

Community Climate Action Email September 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.

This month's e-newsletter is slightly later than normal as I've been on holiday. I travelled overland to Spain – something I've not done before – and I would definitely recommend it to anyone who wants to go abroad but avoid flying. It took us a day and half to get to Ibiza and it involved taxis, trains, underground trains and ferries, but it was so much more enjoyable than flying (which, unfortunately, we did on the way home). The most exiting part was spending twelve hours on the Trenhotel – which leaves Paris each evening, arriving in Barcelona just after breakfast the next morning, and includes cabins with bunk beds (and showers if you go first class, which we didn't), a dining car and bar.

For anyone considering a train journey almost anywhere in the world I would recommend this website www.seat61.com and booking far in advance to make sure you get the best deals. If you're thinking specifically of Ibiza, or mainland Spain, then this article first inspired me to do this journey and was also a useful guide when I actually came to plan it: www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2006/oct/25/g2?INTCMP=SRCH.

This Month's 'To Do' List:

- Now that I've returned from 30+°C temperatures I'm feeling the autumnal weather more keenly than most years! Get your home ready for winter weather by **installing insulation at subsidised prices**: www.everybodys-talking.org/take-action-save-money/insulate-insulate-insulate/local-insulation-schemes.
- Book a place on our free **Community-Owned Renewables events** taking place in October. You'll meet members of other local community groups, learn new skills and come away inspired and equipped to start your own project. www.everybodys-talking.org/news/members-local-community-owned-renewables-speak-events.
- **Get a sneak preview** of the materials being used at the events: www.planlocal.org.uk.

Did you know that over 300 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.

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A. Local Events

Community-Owned Renewables Events

Friday 7th October, Newark, Nottinghamshire
Saturday 8th October, Matlock, Derbyshire
Friday 28th October, Corby, Northamptonshire
Saturday 29th October, Leicester

All events: 9:30am-5:30pm

All events: FREE, Places are limited and pre-booking is essential by contacting:

kirsty.mitchell@cse.org.uk.

Organised by Marches Energy Agency and Centre for Sustainable Energy
FLIER ATTACHED

This is a fantastic opportunity to learn more about community-owned renewables. This **very practical event**, with lots of workshops and chance to chat with other community groups and planners, will equip you to tackle everything involved in setting up a community-owned renewable – from choosing an appropriate technology and getting your community onboard to finding funding and applying for planning permission.

NEW *Speakers From Local Community-Owned Hydro and Solar Projects*****

In addition, **each event will have a keynote speaker from a local project – including Torrs Hydro in Derbyshire and North Kilworth's solar photovoltaic project in Leicestershire**. The former is the first full operational community-owned hydro project in Derbyshire while the latter recently secured £60,000 of lottery funding for solar panels on a number of community buildings.

All community groups represented will receive a **comprehensive handout pack**, including DVDs, activities and exercises to take back to your local community. Get a sneak preview here: www.planlocal.org.uk.

Transition Buxton Renewable Energy Event

17th September, 10am-4pm

United Reformed Church, Hardwick Square East, Buxton, SK17 6PT

Suggested Donation: £6 (members), £7.50 (non members)

Contact Marge Rose: marge.rose@btinternet.com / 07961 137218

This event will provide training in renewable energy technologies, with particular emphasis on those most suitable for domestic properties in and around Buxton. Transition Buxton, a local community group, have invited Nick Parsons, an independent consultant in sustainable building with more than two decades experience, to run the day.

Hydro Study Event/Seminar

Sat. 17 September, 2:00 - 5:00 PM

Medway Centre, Bakewell

The weir is at Victoria Mill, just off Buxton Road

Free, organised by Sustainable Bakewell

Ever wondered how hydro-electricity generation actually works? Did you know that in Bakewell there is a potential micro-hydro generation site? Come and find out what is involved in developing a hydro-electricity site at this informative, interactive and stimulating discussion-seminar & site visit.

The site is currently the subject of an engineering study to access the energy obtainable from the site. Sustainable Bakewell c.i.c. received a grant from Climate East Midlands (administered by Ground-work East Midlands) to have this work carried out.

Free Refreshments will be provided. Reserve a place by calling 01629 815123 or texting 07790 818883 or emailing info@sustainablebakewell.org.uk .

Launch of Totally Locally West Bridgford

Saturday 1st October, 9am-3pm

Melton Road, West Bridgford

If every adult in West Bridgford spent just £5 per week in local shops and businesses (instead of at supermarkets or on-line outside the area) it would mean an extra £9.3 million a year going into our local economy! Which means more jobs, a better town and a nicer place for us all to live.

Totally Locally is an initiative to encourage people to use local shops. It's launching in West Bridgford with lots of local producers showing off their wares on Melton Road.

<http://totally-locally.co.uk/westbridgford/>

Cycling Ride Leadership Course

Sunday 9th October, 8:45am-5:30pm

Derby. Organised by British Cycling

Free

The Breeze network is British Cycling's exciting new recreation programme to get more women riding a bike. It's about fun, friendly and social bike rides in a local area, led by women for women. Breeze is running training for volunteer champions who are willing to lead 14 rides a year for women in their area. This training course will provide champions with all they need to know to plan, promote and deliver a ride. There is no need to be a cycling expert - just be confident on a bike and keen to help others. They're looking for enthusiastic people to get involved in the Breeze network and inspire women to get more

out of their bike, have fun with friends and get a recognised qualification at the same time. You'll also be supported to get a first aid qualification.

To find out more contact: breeze@britishcycling.org.uk or visit www.breezebikerides.com.

Passive House Under Construction

Sunday 2nd October, 1pm

West Bridgford

Free. Email info@wbecohouses.co.uk to book

A rare opportunity to see a Victorian house being retrofitted using Passive House methodology. The refurbishment is nearing completion and this event will offer a tour with the architect of features including internal solid wall insulation, air tightness barriers, a high-end MVHR system to deliver fresh air to this air-tight house, triple-glazed windows, solar thermal panels to provide hot water, and a small stand-alone wood-burning stove instead of central heating. A PV system is planned for the roof of the outbuildings.

The Eco House Group, an initiative of Transition West Bridgford, is teaming up with the AECB (Association of Sustainable Builders) to organise this event for those who are interested in examples of ultra-low energy refurbishment.

To reserve a place and receive details of the location email at info@wbecohouses.co.uk.

Numbers will be limited, so an additional slot at 3pm will be arranged if necessary.

Summaries of previous events at this development can be found here:

www.wbecohouses.co.uk.

Harvesting Wind for Community Groups and Farmers – a “how to do it” workshop

29th September

Hockerton Housing Project

£60-200 (depending on income and organisation)

Learn how Hockerton's wind turbine reduces CO₂ emissions and earns an income from the Feed-in-Tariff (FITS). This event will be of particular interest to community groups and farmers wishing to install a wind turbine or a Photovoltaic (PV) Array to reduce carbon emissions and benefit from FITS.

Book here: www.hockertonhousingproject.org.uk/SEFS/ID.3015/SEFE/ViewItem.asp

Free Tour of Torrs Hydro Project

Saturday 24th September, 1pm-3pm

New Mills, Derbyshire

FREE

Free tours of the first up and running community-owned hydro project in Derbyshire will be available and staff will be on hand to answer questions.

B. Local News

Make Your Home Cosy for Winter

Autumn is on it's way – today I'm wearing one more layer than I was yesterday, I've started wearing my coat outdoors and, before we know it, it will be time to turn on the heating!

Whilst you're digging out your gloves, scarf and winter quilt it's also a good time to think about wrapping up your home for the winter. Most local authorities in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire operate a subsidised loft and cavity wall insulation scheme to offer householders in private accommodation – owned or rented – the opportunity to make their homes warmer and cheaper to heat for as little as £49. For those aged over 70 or in receipt of certain benefits, these measures may be free.

Installing loft or cavity wall insulation is literally like wrapping your home in a blanket to keep the heat in. Some schemes also have offers for other measures such as solid wall insulation and solar panels. To find out what's available in your area visit:

www.everybodys-talking.org/take-action-save-money/insulate-insulate-insulate/local-insulation-schemes.

Some other top tips to use less energy during the colder months:

- If you have a programmer for your heating system make sure it is only turning the heating on when you need it to be on.
- Check your thermostat is set at a suitable level – normally 21°C in living areas and 18°C elsewhere.
- Turn off lights when you leave a room empty.
- Don't leave items on standby and unplug chargers once a charge is complete.
- Borrow a real-time Energy Monitor from your local public library to find out where you're using the most electricity.
- Take monthly meter readings and enter them into this free website: www.wesave.org.uk. Sometimes monitoring how much you're using is all you need to nudge you to use less!

Derbyshire County Council to Install Solar Panels

Solar panels are to be installed at Derbyshire County Council's properties, including schools, at a cost of £500,000. The investment will be paid back through the Government's Feed In Tariff incentive. The plan was reported in this article in the Derby Telegraph <http://www.thisisderbyshire.co.uk/Solar-panels-plan-set-ahead/story-12921409-detail/story.html> and has since been approved.

C. National News

Warm Front Scheme

The Warm Front scheme provides grants to those who are in receipt of certain benefits and have a home which is badly insulated and/or does not have a working central heating system. It can provide help with the costs of a number of measures including a new heating system. To find out more visit: www.warmfront.co.uk.

Government Failing to Back Greener Travel

Sustrans and Friends of the Earth believe that the government are failing to take value-for-money steps proven to cut traffic and carbon emissions, despite the advice of the Government's own expert advisor.

Their research shows that only a fraction of £6 billion allocated to councils for Local Transport Plans is being spent on sustainable travel. This is despite specific recommendations by the Committee on Climate Change for a phased roll-out in towns and cities across the UK of Smarter Travel Choices (STCs) – schemes that promote greener travel, including walking and cycling, public transport and car sharing.

The research looked at 16 transport plans and found that an average of just 70p per head per year is being spent on STCs despite recent pilot studies in three areas showing that encouraging sustainable travel can be very cost effective.

Behaviour Change and Energy Use

A new report combining 'behavioural economics and psychology' explores why people make energy saving decisions and how to nudge them in the right direction. From the newly formed Cabinet Office's Behavioural Insights Team it considers how to increase take up of renewable energy generation and domestic energy efficient behaviours.

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/behaviour-change-and-energy-use.pdf

D. And Finally...

Cut Carbon Emissions to Prevent an Alien Attack

NASA Scientists have claimed that reducing our carbon emissions could prevent an alien attack. Extraterrestrials could view changes in the earth's atmosphere as evidence that humans are spiralling out of control and decide to take pre-emptive action to wipe us out to ensure we don't become a threat: 'Humanity may just now be entering the period in which its rapid civilisational expansion could be detected by an ETI because our expansion is changing the composition of the Earth's atmosphere, via greenhouse gas emissions,' a report states.

<http://arxiv.org/abs/1104.4462>

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.