

Community Climate Action Email February 11

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 a Happy New Year to all.

Please note that there will not be a e-bulletin March, but we will return in April.

Did you know that around 280 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 ccan@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.

Many thanks to those of you completed our recent online survey. Some 'snapshot' results:

- 88% of those of you who responded find this bulletin either 'very useful' or 'quite useful'
- 92% would find having an e-bulletin in the future either 'definitely' or 'probably' useful.

We will have more details in our April newsletter about what services we will be offering from April onwards.

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A. Local Events

Eco Teams Training Events in Derbyshire

County Hall, Matlock.

Tuesday 22 March. 7pm to 9pm

Saturday 26 March. 9.30am to 12.30pm

Saturday 26 March. 1.30pm to 4pm

Derbyshire County Council are working alongside Global Action Plan to deliver its EcoTeams Programme across Derbyshire. The initiative involves training individuals to become EcoTeam leaders, who in turn recruit six to eight people within communities, to encourage them to reduce carbon emissions from their day-to-day activities leading to more sustainable ways of living.

Once set up, EcoTeams meet approximately once a month over a period of four to five months, where team members discuss and decide the actions they will take. EcoTeamers don't have to be eco-experts, just enthusiastic and keen to do a little bit more for the environment whilst saving pounds at the same time. EcoTeams taking part in the project will be able to use specially developed online resources to assist them to record and monitor progress, share their experiences and measure their success.

Similar projects taking place around the UK have resulted in a 16 per cent reduction in household CO2 emissions for those taking part with annual savings of £148 on energy and water bills.

Derbyshire residents who are interested are invited to come along to one of the EcoTeams workshop taking place in March. Bookings can be made online:

www.derbyshire.gov.uk/ecoteams.

www.globalactionplan.org.uk.

Free Study Tours of Sustainable Buildings

Readers of this newsletter have previously indicated that they would like to attend study tours of sustainable buildings. Rural Community Action Network Nottinghamshire now have funding to provide free tours of this kind to see the following projects in Nottinghamshire:

- **Hockerton Housing Project** (Sat 26th Feb, Sat 26th March or Sat 7th May, 145pm-5pm on all dates) - either an introductory or technical tour of the project which consists of five lived-in houses built to a high environmental standard. **A booking form for these tours is attached.**
- **Bowbridge Primary School** (Wed 16th Feb, 12m-2pm) - a presentation, tour and an insight into the school's Food for Life Project. Refreshments and lunch using locally sourced products will be provided.

- **CORE - Centre of Renewable Energy East Drayton** - a site overview presentation followed by a more comprehensive site tour, including the willow fields (weather permitting).

Places are limited and are available to those living in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. To book please contact Phil Wilson: PWilson@rcan.org.uk. Please mention in your email if you belong to a local environmental community group.

B. Local News

Free Expert Advice Available to Green Communities

In this age of seemingly never-ending funding cuts I have some good news! Marches Energy Agency (MEA), a midland-based charity, has been appointed as an Expert Consultant for the Energy Saving Trust's Green Communities program. There is no charge to **community groups** for any of the services which are available, which includes support with:

- **Carbon saving in a community building** - identifying opportunities for 'easy wins' and energy efficiency improvements.
- **Community-scale renewables** - pre-feasibility studies for larger renewable energy systems which could be owned and operated by a whole community.
- **Long term carbon reduction action planning** - shaping your groups ideas into a credible and effective long term action plan which can be monitored while it is achieved.
- **Business planning for carbon saving projects** - developing opportunities for self-sustaining businesses associated with community-scale climate-change projects.

This is a great opportunity to secure additional support to expand upon projects you group has already carried out, or to help you to address any new issues.

Working through Green Communities, MEA can assist you to develop and improve your community energy project, build partnerships and access funding. Following a consultation (which may include a site visit) you will receive a review of your proposed project and a short report outlining clear recommendations for further action.

To receive this **free support**, you will need to complete and return the Green Communities application form which is attached to this email. The Energy Saving Trust strongly recommends that you refer to their helpline (0844 848 0077) for guidance with completion. The application process is relatively informal and Green Communities allow you to indicate a preference in the application form for the consultant you want to provide the support you are requesting – there isn't a specific section for this but we suggest you add it at the bottom of section two or at the bottom of the form – please do refer to previous work with MEA (for instance, we provide this newsletter), and request further impartial support from one of MEA's Expert Consultants for your current project.

To find out more about Green Communities please visit <http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/cafe/Green-Communities/Project-Support/Green-Communities-Expert-Support> or call the helpline on 0844 848 0077.

'Living For Tomorrow' Conference Report Available Online

This conference took place in November and was for community groups taking action on climate change in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. Whether you attended or not you should find useful information in the report which includes an explanation of the day, summaries of the workshops provided and a list of further resources and organisations which can help your group beyond the conference.

Download the report at: www.everybodys-talking.org/communities-area/community-conferences.

Local Community Group Produce Study on Anaerobic Digestion

Sustainable Youlgrave, a community group in Derbyshire, has unveiled its local study into the capture of energy from organic farm waste. The £50K study explored the potential for developing anaerobic digestion within the farming communities of the River Bradford valley, near Bakewell. Its conclusions include that Anaerobic Digestion – the breakdown of natural waste in the absence of air to produce methane and create energy and fuel – can be financially, environmentally and socially beneficial, potentially reducing greenhouse gas emissions by more than 2,500 tonnes (equal to offsetting emissions from almost 230 houses).

The group have also produced a toolkit for use by other groups considering anaerobic digestion. It can be downloaded at: www.sustainableyoulgrave.org.

The study was commissioned by Sustainable Youlgrave as part of its commitment to reducing the carbon footprint of the Youlgrave area and was jointly funded by the Peak District National Park Authority's Sustainable Development Fund, East Midlands Development Agency and the group itself.

Church in Ollerton Applies for PV

A church in Ollerton, Nottinghamshire has applied for permission to install photovoltaic panels on its roof to help it meet running costs. St Paulinus Parish Church is believed to be the first church in Nottinghamshire to make such an application which, it believes, would save energy, reduce costs and involve the community. The church plans to pay around £25,000 for the panels, but would benefit from Feed-in-Tariff payments and expects the scheme to pay for itself within 10 years.

Churchwarden Mr Stephen Fowles said: 'One or two other churches have done it, but we are certainly the first in North Nottinghamshire, and quite possibly the whole of the county. It is an attempt to reduce our carbon footprint and make a contribution to the community. It will also help us cover our costs.'

'Solar Farm' Planned For Newark

A 'Solar Farm' generating electricity for up to 1200 homes could be built near Newark. The farm would be the kind which is normally found in deserts in North America and would consist of rows of ground-mounted panels about two metres high. Newark has been chosen as a potential site because it receives more sunlight than many other places in Britain. The site is next to a site where four 125-high wind turbines are planned.

Survey: The Future of Living for Tomorrow Magazine

Sadly the last of edition of Living for Tomorrow Magazines has just been published. 'The local sustainability magazine for Nottinghamshire' has run for 27 issues. If you would like to have your say on the future of the magazine you can fill in this survey:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/XP63SJ3>

Community Group Case Studies Sought

Has your group run a project that was a real success? Do you do work that could be replicated by other groups if they knew what you had done?

Marches Energy Agency (MEA) is currently looking for short online case studies to add to the Everybody's Talking About Climate Change website (www.everybodys-talking.org) to inspire other groups in the area. If you think you have a suitable case study please email brief details to ccan@mea.org.uk.

Free Services for Groups

Marches Energy Agency produce this newsletter and also provide a number of other free-to-use services to community groups:

- **Advertise Your Groups Events Online for Free.** A facility on the Everybody's Talking website allows groups to advertise their events online with minimum fuss. Simply fill in the form at www.everybodys-talking.org/community-events and hit 'submit'. Your event will be reviewed and added to the website within five working days.
- **Online Community Group Profiles.** A number of local climate change-focused community groups now have an online profile on the Everybody's Talking website (www.everybodys-talking.org). A profile gives your group an online presence without requiring you to maintain your own website. It could help you to recruit new members. If you would like a profile for your group please fill in the form attached to this email and return it to: ccan@mea.org.uk. Please only submit one form per group.
- **Networking and Signposting Service** for groups that are big on ideas but short on time to research those ideas. Send us an enquiry about a project you want to set up or a topic you want to learn more about. We will do some research for you and signpost you to other community groups you might want to work with or learn from, as well as resources, websites and courses. **No question is too easy or too hard** and we aim to respond within 10 working days. Email your question or enquiry to ccan@mea.org.uk or call 07748 508704.

C. National News

Renewable Energy Guide for Rural Communities

A new guide to generating renewable energy in rural communities has been published. 'Get Generating: A Renewable Energy Guide for Rural Communities' gives an overview of community based renewable energy options for community groups, local councils and individuals. It also signposts to more detailed sources of advice, information and help for rural communities to get generating and take the next step in planning and delivering their own renewable energy developments.

It is published by the Commission for Rural Communities and can be downloaded here: <http://ruralcommunities.gov.uk/2011/01/26/renewable-energy-guide/>

Need a Water Heater or Boiler for Your Community Building?

Does your village hall need a new water heater or your scout hut a boiler? Building Services and Environmental Engineer, a trade newsletter, has teamed up with Baxi Commercial Division to offer a free boiler or water heater to a worthy cause. To find out more visit their website before the deadline of 28th February: www.bsee.co.uk/news/fullstory.php/aid/7130/Make_a_difference_in_your_community.html.

One Tonne Life Experiment

One Tonne Life is an experiment in Sweden to see if a family can reduce their carbon emission to one tonne per person without compromising their current lifestyle. The Lindell family moved into a specially built house with solar panels and an electric car on 19th January and their energy usage is being monitored by the Chalmers University of Technology in Gothenburg and the City of Stockholm's Environment and Health administration.

Their efforts can be followed at: <http://onetonnelife.com>.

Renewables could supply 99.5% of power by 2050

A Greenpeace report launched today demonstrates how Europe can switch to a smooth-running electricity grid powered almost entirely by green energy.

It shows for the first time what an intelligent grid for Europe by 2050 could look like demonstrating how smart grid management, control technology and a network of efficient transmission lines can reliably balance the supply of variable renewable energy with demand across the continent, even when there is little wind and sun.

The report, Battle of the Grids, reveals how renewable energy will increasingly clash with coal and nuclear power generators. Renewables such as wind turbines are already being turned off during periods of peak production to allow nuclear and coal plants to continue running. This is because wind and solar power is variable, while nuclear and coal plants are constant but inflexible, a feature which Greenpeace believes is increasingly out of place with the vision of industry and policymakers of a flexible, efficient and cost effective energy system.

The report also proposes phasing out 90% of today's coal and nuclear plants by 2030 to allow renewables to provide 68% of energy by the same date.

www.greenpeace.org/eu-unit/press-centre/press-releases2/battle-of-the-grids-2011-1-18

Britain's First Solar-Powered Town?

A Cornish town is hoping to generate a third of its electricity from the sun by 2015 and make up to £450,000 from Feed-in-Tariffs.

The scheme, which is backed by the local MP and Chamber of Commerce, will see The Wadebridge Renewable Energy Network, a not-for-profit co-operative, put solar panels on

the roofs of local homes and businesses for free, allow them to use the free electricity, and collect the tariff for the community fund. Local landowners will be offered attractive deals to install larger arrays and a couple of wind turbines will be added to the mix. Anyone from the town can join the co-operative and decide how the money is spent.

Renewable Heat Incentive Delay

Climate change minister Greg Barker recently refused to reveal when the long-awaited Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) will be introduced, only saying that it will be 'later this year'. The scheme, which will provide payments to those producing heat from renewable technologies such as solar thermal panels and ground source heat pumps, was due to be introduced in April before being put back to June, It 's now not certain when it will introduced at all and Chris Huhne recently admitted to forgetting about it when he writing the coalition agreement.

The government has a target of generating 12% of the country's heat form renewables by 2020. Currently we generate just one per cent and the RHI is expected to help make it possible to meet the target.

D. And Finally...

Here's one way to tackle people's disbelief in climate change....!

www.youtube.com/watch?v=TQIHaGhYoF0

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 me the details: ccan@mea.org.uk. You can send comments about the e-newsletter to the same email address.

If you would like to read this e-newsletter as a pdf please 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. Please 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.