

Community Climate Action Email April 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.

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A. Local Events

Derbyshire Eco Centre Spring Fair and Derbyshire Wool Weekend

14th & 15th 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

B. Local News

Insulation Now Free For All

The race is on to get your home insulated for free during 2012! Until the end of this year households in 11 Local Authority areas of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire are entitled to free loft and cavity wall insulation regardless of their income, thanks to Warm Streets, the only insulation scheme endorsed by the authorities involved.

This time limited offer includes free loft insulation for any private household (owned or rented) that currently has none (or less than 60mm), as well as free cavity wall insulation. Those who already have at least 60mm of loft insulation can pay a subsidised price of just £99 to have it topped up to the recommended level.

This offer is better than free! Not only can we now install loft and cavity wall insulation for free, but you will save money on your energy bills for years to come as your home will be easier to heat. It will also reduce the impact of your home on the environment. However, free insulation is only possible due to government subsidises which are due to end in December 2012. After that loft and cavity wall insulation are expected to cost several hundred pounds each.

To find out if the offer is available in your area and what other insulation offers exist in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire visit: www.everybodys-talking.org/insulation-offers.

Call Warmstreets on 0800 043 9569, or if calling from a mobile 0333 577 9569, to organise a survey. Alternatively, visit: www.warmstreets.co.uk. Offers are subject to survey and house size

East Bridgford Wind Project Seeks Members

East Bridgford Community Energy IPS Ltd are a community energy group working to install a medium sized wind turbine (costing £1m) near East Bridgford. Although we are close to putting in a planning application we are short of people with business, PR, and legal experience (although we would welcome anyone with enthusiasm). If you would like to be involved, please contact John Chater on 01949 20882 or David Atkins, 01949 20390

www.eastbridgfordwindturbine.co.uk

Nottingham Energy Calculator

Nottingham City Council has launched an interactive web tool which allows residents to see how much money they could save by making energy-saving changes to their homes and to identify which renewable technologies would be suitable for their house.

<http://energymappingtool.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/LocalViewWeb/Sites/NottinghamEnergyCalculator/>

Nottingham's Community Climate Change Strategy

Nottingham's new Community Climate Change Strategy or 2012 – 2020 sets out how the Green Theme Partnership and Nottingham City Council will create a prosperous, low carbon, resilient city which maximises the opportunities for growth and protects local people from the impacts of extreme weather. The strategy is unique because it identifies and sets specific local ward delivery actions. This turns a global issue into something locally relevant.

The council are currently mapping the distribution of active community groups and local community action / initiatives, and are aiming to define and identify vulnerability amongst residents to cold and heat.

To find out more about the strategy visit:

www.mynottingham.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=14335

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.

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. Visit our website at 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

Verteran Trees Project

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust is developing a new project to help 'veteran trees'. The aim is to conserve and protect our oldest trees and the wildlife associated with them. The trust is looking to work with community groups and volunteers to collect, propagate, and grow on veteran tree seed and also to plant new trees. They are looking for volunteers to help with tree seed propagation activities, planting trees, tree maintenance and after care and finding suitable locations for planting new trees.

For more information contact: Louise Valantine, Living Landscapes Officer, lvalantine@derbyshirewt.co.uk, 01773 881188. www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk

C. National News

FUNDING: £60k 'Buy Better Together Challenge' Opens to Applications

A new funding scheme designed to promote community buying has open for applications. The Buy Better Together Challenge will fund projects which bring together groups of individuals to purchase goods or services and get better deals from shops and suppliers. The scheme can also provide many social and environmental benefits. Communities can get together to buy a whole range of goods and services from heating oil to solar panels to food.

Entrants are asked to address one or more of these challenges:

- A project aimed at creating a platform, tool or vehicle to help individuals come together and form a community buying group.
- A project aimed at enabling existing or new community groups to develop their purchasing power by working collectively on behalf of individual consumers.
- A project aimed at businesses to empower their employees or consumers to group for community buying.

The deadline for applications is 15 May 2012.

<http://discuss.bis.gov.uk/buying/the-buy-better-together-challenge-feb-2012/>

NEWS: RHI: £25 Million For Low Carbon Heat

A second phase of the Renewable Heat Premium Payment (RHPP) scheme, which provides vouchers towards renewable technologies like biomass boilers, air and ground source heat pumps and solar thermal panels, will be launched on 2nd April and will be worth £10m more than the existing scheme.

This phase will include an £8M competition for communities to apply for grants to encourage community groups to install renewable heating. This voucher scheme which will be mainly focused on the four million homes in Great Britain which are not heated by mains gas and are reliant on expensive oil or electric heating. There will also be a £10m competition for social landlords.

Following on from the controversy surrounding lowering the FITS generation tariff at short notice (see next items) DECC has also launched a consultation proposing an interim measure to keep the RHI within the budgetary limits set by the Comprehensive Spending Review. This includes the possibility of giving industry one month's notice to temporarily suspend the scheme to new entrants if 80% of the available budget is expected to be spent. In the interests of transparency and ensuring industry is not taken by surprise, regular updates on the budget spend will be published. These measures could be in place as early as the summer and will last until the longer term cost control system is in place. DECC will consult in September this year about increasing the number of technologies eligible under the industrial RHI with a view to implementing the plans by summer next year.

Under the scheme which ends on 31st March, 6412 vouchers to households have been issued with £4.8m allocated.

NEWS: Government Loses FITS Appeal

The Supreme Court has rejected the Department for Energy and Climate Change's appeal over cuts to the Feed-in-Tariff. All systems installed between 12th December 2011 and 3rd March 2012 will receive the higher generation tariff for 25 years. This is the third time a court had ruled that the government's decision to set a date for cuts in the tariff before a consultation ended has been ruled unlawful.

Friends of the Earth, who fought the case, has now asked the government to set out plans for how it will restore confidence in solar power and meet targets to increase solar power over the next eight years.

www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/success_stories/supreme_ct_reject_35316.html

NEWS: Energy Saving Trust Launches New Energy Saving Advice Service

The Energy Saving Trust has been awarded the contract to run the government's new energy saving advice service. The telephone service will be open to the public's call from April and replaces another telephone service also run by the EST. The service will now be centralised and run by Careline service, a contact centre outsourcing business.

www.energysavingtrust.org.uk / 0800 512 012

NEWS: Green Deal Cash for Training

The government has announced funding of £3.5 million to help train hundreds of people in key green skills ahead of the launch of the Green Deal this autumn. DECC is also funding a £10m competition to be launched in early May to support the incorporation of innovative technologies which can achieve significant energy savings in existing non-domestic buildings. Non-domestic buildings, such as schools, shops, offices, hotels, are associated with 18% of the UK's total carbon emissions so reducing energy demand in this sector will help the country meet its climate targets.

D. And Finally...

Actress Helen Mirren Joins Campaign to Donate Winter Fuel Payments

Helen Mirren has become the latest in a long line of celebrities to join a campaign to encourage wealthy pensioners to donate their winter fuel payment to those who genuinely need it to survive the cold weather.

Fuel winter payments are not currently means tested and are given to all pensioners, including those who can afford to pay their heating bills without help. At the same time, approximately 5.4 million households are in fuel poverty, which means they are spending more than 10% of their household income on their heating and power bills.

The Surviving Winter appeal hopes that with the help of those pensioners who do not need their payment they can reduce the number of old people who die from the cold: estimated at 25,400 last winter. The fund will be used to support local charities and community organisations that help all those at risk, not just pensioners, survive the cold temperatures of winter.

The campaign is also supported by Bruce Forsyth and Rosemary Conley.

www.communityfoundations.org.uk/about/survivingwinter

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.