

Community Climate Action Email April 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.

Did you know that more than 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.

Exciting News!

Following on from the subscribers survey we carried out in January – which many of you kindly took the time to respond to – we have secured funding to send this e-newsletter monthly instead of nine times per year. So **from now on you can expect all the latest news on local action on climate change to drop into your inbox every month.**

We have also secured funding to:

- Continue our **Ask Me a Question** service, formerly known as the Networking and Signposting Service. This service is 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.
- **Provide online case studies** The first of these will be added to www.everybodys-talking.org next week – look out for it! If you would like to contribute an online case study please see the news item in the 'local news' section.
- **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.
- **Provide workshops and study tours for community groups.** We will have more details on these soon – look out for an email.

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A. Local Events

Wild Food Foraging Workshop

Sunday 8 May, 10.30 am - 12.30 pm, Whittington
£2 per person, payable on the day
Organised by Transition Chesterfield

Forage for seasonal wild food on your doorstep! Learn how to find and identify edible leaves, flowers and berries. With Anne Frazer and Ian Openshaw.

Charcoal Making Skillshare

Saturday 7th May, 11:30am, Blackwell Mill Cottages, Buxton
Organised by Transition Buxton

Learn how to make your own charcoal. Suitable for all. To book your place contact Jilla on 01298 71061.

Home Brewing Workshops

Organised the Home Brew Network and Transition West Bridgford
Stonebridge City Farm, Sneinton, Nottingham

Nettle Beer - Saturday 30th April

An introduction to home-brewing. Make delicious Nettle Beer to take home, find out where to find free ingredients, what you need to start brewing and how to join HomeBrew Network.

Experimental Brewing - Sunday 1st May

Try your hand at experimenting with different ingredients. We will invent a new drink based on what we can find on the farm and out in the city. If you already brew or want to learn how, get in touch.

Places are limited. Contact Mat: info@homebrew-network.net / 0773 887 9173

Sheffield - The Decentralised Energy City: Enabling Low Carbon Growth in the 21st Century

Tuesday 19th April, 8pm, Highfield Library, Sheffield
Organised by SCACC

Slightly out of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, but if you live in the north of the area this newsletter covers then you might be interested in this event. Chris Broome, SCACC Chair, will lead a 40 minute discussion about the City Council's plans for Sheffield to generate all it's own energy from renewables by 2020.

Eco Courses at Derbyshire Eco Centre

The Derbyshire Eco Centre's summer brochure has been published and includes courses in renewable energy, sustainable building technologies and Green DIY amongst many others.

www.derbyshire.giv.uk/ecocentre

B. Local News

EcoTeams in Derbyshire

EcoTeams are now being supported in Derbyshire through a local network and through training events and information. EcoTeams are small groups of people who meet up once a month for six months to look at ways to have a better impact on the environment. The meetings are fun and use a variety of activities to explore the issues from a new angle.

Global Action Plan, the independent charity who run EcoTeams are providing support to local groups and individuals to set up and run teams, with training events and one-to-one advice. The EcoTeams resources work really well as part of an existing community group's meetings, or they can be used on their own by a new group of people. Interest in EcoTeams has been registered in:

- Bakewell
- Belper
- Chesterfield
- Erewash area
- Holbrook
- Matlock
- New Mills
- Wirksworth

If you would like to set up or join a team, please contact Tom Veitch on 07905 534 580 or tom.veitch@globalactionplan.org.uk or visit: www.ecoteams.org.uk/partner/derbyshire.

Show Off Your Group's Success

There is now a space on www.everybodys-talking.org where your group can display case studies of the work they've done to help inspire other groups.

- 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?

We are currently looking for short online case studies to add to the site 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.

C. National News

Climate Change Speaker Network

A number of you who responded to our recent survey were keen to see a database of speakers they could call upon to speak at their local group. In which case you will probably be interested in the Climate Change Speaker Network website which lists local experts who can speak on climate change: www.climate-speakers.org.uk.

Energy Share

The Energy Share Fund is a new fund with £500,000 to give to communities (up to £100,000 per community) for schemes which will save energy and/or generate energy. Groups which are interested need to register their community on the website and get members of their community to log on and support them, all before 31st May. www.energysahre.com.

Share Your Stuff

A number of websites now exist to help you share your stuff with your neighbours. Acting as virtual attics, lofts, sheds, libraries and skills banks, they allow you to show others in your area what you have available to loan and find out what you could borrow from them. This reduces the need for everyone to own their own lawnmower, sewing machine or any number of other items, which in turn reduces pressure on the earth's resources.

www.streetbank.com has more than 6700 members across the UK. It allows you to share things with people living within one, five or ten miles of your home. You can lend things, give them away or offer help. At the time of writing, within a one mile radius of my home I could get clarinet or hiking lessons; borrow a heat gun, ladder or lawnmower; or receive to keep a highchair!

www.letsallshare.com and <http://ecomodo.com> are similar but they also both let you sell things as well as give them away. A quick glance at Lets All Share suggests that it currently seems to have a rather southern bias, but that will only change if people further north join in!

Update on the Renewable Heat Incentive

The government have finally announced their plans for the Renewable Heat Incentive. From July 2011 domestic panels installed on well insulated homes will be eligible for the RHI Premium Payment – effectively a grant towards the upfront cost. From October 2012 long-term RHI tariff support will be available to anyone who received the EHI Premium Payments and also any eligible technology installed since 15th July 2009. These tariffs

payments will start alongside the Green Deal from October 2012 'to allow a more whole-house approach to heat production and energy saving'.

Find out more: www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Generate-your-own-energy/Sell-your-own-energy/Renewable-Heat-Incentive

Warm Front Grant Scheme Reopens

Warm Front reopened for applications on 14th April 2011.

Warm Front is a government-funded grant scheme aiming to providing heating and insulation improvements to homes which couldn't otherwise afford them. The scheme closed in December and the government has since reassessed the eligibility criteria.

As of 14th April people in England who are on certain income-related benefits *and* living in properties that are poorly insulated and/or do not have a working central heating system could claim heat and insulation improvements worth up to £3500 (up to £6000 if the property is off main gas).

Previously anyone over the age of 60 could claim £300 towards the cost of fixing a broken central heating system. This is no longer the case.

To find out more about who is eligible, please visit:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/MoneyTaxAndBenefits/BenefitsTaxCreditsAndOtherSupport/On_a_low_income/DG_10018661?CID=MTB&PLA=warmfront&CRE=lowincome.

'Water poverty' in the UK as a consequence of climate change

Water poverty will become the new fuel poverty for an increasing number of households as scarcity of supply pushes up bills, according to a think tank that says Britain must deal urgently with the impact of climate change. Four million British households are already 'water poor', defined as spending more than three per cent of household income on water. This is set to increase as water companies move to charging steadily higher prices with rising consumption. The report, commissioned by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, is a study of the impact on low income households of both climate change itself and the measures being taken to adapt to it

www.jrf.org.uk/publications/vulnerability-heatwaves-and-drought-adaptation-climate-change

A news article on the report:

www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/feb/20/water-poverty-uk-scarcity-bills.

Adaptation in the community

An online facility for community groups working on climate change adaptation has recently been launched by Community Forests Northwest on behalf of Liverpool City Council. The training resource should help groups to explore how green spaces like street trees, private gardens and school grounds can help communities to cope with some of the challenges that climate change may bring. The materials are intended for use by, for example, local

interest groups, residents' associations, faith groups and primary and secondary schools. More information is at www.gjnw.co.uk/climatechange/training.htm.

D. And Finally...

You're Having a Green Laugh!

If you like comedy and you like trees then why not donate money to the Comedy Wood. The wood is a real wood of ash, oak and birch, which will be planted in the National Forest during Spring 2011 using donations from comedy promoters, performers and the public. It will also be used as a space for comedy performances. The initiative is part of the 'Greening the Laughs' programme which aims to lower the carbon footprint of comedy events,

www.nationalforest.org/sponsor/comedywood.php.

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.