

## Community Climate Action Email March 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!

### From the Editor....

*We're a busy bunch in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire! Five communities in the area were recently awarded funding from the Local Energy Assessment Fund for a wide range of exciting work including a solid-wall demonstration home, tours of eco houses and a sustainable energy assessment of a community building amongst many other things..*

*Meanwhile, the Climate Community Skills Programme, which saw seven groups in the two counties receive funding for a variety of projects, from cycle training to the installation of a micro hydro project, is coming to an end and there's a celebration event in Langley Mill later this month where you can find out how they've all got on and learn from their experiences (see Section A).*

*There are also loads of community-run events happening all over the two counties in the next month or so - see Section A for more information and keep sending me your events and successes to include in this e-newsletter.*

*Those of you who still have some spare time after all of this activity (!) might like to consider a new opportunity that has arisen at Marches Energy Agency ([www.mea.org.uk](http://www.mea.org.uk)). We're the Midlands-based charity that produces this newsletter and we're currently looking for an East Midlands-based trustee. For more information see Section B.*

Caroline

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### **A. Local Events**

#### **Power to the People**

17<sup>th</sup> March, 10am-1pm, followed by networking buffet lunch  
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](mailto: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 eight local 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. These projects will share their experiences: their successes, their frustrations and the lessons they have learnt. There will also be a demonstration of how to use a new online resource tool which will help you get to grips with the planning system. Keynote speakers will include Graham Truscott from Transition Network, Mike McGrath from the Big Lottery and Mike Peverill from Climate East Midlands.

#### **Green Technology Workshop**

Sat 17<sup>th</sup> March  
Green Directions  
Book: [www.greendirections.co.uk](http://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.

#### **Sustainable Homes Event, Bonsall**

22<sup>nd</sup> March, 7:30pm  
Bonsall Village Hall  
Free, with coffee, tea and biscuits. Donations welcome.

Bring your questions on saving energy and money in your home to this event. Nick Parsons, formerly of Yorkshire Environment Centre, will be the main speaker, with a question time panels made up of Nick, Cathy Cooke Manager of the Eco Centre, and Tom Mastin, a Director of The Renewable Shop in Tansley. There will also be information on insulation, solar panels, heat pumps and pellet stoves.

### **Tool Sharpening Course**

10<sup>th</sup> March 2012

Staunton Harold, Nr Ashby de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire  
£70. Organised by Greenwood Days

A new course. Take your own tools along or use tools provided by the course organisers. Spend the day grinding, filing, sanding and sharpening all types of tools. Learn how to get the right bevel, sharpen and hone your tools to razor sharpness. A sharp tool is safer to use, uses less effort and gives a better finish.

[www.greenwood-days.co.uk](http://www.greenwood-days.co.uk)

### **Funding Surgery in Nottinghamshire**

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March, 10am-4pm

Rushcliffe CVS. Level 3a, Bridgford House, Pavilion Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 5GJ.

Book an appointment: 0115 934 8405 or [focusonfunding@nottinghamcvs.co.uk](mailto:focusonfunding@nottinghamcvs.co.uk)

This surgery is open to any voluntary or community group in Nottinghamshire, who need help to secure funding. You will get a 45 minute appointment with an experienced funding advisor who can help with:

- Completing funding application forms you've already started
- Finding new sources of funding
- Let you know what other help is available in your area
- Any other questions you have about funding

After your appointment you will have the opportunity to register with Funding Central, the free online funding search website, and carry out relevant funding searches. This may take up to 30 minutes.

### **Greenwood Open Day**

15<sup>th</sup> March, 10:30am-2:30pm

Greenwood Days. Ferrers Centre for Arts & Crafts, Staunton Harold, nr Ashby de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire, LE65 1RW

An open day in the woods! Come and try cleaving wood, turning wood on a traditional foot powered lathe. See steam bending in action and coracles. Make a woven willow butterfly.

[www.greenwood-days.co.uk](http://www.greenwood-days.co.uk) / 01332 864539

### **Tours of Eco Homes and Workshops**

Various locations in West Bridgford

Tours: 18<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March

Workshops: 10<sup>th</sup> March

Transition West Bridgford's Eco House Group is running tours of eco houses in the area and a workshop on energy efficiency.

For further information and to book your place on a workshop or tour contact: Sarah Goodman 07772 330779 or by email [sarah.goodman.ehg@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.goodman.ehg@gmail.com)

## **Fantastic Home Visits**

Marches Energy Agency's mobile exhibition the Fantastic Home is visiting a number of locations around Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire during March, in conjunction with a number of Local Authorities and community groups. If you'd like to get advice on energy saving and renewable energy for your home, as well as energy saving freebies and the opportunity at many events to find out more about local insulation schemes, then visit us at one of these locations:

- 9<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March: Park Farm Shopping Centre, Derby with local Neighbourhood Forums and Derby City Council
- 10<sup>th</sup> March: Belper Farmer's Market with Transition Belper
- 13<sup>th</sup> March: Swadlincote with South Derbyshire District Council
- 16<sup>th</sup> March: Netherfield with Gedling Borough Council
- 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> March: Derby with Allestree and Normanton Neighbourhood Forums and Derby City Council
- 25<sup>th</sup> March: Shirebook Sport Relief Mile event, Bolsover

For more information contact [caroline.harmon@mea.org.uk](mailto:caroline.harmon@mea.org.uk)

## **Derbyshire Eco Centre Spring Fair and Derbyshire Wool Weekend**

14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> April, 11am-4pm on both days

Derbyshire Eco Centre, Porter Lane, Middleton-by-Wirksworth, DE4 4LS

Demonstrations, have-a-go-session, exhibits and craft fair, information on forthcoming courses, eco-inspiration and all things woolly! Local food and drinks. Live music throughout the day.

[www.derbyshire.gov.uk/ecocentre](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/ecocentre)

## **B. Local News**

### **Marches Energy Agency Seeks East Midlands-Based Trustee**

Marches Energy Agency (MEA), a Midlands-based energy charity, is seeking a representative from the East Midlands to sit on their Trustee Board/Board of Directors. MEA delivers a range of projects in the East Midlands, including this e-newsletter, and works with a number of Local Authorities and community groups. Find out more here: [www.everybodys-talking.org/news/marches-energy-agency-seeks-east-midlands-based-trustee](http://www.everybodys-talking.org/news/marches-energy-agency-seeks-east-midlands-based-trustee).

Given the extent of our work in the East Midlands, our Trustees would like to see an individual with interests in the East Midlands, either through community or business partnerships or from a district council not currently represented on LAEP. Trustees are ultimately responsible for the running of the charity. All operational management is

delegated to our director Richard Davies, MBE. The Trustee Board meets once a quarter to oversee decisions and ensure legal compliance.

As a Trustee, you will learn a lot about how charities operate and gain experience in areas such as setting strategic goals, accounting, financial planning, employment practice and recruitment, or be given an opportunity to share these skills if you already have them. As a Trustee you can be involved in work that you might not yet have had the chance to try as a paid employee.

For more information: [www.everybodys-talking.org/news/marches-energy-agency-seeks-east-midlands-based-trustee](http://www.everybodys-talking.org/news/marches-energy-agency-seeks-east-midlands-based-trustee). Visit our website at [www.mea.org.uk](http://www.mea.org.uk) or if you are interested in finding out more about being a Trustee, please contact Wendy Tozer, Assistant Director on 01743 246007 / [wendy@mea.org.uk](mailto:wendy@mea.org.uk)

### **Local Groups Receive LEAF Funding**

A number of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire-based groups recently received funding from the Local Energy Assessment Fund (LEAF). Transition Belper received more than £50,000 to spend on Home Energy Check Volunteer training, a demonstration solid-wall house and a survey to assess the potential for solar installations in the town amongst other things. Melbourne Community Centre is benefitting from a Sustainable Energy Audit and local residents will be able to attend two events to find out more about the audit and now to save energy in their own homes. Transition West Bridgford will be running workshops and tours of local eco homes.

The complete list of projects in the two counties receiving funding is:

- The Partnership Council, Nottingham
- Transition West Bridgford
- Melbourne Community Centre Ltd
- Allestree & Normanton Neighbourhoods, Derby
- Transition Belper

### **Help for Older People to Stay Warm in Nottinghamshire**

Nottinghamshire County Council has secured Government funding so that older people can get help to keep warm this winter. The new Warm Homes Healthy People Fund will pay for:

- Emergency heaters delivered to an older persons home if their heating stops working.
- Installation of temperature monitors to alert a central monitoring team if temperatures drop below a certain level.
- Approved handy person checks on thermostats and insulation. They can also bleed radiators.
- Electric blanket check and exchange.
- Energy advisors to visit homes to help switch to a cheaper tariff and to give energy efficiency advice.
- Free information packs – including wall thermostats.

To access the scheme contact: 08449 80 80 80

## **C. National News**

### **Funding: New Energyshare Fund**

The Energyshare fund, which recently handed out millions of pounds to community-owned renewable energy projects, is giving away more money. The new round of funding is principally aimed at helping groups in the earlier stages of an idea to get to the next step. You might be advised on forming a legal entity, submitting a planning application, or getting a feasibility study - all the things that help secure the viability of a project and get things moving in the right direction.

Their website states: 'You have told us that one size doesn't fit all. Some of you love being able to engage a bigger community to help strengthen your support, others need to start smaller. In this funding round you have a choice between one of two ways to get some cash. You can either win £5,000 in match funding (finding the other £5000 from supporters in your community) or apply for a straight up £2,500.'

[www.energyshare.com/community-fund/](http://www.energyshare.com/community-fund/)

### **Funding: NEF Launches Fund for Community Renewable Energy Generation**

The National Energy Foundation has launched a Community Generation Fund. It will provide funding for community-owned renewable energy projects which are commercially viable. The Fund addresses critical barriers to community-led project development by providing support at both pre-planning development and post-planning construction stages, to community energy generation projects that can achieve technical & financial viability, community inclusion and social impact.

An initial £1.25million has been made available for this initiative via the support of Big Society Investment Fund and Esmée Fairbairn Foundation. Further investment is expected to follow. The Fund will bring creation and ownership of renewable energy generation within the reach of those communities seeking to create clean energy, social engagement and a long term income source for the good of their community.

Communities are invited to submit 'pre-applications' by 16<sup>th</sup> April.

NEF and FSE will be holding pre-application workshops in March for interested groups and selected groups may then be offered further application support. The events take place on 15<sup>th</sup> March in Milton Keynes, 21<sup>st</sup> March in Cardiff and 28<sup>th</sup> March in Edinburgh. For more information on events contact: [communities@nef.org.uk](mailto:communities@nef.org.uk).

<http://thefsegroupp.com/funding/social-funds/community-generation-fund/>

### **Funding: Community Buildings Chest Grant Scheme Launched**

Western Power Distribution (WPD) have just launched their Community Chest grant scheme. £50,000 is available to enable communities to install energy efficiency measures in community buildings. The grant is being administered by the [Centre for Sustainable Energy](#) (CSE) who can also provide expert advice and guidance to help groups to carry out an audit of their buildings.

Community groups within WPD's distribution area, which includes the Midlands, can apply for grants of up to £1000, to pay for simple but effective energy efficiency measures to not only reduce their energy costs but also reduce the carbon emissions of the buildings they use for their activities. Eligible measures include insulating loft spaces, installing energy monitors, draught proofing windows and doors, fitting effective heating controls and installing low energy lighting.

The application process is simple. Groups are asked to submit a short application form and provide quotes for recommended improvements, as well as completing an audit of their building. Guidance is provided on CSE's website, [www.cse.org.uk/wpdcc](http://www.cse.org.uk/wpdcc), or you can email [wpdcc@cse.org.uk](mailto:wpdcc@cse.org.uk) for more information.

### **Event: SuperHome Week: 17<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> March**

Homes up and down the country which have been made more environmentally friendly will be open their doors to the public during SuperHome Week. A number of these homes are in or near Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. Find one near you: [www.superhomes.org.uk/](http://www.superhomes.org.uk/)

### **News: FIT: New Energy Efficiency Requirement from 1<sup>st</sup> April**

Anyone installing solar panels on their home after 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 will need to ensure their home achieves a certain level of Energy Efficiency first if they want to be eligible for Feed-in-Tariff payments. Homes will be expected to achieve at least Band D on an Energy Performance Certificate which will involve installing some, but not all, of the following if you do not already have them: loft insulation, cavity wall insulation (but not solid wall insulation), heating controls, hot water cylinder insulation, a replacement boiler. It is thought that just over half of all homes in Britain are currently below Band D.

The generation tariff recently dropped to 21p per kilowatt hour generated. It will fall again on 1<sup>st</sup> July to somewhere between 13.6p and 16.5p; the exact rate will be determined nearer the time.

More information: [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Generate-your-own-energy/Financial-incentives/Feed-In-Tariffs-scheme-FITs](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Generate-your-own-energy/Financial-incentives/Feed-In-Tariffs-scheme-FITs).

### **News: Eden Project and Ebico Launch First Employee-owned Renewables Project**

The UK's only not-for-profit energy supplier Ebico has joined forces with the Eden Project, the Cornwall-based visitor attraction, to set up Eden Solarfair, the UK's first employee owned renewables project.

This pioneering partnership, announced today, will give Eden Project staff the chance to invest in a renewable scheme which will not only provide free, renewable energy for the Eden Project, generated by solar panels, but will also offer the employees attractive returns on their investment. With a minimum entry point of just £200 to buy a stake in the project, the aim is for Eden Solarfair to be owned entirely by Eden staff, and to generate attractive returns for those normally excluded from investment in solar generation.

[www.ebico.org.uk/social-ventures-in-energy](http://www.ebico.org.uk/social-ventures-in-energy)

### **News: New Tools to Improve Community Resilience to Extreme Weather**

The Community Resilience to Extreme Weather project (CREW) has developed a set of tools to help communities improve their resilience to the impacts of future extreme weather events. CREW investigated local-level impacts on householders, SMEs, and local policy/decision makers of a range of geohazards, including flooding, subsidence, heatwaves, wind storms and drought.

[www.extreme-weather-impacts.net/twiki/bin/view](http://www.extreme-weather-impacts.net/twiki/bin/view)

## D. And Finally...

### People Power for Purchasing Energy

A new website for collective green energy switching has been launched by a Derbyshire resident. Mike Shamash is hoping that at least 5000 households will sign up to the initiative which will then look to negotiate a cheaper bulk purchase price for energy for all its members.

Organisers of the thePeoplesPower, which has been set up as a Community Interest Company, believe that by negotiating together, we all have the power to get a cheaper, fairer deal. There's an option for cheaper, greener energy too. Any surpluses generated from the scheme will be donated to community energy saving or community energy schemes (members will vote and choose the schemes to support).

Find out more and sign up at [www.thepeoplespower.co.uk](http://www.thepeoplespower.co.uk) or [team@thePeoplesPower.co.uk](mailto:team@thePeoplesPower.co.uk)

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