion and networking that is needed to help create smarter business practices, and ensure businesses gain recognition for their green efforts. The scheme will help businesses to increase resource efficiency, improve their social and environmental impacts, and win business from an increasingly green aware market place. While there is a cost for independent accreditation, all income will be used to subsidise support for local third sector organisations to improve their resource efficiency, cut costs and increase their chances of winning increasingly competitive funding bids.

The scheme helps organisations to develop a comprehensive Environmental Management System and action plan for continual energy, cost and carbon reduction. Members are then rewarded with a nationally recognised green stamp of approval; registered on a national green directory and provided with access to discounted resource efficiency goods and services.

www.nottenergy.com/iiE

Peak District Environmental Quality Mark

The Peak District Environmental Quality Mark (EQM) is an award presented to businesses that put pride in the peak district at the heart of their operations safeguard natural resource, safeguard the environment, add to the wellbeing of their communities and and promote these values to their customers.

To find out more about achieving the EQM visit:

www.eqm.org.uk/peakdistrict/index.asp

C. National News

Sustainable Communities Act

The Sustainable Communities Act 2007 gives power to local authorities to submit proposals about the social, economic and environmental improvements they want to see introduced in their local areas. In October the government extended these powers to town and parish councils.

The Department for Communities and Local Government says: 'This is the opportunity for town and parish councils to engage with the local community and ask for their ideas about how the community can be improved. If there are barriers to the implementation of these ideas they can use the Act to ask the government to remove them. The barriers can be in legislation or guidance or they may be the result of established practice.'

More: www.bit.ly/1frg1bU

Rural Community Energy Fund

The Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF) is now available to rural communities in England who are considering a renewable energy project. Stage 1 provides grant funding of up to £20,000 to fund investigating viability. Stage 2 provides an unsecured loan of up to £130,000 to develop a robust business case and planning application. The funder, WRAP, have revealed that some early applications to the scheme have not shown that there has been engagement with the wider community about the proposed project. Consulting the community is therefore a critical part of the application.

More details and an application pack: www.bit.ly/11VhOhV

Green Open Homes Deadline Approaches!

The second round of the Green Open Homes funding competition closes at 10am on 9th December 013. You can apply for between £500 and £20,000 to run a Green Open Homes event by the end of May 2014. The funders are particularly keen to receive applications for smaller grants for new events that need some help to get off the ground, so that they can support as many events as possible with the remaining funding.

Download the application pack at: www.bit.ly/17DaPtB

You can contact CSE prior to putting an application in if you'd like some guidance on your event idea: communities@cse.org.uk or 0117 934 1400.

CSE ran a roadshow last month spreading the word about Green Open Homes across the nation. Download the presentations from the events: www.bit.ly/1bnzfdY

National News in Brief

- Why “We’ve secured £50 off your energy bill increase” treats us all as mugs:
<http://bit.ly/190y8Bz>
- Green levy 'rollback': UK government energy advisers condemn changes:
<http://bit.ly/1kakUUp>
- Experts say the IPCC underestimated future sea level rise:
<http://bit.ly/19gOiDc>

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.