

Community Climate Action Email June 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.

From the Editor

This month we have an exciting opportunity for community groups who want to help homes have solid wall insulation installed for free and earn some cash at the same time – see the news item in Section B and make sure you register your interest by 6th June.

The CCAN in 2012-13

Back in January many of you filled out an online survey to tell us what you would like the Community Climate Action Network to offer you and the community groups you're involved in. I'm pleased to say that the survey's results helped us secure funding to continue the service and we're going to be offering the following in 2012-13:

- **Monthly E-newsletters** like this one will continue.
- Our '**Ask Me A Climate Question**' **Service** will continue. This service, which allows groups who are big on ideas, but short on time to ask us to do some desk-based research for you, is growing in popularity each year. Examples of recent enquiries can be seen here: www.everybodys-talking.org/communities-area/community-support and you're very welcome to send us your questions to ccan@mea.org.uk.
- We will also be producing some **factsheets** on a variety of climate change / energy use themed topics for groups to use as they wish. These will be available later in the year.

Each year we base the services we offer on what you tell us in our annual survey – so many thanks to those of you who took the time to contribute.

Got Any News?

Many of the items in this newsletter are contributed by those who receive it and we'd love to let all 300 of our subscribers know about what you're doing. If you're organising an event, or have some exciting news about how you're tackling climate change in your area please let us know by sending details to ccan@mea.org.uk. **To be included in the newsletter for July, you need to send us items by Tuesday 26th June.**

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A. Local Events

The Big Energy Quiz

The Eco Centre, Middleton-by-Wirksworth
Tuesday 12th June, 7pm-9pm

All local environmental, sustainability, energy and transition groups members are invited to enter a team (or teams) in the Eco Centre's 'Big Energy Quiz'. Individuals are also welcome to come along and form teams on the night. There will be prizes for the winning teams!

For more details or to book a place please email ecocentre@derbyshire.gov.uk or call 01629 533038.

The Big Energy Debate

The Eco Centre, Middleton-by-Wirksworth
Tuesday 19th June & Tuesday 26th June
£10. Refreshments provided

Two evenings offering an opportunity to really get your teeth into the issues surrounding our country's future energy needs/options. There will be input from some of our 'experts in the field', plus an opportunity for you to find out more and to have your say.

For more details or to book a place please email ecocentre@derbyshire.gov.uk or call 01629 533038.

Fantastic Home at Arnold Carnival

Sunday 17th June, 11am-4pm

FREE

Marches Energy Agency's mobile exhibition will be visiting Arnold Carnival in Gedling to offer advice on saving on your energy bills and domestic renewables. There will also be energy and water saving freebies to take away.

Free Paint on Offer in Nottinghamshire

Calverton: May 31st, June 28th, July 26th, August 30th, Sept 27th, Oct 25th

Worksop: July 19th, Sept 20th

Nottinghamshire County Council are running some one off events at Calverton and Worksop Household Waste Recycling Centres this summer where Nottinghamshire residents can pick up some free paint from our Community RePaint schemes.

Unwanted/surplus paint is accepted at both of these sites and site staff open each tin to check each donation. Any tins that are at least half full of reusable paint are stored separately in our shelved reuse container and are given away for free. We give this paint to community groups who are registered on our scheme throughout the year but as we have an excess of reusable paint, we're opening the scheme up to members of the public.

To book a timeslot, residents should call Veolia Environmental Services on 0115 8505900.

Community groups wishing to register on the scheme to access free paint throughout the year should visit www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/communityrepaint to download an application form.

Spruce Up the Lea Brook Valley

7th July, 9:30-3:30pm

Organised by Dronfield Green Team

An opportunity to help with a variety of conservation tasks in the Lea Brook Valley. Meet at the green recycling bins!

Introductory Tour of Hockerton Housing Project

Saturday 16th June 2012

Between £18 and £30 depending on status and organisation

Have you ever wanted to see what an energy efficient home looks like and talk to one of the residents to hear their experience of living in one? Hockerton Housing Project (HHP) in Nottinghamshire is the UK's first earth sheltered, self-sufficient ecological housing development. The residents of the five houses generate their own clean energy, harvest their own water and recycle waste materials.

Book a place: www.hockertonhousingproject.org.uk/SEFS/ID.1005/SEFE/ViewItem.asp

Bike Generator Building Workshops

Sat 2nd June or Sun 3rd June, 10am-4pm

FREE.

Build a four bike generator during the day. There will then be a party on the Sunday evening from 7pm-11pm which will use the generator. People attending the workshop are asked to support an event on 9th September in Derby marketplace which will use a 25 bike generator and be part of the closing ceremony of the 2012 London Games

Book places by contacting Dave Clasby of Sustrans on 07775 420 998

E.ON Cycle Live Nottingham

13th - 15th July.

Victoria Embankment, Nottingham

E.ON Cycle Live Nottingham is a new concept for 2012, building on 30 years success of the Great Nottinghamshire Bike Ride, encompassing a full weekend of cycling activity. The event will consist of a new city leisure ride and schools challenge, a new elite circuit race and festival of cycling and the already established Great Notts Bike Ride, offering something for everyone, from grass roots to elite participation.

www.cyclelivenottingham.co.uk

Chesterfield Green Drinks

The Portland (Wetherspoons), West Bars

6th June, 7:30pm onwards

Come and say hello to some like minded people. There will be a 'Green Drinks' sign on our table.

Celebrate Cycling

Jubilee Campus, University of Nottingham

16th June, 11am-4pm

Cycling polo, film showings, street theatre, green technologies, free cycle 'tune ups', vintage bike exhibitions, art and craft activities, pedal-powered water pistols and more.

GREEN Wave and Samba Band Event

16th September, 3.15pm

Market Square, nr the left lion, Nottingham

Organised by the Stop Climate Chaos Coalition

Encourage our MPs to Keep up the Pressure to Stop Climate Chaos at the start of World Climate Talks. Bring anything green to wave...clothing, underwear, paper, vegetables, cloth! As the clock strikes 3.30, wave it !! Then the samba band starts. Dance, listen, leaflet, enjoy.

Contact Jeannie if you can help leaflet: jeanniejonathan@aol.com

www.stopclimatechaos.org/

B. Local News

Community Partners Needed for Solid Wall Insulation Project

If you are interested in this opportunity please send an email to Simon Ross: simon@mea.org.uk no later than 5pm Wednesday 6th June 2012. PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL.

- Does your community include homes which are using electricity or coal for heating?
- Would you like to help those in your community on limited incomes to access free solid wall insulation?
- Would you like to earn some money for your community group?

Marches Energy Agency, the Midlands-based charity which provides the CCAN-e newsletters, is working with British Gas on an exciting new solid wall insulation project. We are looking for a limited number of 'Community Partners' (e.g.: local community groups who are focused on climate change/low carbon and/or working with low income groups) from across Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire to help us find eligible households who could get fully funded (free!) solid wall insulation. The eligibility criteria for receiving solid wall insulation are set by the Office of Gas & Electricity Markets (OFGEM) and focus on maximising carbon savings in the 'hard to treat' homes of the most vulnerable. The funding comes from the Government's Carbon Emission Reduction Target (CERT) obligation on the big energy utilities. The funding is only available to owner-occupiers or those renting from private sector landlords. Those living in homes rented from registered social landlords are not eligible for the funding.

British Gas are looking for solid wall homes heated by electricity or coal with at least one member of the household receiving a specific benefit (see eligible list of benefits at the bottom of this email).

We are able to provide support directly to successful 'community partners' who want to help us find eligible householders, and we can also cover the cost of local activity which might include targeting solid wall homes with a leaflet mail shot, using local volunteers to contact householders directly, running a solid wall insulation coffee morning or attending an existing event

We are also able to pay the Community Partners a '**surveying fee**' (paid when British Gas Home Energy Plan assessors completes a solid wall survey of an eligible home) and an '**installation fee**' (paid when a solid wall installation is complete).

As a first step to gauge the level of interest from CCAN members we would like to hear from any potential Community Partners who – in principle – wish to explore next steps. Depending on the level of response and interest we will either arrange a series of briefing sessions with British Gas or contact individual groups directly to answer questions; hear your ideas for finding eligible householders; outline project timescales; the levels of support available for community partners; and the next steps.

If you would like to express in principle interest then please send email to simon@mea.org.uk no later than 5pm Wednesday 6th June 2012.

Cromford Shares

Cromford Shares is a new project run by Global Action Plan which is looking at how people share things within a village and how we can make sharing easier.

The project is making use of EcoModo – a website which allows individuals to lend and borrow things within their community. Community groups can register as a 'good cause' on the website and raise funds by asking people borrowing things to make a donation.

More on Cromford Shares: www.cromfordshares.wordpress.com.

More on EcoModo: www.ecomodo.com.

Tom Veitch of Global Action Plan is interested in hearing from others who feel that a project like Cromford Shares could benefit their community or organisation:
tom.veitch@globalactionplan.org.uk or 07905 534 580.

3000 People Sign up for People Power!

A Derbyshire based not-for-profit organisation seeking to lower people's energy bills has recruited 3000 people who would like take part in a collective energy switch. Once 5000 people are signed up the organisers will negotiate lower energy bills for everyone involved.

Anyone can sign up at: www.thePeoplesPower.co.uk.

Gardening Opportunities in Chesterfield

Transition Chesterfield is involved in a gardening project called Garden Buds. The project allows people who have gardens they don't look after, for whatever reason, to offer the space to someone who has the time and inclination to tend it. The scheme is being trialled in Holmebrook and Rother ward and needs both gardens and gardeners. Gardens must be in the ward, but gardeners can be from anywhere (although preference will be given to those who are more local).

If you are interested please contact Helen Stockton:
Helen.Stockton@derbyshirecountypct.nhs.uk.

Newark Retrofit Households Achieve Energy reduction of 78.6%

Two houses in Newark that were retrofitted with renewable technologies and energy saving features in 2010 have achieved energy use reductions of more than 75%. One of the two homes has the same tenants who were living in it before it was retrofitted. In the last 12 months they have used 78.6% less energy than they did before the work was done. This equates to a 57.9% reduction in carbon emissions.

Read more about the project here: <http://hhpnshretrofit.wordpress.com>.

Transition West Bridgford to Launch Home Video

Transition West Bridgford are set to launch a video in June about how to make homes in the area more environmentally friendly. It will be around 20 minutes long and include tours of homes in West Bridgford that have been retrofitted to make their more energy efficient.

www.thisisnottingham.co.uk/West-Bridgford-eco-project-video-launched-YouTube/story-16096623-detail/story.html

C. National News

FUNDING: One Destination Carbon Fund

Using voluntary donations from British Airways customers the One Destination Carbon Fund provides low interest loans to organisations looking to install renewable energy technologies. British Airways recognise that community renewable energy projects not only reduce carbon emissions but can deliver many other benefits. Benefits might be reducing a school's operating costs, educating people about climate change or generating an income for a charity not to mention helping the UK to meet its carbon reduction targets.

www.puretrust.org.uk/page.jsp?id=113

FUNDING: Enriching Nature Programme

Applications are invited for projects with a focus on a species or habitat that has been identified as a priority by the UK Biodiversity Action Planning Process. Up to £120,000 is available per project. There are four deadlines over the next year.

www.sitatrust.org.uk/nature-funding

RESOURCE: Low Carbon Community Handbook

Low Carbon Communities has produced a handbook for community groups working to tackle climate change. It covers topics such as how to set up a group, how to get media coverage and how to communicate climate change.

Download for free: www.cagoxfordshire.org.uk/low-carbon-communities-handbook

SURVEY: Sustainable Community Energy Network (SCENE) Survey

SCENE, a sustainable community energy engagement and financing network, is carrying out a survey amongst people involved in community owned energy projects in England.

Visit: https://wur.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_0ribcxpKY7EcXQM

AWARDS: Water Efficiency Awards 2012

The Water Efficiency Awards are the only scheme in the UK to celebrate the achievements of public, private and third sector organisations who: shout about water efficiency and encourage action, solve problems and overcome barriers to enable action, and save water by engaging with water users. Categories for this year's Water Efficiency Awards include 'Community-led Initiative'. Entries need to be made by the end of June.

www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/water/32042.aspx

NEWS: Renewable Heat Incentive Premium Payment Round 2 Open for Applications

The RHI Premium Payment scheme has opened for a second round of grants for householders. Grants of between £300 and £1250 are available for households installing heat generating technologies such as solar thermal hot water, certain types of heat pump and biomass boilers.

www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Generate-your-own-energy/Financial-incentives/Renewable-Heat-Premium-Payment-Phase-2

NEWS: Number in Fuel Poverty Set to Rise

Latest fuel poverty statistics from the government suggest that more of us are likely to struggle to pay our energy bills in the future. Fuel poverty, which is when a household has to spend more than 10% of its income on fuel bills in order to keep their house warm, fell in England during 2010 from 4 million people to 3.5 million. This is thought to be due to a combination of rising incomes, improvements in the energy efficiency of homes and few changes in domestic energy prices between 2009 and 2010. Many of these factors have since changed and fuel poverty is expected to increase to 3.9 million in 2012. Domestic energy prices increased in late 2011 and some government subsidises for energy efficiency are due to be scrapped at the end of 2012.

NEWS: Changes to Feed in Tariffs (FITS)

The Department for Energy and Climate Change has announced a number of changes to FITS which are paid to those who install solar panels to generate electricity:

- From 1st August 2012 the generation tariff for domestic installations (up to 4kW) will be drop from 21p to 16p/kWh.
- The export tariff will rise from 3.2p/kWh to 4.5p/kWh from the same date.
- The length of time the tariff lasts for new installations will drop from 25 years to 20 years.
- Any organisation owning more than 25 sites that receives FITS will receive full FITS for the first 25 installations and 90% for the rest.
- In future the government plan to reduce the use-tariff every three months. This may be slowed down if uptake is low.
- New tariff levels will be produced two months in advance of any change.

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

NEWS: Warm Front

In the last issue of this newsletter we reported that not all of Warm Front funding for 2011-12 had been spent. This year the Department for Energy and Climate Change are keen to make sure the available funding is spent and that it reaches those who need it.

Warm Front provides items such as new boilers, draught proofing and insulation to homes where there is no working central heating system and/or the property is badly insulated and one or more member of the household is on certain benefits. Work done can be worth up to £3500 per household or £6000 if oil central heating is being used.

If you know of someone who may be eligible please ask them to contact Warm Front:
www.warmfront.co.uk.

D. And Finally...

Free Seeds From The Lorax

To celebrate the opening of The Lorax in the cinemas in July, the makers of the film are giving away free seeds. Search for the 'The Lorax' on Facebook for more information.

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 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.