

Community Climate Action Email August 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

Aside from the fact that my husband put his foot through our ceiling as he installed it, loft insulation was one of the best things we ever did in our last home. It instantly made the home warmer – we installed it in-between a mild winter and a very cold one, yet used barely more heating in the colder winter thanks the insulation working its magic and keeping the heat in our home.

If you'd like to insulate your home, but avoid the foot-through-the-ceiling scenario, why not take advantage of one of the schemes currently offering free insulation installed by professional in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. **These schemes only last until the end of December** – after that you could find yourselves paying hundreds of pounds for these measures as government subsidise will no longer be available.

Our house had solid walls which, at the time, were prohibitively expensive to insulate, but now some grant schemes are available including these two:

- www.apexcarbonsolutions.co.uk/ewi.html
- www.britishgas.co.uk/products-and-services/energy-saving/home-insulation/external-wall-insulation.html

If you'd like to receive news a little more often than through our monthly e-newsletter, why not follow us on Facebook or Twitter, or check out our website:

- www.facebook.com/ccan.network
- www.twitter.com/ccannetwork
- www.everybodys-talking.org

Got Any News?

If you have anything you'd us to include in the next e-newsletter you need to send it to us by **Sunday 2nd September**: ccan@mea.org.uk.

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A. Local Events

Energy Efficiency in Community Buildings Workshop

Saturday 22nd September, 9.45am – 12.30pm

Tutors: Mike Evanson and Esther Jones

Venue: Combs Village Hall, nr Chapel-en-le-Frith, High Peak

Organised by High Peak CVS

- Is your community building unwelcomingly cold, draughty and hard to heat?
- Are your heating bills eating into your reserves?

We are all aware that we could improve the energy efficiency of our community buildings and thus cut costs, make them more comfortable, and be kinder to the environment. But exactly what can be done to improve your building's energy efficiency? How do you prioritize the options so as to choose the measures most realistic and cost effective for your situation? And how do you go about installing your chosen options?

This practical, implementation-focused workshop is aimed at managers, trustees and members of management committees which are keen to reduce their community building's energy consumption and reduce fuel bills, and prepared to invest reserves or fundraise to undertake energy efficiency measures. The session will use Combs Village Hall as an on-site case study, where Mike Evanson and the management committee have reduced the Hall's energy consumption by over 50% in the last 5 years.

Cost: Voluntary, community and faith-based organizations without / with paid staff £10 / £30; Statutory & others £75

To book contact Jackie at High Peak CVS on 01663 735 350 / jackie@highpeakcvs.org.uk

B. Local News

Time is Running Out For Free Insulation

Time is running out for Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire residents to take advantage of lofty savings on their energy bills. A number of free and heavily subsidised schemes operate in the two counties, however their funding will end at the end of December.

At present many schemes will install loft and cavity wall insulation for free. After December 2013 these measures are likely to cost several hundred pounds each. Local Authorities are urging local people to prepare for winter and beat rising energy prices by applying now.

For more information on the scheme operating in your area visit: www.everybodys-talking.org/insulation-offers.

Community Bulk Purchase Schemes

Rural Action Derbyshire has set up a community bulk purchase oil buying scheme to help those who heat their home using oil to keep their costs down. For more information about the scheme contact: Claire Thornber: 07903 876811 / c.thornber@ruralactionderbyshire.org.uk

www.ruralactionderbyshire.org.uk/oil.html

Autumn Courses at Derbyshire Eco Centre

The Derbyshire Eco Centre has published it's brochure of courses for the autumn. Courses on offer include Introduction to Renewable Energy, Hedgerow and Autumn Wine Making, and Introduction to Compost Toilets.

www.ecocentreexchange.org.uk

C. National News

£50,000 in Loans Available to Community Owned Renewable Schemes

Energyshare has teamed up with PURE to help more groups access finance for renewable energy installations or to underwrite community share issues. Pure is a registered charity offering loans of up to £50,000 or 50% match funding for community groups, charities or non profits who are located in the lower 50% of wards.

You need to hurry though as the deadline for expressions of interest is 17th August and selected projects will be invited to submit application forms by 7th September. Registering interest in the scheme is free and the usual application fee has been discounted to £50 for energyshare groups.

www.energyshare.com/make-energy/pure-and-energyshare-loan.

Support Available for Low Carbon Neighbourhood Planning

Is your group involved in developing a Neighbourhood Plan, or other community plan? The Centre for Sustainable Energy is able to offer advice on making these plans low carbon, particularly with regard to energy issues. If you haven't got involved in a neighbourhood planning process in your area to date the CSE would urge you to think about what you may be able to add to the plan in terms of promoting policies that reduce carbon emissions in both buildings and lifestyles. The questionnaire, for example, could be a way of starting to gauge local feeling on energy issues.

Doing a Community Consultation Questionnaire? Groups undertaking a Parish Plan, or now a Neighbourhood Plan, often use a questionnaire to get the views and issues important to people locally. Unfortunately there are often no questions in it about energy. To help, CSE has worked up some examples below that you may like to use or adapt:-

- Have you taken any measures to reduce your fuel bills? Yes/No
- If so, what have you done?
- Do you agree the plan needs to propose measures to help us make our contribution to reducing the CO2 emissions that cause Climate Change? Yes/No
- What measures would you like to see in the plan to reduce CO2 emissions?
- Are you worried about your electricity and fuel bills?
- Do you think fuel bills are likely to go up in the future?
- Would you like to see a community renewable energy scheme in the plan? Yes/No

If you would like further information or support from CSE on this, please e-mail communities@cse.org.uk or phone them on 0117 934 1400.

Germany Produces 10% of It's Electricity from Solar In May

During the month of May Germany, which has had a Feed-in-Tariff scheme for several years, generated 10% of its electricity from solar photovoltaic panels. On 25th and 26th May, both particularly good days for solar power, the country met one-third of its peak demand from solar. Germany installed its one millionth solar system at the start of this year and now generates 3% of its electricity from them, a 60% increase since 2010.

www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/may/28/solar-power-world-record-germany
http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2012/01/01/395922/german-solar-output-increases-2011/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+climateprogress%2FICrX+%28Climate+Progress%29

Climate Change Needs Local Action

The government now agrees with what those involved in community-level action already knew: tackling climate change requires action at a local level. A new report from Green Alliance includes contributions from three coalition MPs discussing what the government's local agenda is doing for their constituencies and the UK as a whole to increase climate action.

www.green-alliance.org.uk/grea_p.aspx?id=6511

Fossil Fuel Subsidises Could Be As High As \$1 Trillion

A new report suggests that globally direct and indirect subsidises for fossil fuel industries could be as high as \$1 trillion a year.

<http://priceofoil.org/2012/06/14/report-low-hanging-fruit-fossil-fuel-subsidies-climate-finance-and-sustainable-development/>

Are Homeowners Willing to Tackle Climate Change?

A new report exploring the willingness of homeowners to adapt to and mitigate for climate change has found that while they have high levels of awareness of climate change they are not willing to do much to adapt to floods or to make their home more energy efficient. Whilst some respondents accepted personal responsibility for action, most believed that the authorities were responsible for flood protection, and would not pay the costs required to make their home more energy efficient and better prepared for the eventuality of floods. The report's authors suggest that multi-faceted strategies, including more effective communication of risks and responsibilities, incentives, and material support for the poorest, will need to be developed to overcome the current reluctance by homeowners to invest in flood-protection measures and further energy conservation solutions in the future.

www.springerlink.com/content/14171047282672j0/

Campaigners Declare Rio +20 a Failure

Campaigners attending the Rio +20 Summit in Brazil in June have declared the final document arising from the summit a failure. The conference's organisers said that they had agreed 'a pathway for a sustainable century' after 190 countries signed an agreement on a way forward. However the document – entitled 'The Future We Want' – was criticised by environmentalists and anti-poverty campaigns for lacking ambition to tackle growing environmental problems and the worsening inequalities they are causing.

www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/jun/23/rio-20-earth-summit-document?INTCMP=SRCH

Plastic Bag Use Drops by 96% in Wales

Plastic Bag use in Wales has dropped by 96% since a charge of 5p per bag was introduced last October by the Welsh government.

<http://wales.gov.uk/newsroom/environmentandcountryside/2012/120704bagsupport/;jsessionid=Sl9QhpXMLzr9P2w2vqysT0yJ8Bd24gnNqL6TkPKSQmxQjLynnZP!-245073788?lang=en>.

Solar Schools Project Launches

Solar Schools is a project from 10:10 which encourage schools to fundraise from their local community to purchase solar panels that allow them to benefit from feed-in-tariff payments and lower electricity bills which can fund things like after-school's clubs.

www.solarschools.org.uk/about

D. And Finally...

Be in with a chance to **win a year's free electricity** from Good Energy or Ecotricity when you enter Friends of the Earth's (FOE) photo competition. FOE are looking for photos

which show inspiring examples of clean British energy. Winning photos could appear in an exhibition designed to show politicians that renewable energy is popular.

www.foe.co.uk/living/competitions/cbe_photo_competition_36350.html

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.