

Community Climate Action Email February 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!

Please fill in our online survey!

We are currently running a short online survey (www.surveymonkey.com/s/LJBVCCP) to help us find out what you think of these e-newsletters and other services provided by the Climate Community Action Network (CCAN) (www.everybodys-talking.org/communities-area/community-support).

In 2011 the CCAN supported around 300 individuals representing more than 80 community groups. The current service we provide is based on previous surveys – and this has been key to the CCAN' service. The survey will also help us to secure funding for the service: we're constantly impressed by all the great work being done by community groups and hope to secure funding to continue to support your work throughout 2012.

As a thank-you for taking the time to complete the survey we will be entering all respondents into a **prize draw to win one of three energy monitors** - for use in your home and/or by your group or organisation.

The survey can be found at: www.surveymonkey.com/s/LJBVCCP. It closes at 12pm on Wednesday 8th February.

From the Editor....

*Winter proper has finally arrived – I'm looking at snow outside my office window as I write this. Cold weather always makes people think about making their homes warmer – and **this winter is your last opportunity to insulate your home at heavily discounted prices**. For many years now the cost of loft and cavity wall insulation has been heavily subsidised by government, but this is set to end in December 2012. Currently most Local Authorities in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire operate insulation schemes which provide insulation to any household for between £49 and £99 a measure*. Measures are often free to those on certain benefits or over 70 (sometimes 65). These prices are only possible because of the subsidies on offer and from 2013, when subsidies have ended, insulation for your loft or cavity wall will cost much more (although you will be able to take a loan and pay this back through your energy bills).*

Insulation at current prices is the cheapest and most effective way to cut your bills and the carbon emissions from your home. If you'd like to get your loft or cavity wall insulated at current prices, visit our website to see what's on offer in your area: www.everybodys-talking.org/insulation-offers.

When the snow is gone from my garden, I'll be starting to think about cutting my carbon emissions further by growing my own veg. I'm planning to involve my neighbours this year, using this simple, but very clever, little project: www.growzones.com.

Caroline

**Prices are subject to survey and may be based on an average-sized house.*

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A. Local Events

East Midlands Cycling Forum Meeting

Saturday 11th February 10am to 4pm
10am till 11am: Yaffle café above Soundbites, Derby
11am -1 4pm: Function Room at The Brewery Tap which is the old Royal Standard on Derwent St., Derby
Free: donations to cover buffet lunch

A day of activities for those interested in promoting cycling in the East Midlands. There will be a talk from Cycle Nation about national activities and workshops on transport and planning and how to use democratic processes to campaign with communities.

Contact Dave Clasby: davec@sustrans.org.uk

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
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

Power to the People

17th March, 10am-1pm

Groundwork Derby and Derbyshire. 43 Cromford Road, Langley Mill, Derbyshire.

To book: contact Jackie Salmon on 0115 942 0448 or e-mail

Jackie.salmon@groundwork.org.uk

All are welcome to a Groundwork East Midlands' event to showcase community projects funded by Climate East Midlands as part of its Skills Programme. The event will feature projects that promote the low carbon agenda or address the consequences of climate change, developing skills within the communities as an ongoing legacy and being replicable elsewhere to allow aspiring communities to learn from the experience of others. The on-line toolkit developed to help communities understand the planning system will be demonstrated and Graham Truscott from the Transition Network, as keynote speaker, will provide inspiration on the way forward.

Green Technology Workshop

Sat 17th March

Green Directions

Book: www.greendirections.co.uk or call Sharon Batty on 07890 274620.

£10 per person if you live in the Peak District and East Peak

An event aimed at local groups interested in community renewable energy schemes. Green Directions is a converted farm utilising wind & solar power as well as a ground source heat pump. You will see the technologies in action and learn what works and what doesn't. You will also hear about the practicalities of setting up a community renewables scheme.

These courses are normally £35 per person but thanks to a subsidy from the Live & Work Rural Programme we are offering them to community groups in the Peak District and East Peak areas for £10 per person.

Course: Risk Assessments for Practical Conservation Tasks

Sat 11th Feb, 9am-1pm

Julian Cahn building at West Park, West Bridgford

Organised by Notts Wildlife Trust

To book a place: contact Gaynor Jones Jenkins at Notts Wildlife Trust on 0115 9588242.

Assessing the risks of an activity and making others aware of those risks is one of the most effective ways of preventing accidents during conservation work days.

B. Local News

Surviving Winter Appeal

Derbyshire Community Foundation is launching the Surviving Winter Appeal which aims to help older people stay warm during the winter. The Winter Fuel Payment is a tax-free benefit that's paid automatically each winter to all eligible older people to help them keep warm. This is a vital payment for many older people who desperately need this support to ensure they can afford expensive heating bills. But for some pensioners who are more affluent they may feel that their allowance is not critical and many would like to give some or all of it to help other vulnerable people in their local community. Now there is a new opportunity do this through Derbyshire Community Foundations 'Surviving Winter Appeal.

The Foundation is working hand in hand with Age UK Derby & Derbyshire to get 100% of donations to those that need it most. The appeal is supported by our Patrons the Duke & Duchess of Devonshire who have made the first donations.

If you would like to donate please contact Sarah Stainthorpe on 01773 514854.
www.derbyshirecommunityfoundation.co.uk

C. National News

The Co-operative Community Energy Challenge

Looking to set up a community-owned renewable project? Need some help? Then the Community Energy Challenge could be just what you're looking for.

The Community Energy Challenge is a bold new initiative by The Cooperative that will support a powerful set of community energy projects and help unleash a clean energy revolution across the UK. The Co-operative is seeking six to eight ambitious communities keen to develop projects that involve local people, change the way we think about energy, and inspire others to shape a renewable energy future.

The Community Energy Challenge will provide 12-18 months of enterprise development, mentoring, technical advice and community facilitation for six to eight communities, enabling them to initiate co-operative renewable energy projects at a significant scale (e.g. valued at £1m to £3m and/or rated in excess of 500kW). This support is being delivered by the Centre for Sustainable Energy on behalf of The Co-operative Group and aims to bring the selected community projects to a state of readiness for further support and investment from The Co-operative Enterprise Hub and The Co-operative Bank.

The Community Energy Challenge offers a supported application process designed to help communities develop strong project proposals, even from a standing start. Lack of technical know-how should not be a barrier and communities with ambition are encouraged to apply.

The Community Energy Challenge will operate a competitive bid process. All applications will be carefully evaluated and the final selection made by an expert panel. The deadline

for expressions of interest is 29 February 2012. See www.cse.org.uk/coopenergychallenge for more details.

Free Solar Panels For Schools

British Gas is taking applications for the second round of their Solar School Programme – on a first come, first serve basis.

This is an opportunity for Solar PV panels to be installed at no cost to the schools. Panels will be paid for by the 'Energy for Tomorrow' fund. Schools will be able to benefit from reduced annual energy bills, reduced carbon emissions and increased pupil's awareness of using energy sparingly and creating it from renewable sources. The energy company hopes to install systems between 4kWp and 50kWp in up to 150 schools.

This year's scheme is on a first-come first-served basis. Schools on the Phase-1 reserve list will NOT be automatically carried-forward, they **must** apply for the Phase-2 scheme.

Schools taking part will not be eligible for the Feed-in-Tariff. Instead, this will be assigned to the British Gas Energy For Tomorrow fund which is paying for the installation for the purposes of this scheme. This is an independently run, non-profit organisation dedicated to developing renewable energy sources and technologies for the future. Schools will benefit from being able to use the electricity generated which could mean electricity and carbon savings as a result of needing to buy less electricity from an energy supplier.

The scheme will take applications on their website until 23.59 on Friday 10th February 2012: www.mysolarschool.co.uk

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 29th February 2012.

www.communitysustainable.org.uk

Free Rough Guide Book to Community Energy

Rough Guides, famous for their travel guides, have produced a Rough Guide to Community Energy. The book is available to download for free, or you can order a printed copy, thanks to support from Marks and Spencers.

www.roughguide.to/communityenergy.

Raising Emission Targets Now Will Save Money

A report by the European Commission claims that raising targets to cut emissions across the EU from 20% by 2020 to 30% would pose the UK little problem and cost us less than has been previously thought. Raising the target to a compromise of 25% would cost Europe €70 million less than previously thought. The report predicts that in the long term raising targets now would save money in the long run.

www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/jan/18/30-percent-emissions-cut-cheaper?CMP=EMCENVEML1631

Energy Price Cuts Announced

The 'big six' utility companies have announced electricity or gas price cuts of around 5% after autumn price rises of up to 19%. Since the middle of January each company has announced cuts of either gas or electricity prices of around five percent each. However these cuts don't come close to reversing the up to 19% hikes a few months ago and some of the cuts are not due to kick in until February or March - after the worst of the winter weather is over and as heating usage tails off. Notably each company has only cut either gas or electricity and not both, in contrast to the autumn price rises.

www.can.uk.net/regions_files/regions.php?reg=uk&sec=news_item&item_id=2012-01-19%2011:46:49

FIT Rate for Solar PV Will Definitely Drop from 3rd March

Solar electricity panels installed on homes from 3rd March 2012 will definitely receive a reduced rate of 21p for each kW of energy generated under the FIT scheme. The price received for installations completed before this date is still unclear as the government continues to challenge a court ruling that its decision to drop the rate from 12th December 2011 was illegal.

www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/news/fits_jan12upd/fits_jan12upd.aspx

www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Generate-your-own-energy/Financial-incentives/UK-Government-proposed-changes-to-solar-PV-Feed-in-Tariffs

D. And Finally...

Climate Cup Competition – Monitor Your Energy Usage and Win!

We all talk about saving energy but are you actually monitoring your energy use, do you really know how much energy you use? Well now's your chance to do so and possibly win a range of prizes. The Climate Cup Competition invites you to monitor your energy usage online and possibly win a trip to Brussels to compete in the European final.

The Climate Cup is a competition to help you monitor your home energy use, reduce your carbon emissions and save £££ on your energy bills. The UK winner gets £1500 to spend on energy saving measures and an all expenses paid trip for two to compete in the European final in Brussels. Taking part is easy. To enter, you simply need to visit the competition website and open an Energy Saving Account: <http://uk.theclimatecup.eu>. Enter at least four meter readings or bill readings by 30 April 2012 (two heating and two electricity).

You will be able to keep monitoring your energy usage on the website after the end of April. The competition website is packed with energy saving hints and tips. Anyone who opens an Energy Savings Account in January will be entered into a prize draw to win cavity wall insulation (subject to survey). Anyone who enters in February, March or April will be entered into a draw to win a home energy survey. So why wait? You've only got energy, money and carbon to save!

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. 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.