

## Community Climate Action Email September 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

#### Ask Me a Climate Question Answers Now Online

Our 'Ask Me a Climate Question' Service has been buzzing with enquiries over the summer months – especially about how to make community building more efficient and about renewables. Examples of past enquiries can be downloaded from our website and more recent enquiries will be added in the coming weeks: <http://tinyurl.com/crlao5m>.

If you have a question you would like to ask us, just let us know, by emailing [ccan@mea.org.uk](mailto:ccan@mea.org.uk). We will undertake some desk-based research to answer your question and get back to you within three weeks..

#### 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 30<sup>th</sup> September**: [ccan@mea.org.uk](mailto:ccan@mea.org.uk).

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Michael Fish Base Jump

### **A. Local Events**

#### **Nottinghamshire Homes Taking Part in National September Superhome Open Days** Various dates and locations during September

A number of homes on Nottinghamshire are taking part in a national Open Day event this month. Pioneering owners of some of the UK's most energy efficient SuperHomes will be hosting free Open Days between 1<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> September; SuperHomes are older homes that have been refurbished for greater comfort, lower bills and reduced emissions (at least 60% less). Joining a tour will give you actionable ideas for greening your own home.

This is a great opportunity to talk to home owners who have been there, done it and are already enjoying the benefits. To find out more or to pre-book a place on a tour, visit [www.superhomes.org.uk](http://www.superhomes.org.uk)

#### **Pedal Powered Party**

9<sup>th</sup> September, Derby Market Place  
FREE

Charity Shop DJ hosts a flamboyant mix of live performance from bands, DJs, dance and theatre groups. Featuring QE2 (Queen tribute), Trinity Band, a specially commissioned live theatre piece – and other quirky surprises spread over three stages in Derby Market Place.

Simply jump on a bike and pedal to generate electricity to help power the performances. Come with friends, family, colleagues and get a team together! There will be adult bikes, kids bikes, and hand-cranked bikes. Without your power, there can be no party!

Come along for a good old sing-a-long as we hand over to the closing ceremony of the Paralympics which will be broadcast live on the Big Screen at 9pm. A chance to celebrate the triumphs and successes of an Olympic summer.

#### **Energy Efficiency in Community Buildings Workshop**

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 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](mailto:jackie@highpeakcvs.org.uk)

### **East Midlands Cycle Forum**

22<sup>nd</sup> September

Stonegravels Parish Centre, 91 Sheffield Road, Chesterfield S41 7JH

Lunch provided by Chesterfield Cycle Campaign. Donations welcome

Presentations by Chesterfield Cycle Campaign and Sustrans. More information and to book: [secretary@chesterfieldcc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@chesterfieldcc.org.uk).

### **Hockerton Housing Project Introductory Tour**

29<sup>th</sup> September, £18-£30

Hockerton Housing Project is running an introductory tour of their carbon neutral houses. A resident will show you round and give you an insider's perspective on what it is like to try and live a carbon neutral lifestyle.

Book: <http://tinyurl.com/cl87e16>.

## **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](http://www.everybodys-talking.org/insulation-offers).

### **Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust Green Guardians Awards**

Community groups, schools, individuals and business all have the chance to win an award, £1000 and the title of 'Green Guardian' in these annual awards. Categories include 'Environmental Community of the Year', the 'Coping with Climate Change Award' and an award for new initiatives called 'First Steps to Sustainability Award'.. Nominate yourself or someone else: <http://tinyurl.com/c68vrt8>. Closing date: 1<sup>st</sup> October.

### **National Park Authority Installs Biomass Boiler**

Work has started on the installation of a biomass boiler at Aldern House, the Head Office of the Peak District National Park Authority in Bakewell. Once installed the boiler will provide at least 85% of the heat requirements of the building.

Two members of staff are blogging about the installation and promise that you will 'have the chance to (potentially) be amazed, educated, heartened or shocked by what will be one of the most significant carbon reduction projects undertaken corporately by the PDNPA to date.' <http://biomasslog.wordpress.com>.

### **Free Energy Management Services for Small and Medium Enterprises**

The Environmental Technology Centre (ETC) at the University of Nottingham can offer SMEs in the East Midlands between two and five days of bespoke consultancy to help them adopt more efficient use of resources, environmentally friendly working practices and the use of cleaner and more sustainable technologies. By considering environmental issues businesses can increase efficiency and profitability, while creating excellent marketing opportunities.

Contact: the team: 0115 846 6096 / [the-etc@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:the-etc@nottingham.ac.uk)

### **Carbon Emissions Rise – Except in Derby**

Per person carbon emissions rose in nine out of ten Local Authority areas between 2009-10 according to new data from the Department of Energy and Climate Change. In Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire emissions rose in all local authority areas except Derby where they fell slightly.

<http://tinyurl.com/cgv6n2v>

### **Pulp Friction Smoothies**

Pulp Friction Smoothies is a social enterprise with a smoothie-making bike. Find out more about their forthcoming events on their website: <http://pulpfrictionsmoothies.org.uk>.

## **C. Resources & Support**

### **Help for Communities to Get 'Green Deal Ready'**

The Centre for Sustainable Energy has received funding from the Department for Energy and Climate Change to help communities actively engage with the government's forthcoming Green Deal. A range of resources from printed materials to videos will be available to boost knowledge and increase confidence and understanding throughout communities in the UK.

<http://tinyurl.com/8wde7ql>

### **'The Source' of Information for Community Renewables**

The Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) have begun collecting their favourite resources designed to support those who want to set up community-owned renewable projects. The resources are stored at 'the source', a section on CSE's website.

[www.cse.org.uk/thefsource](http://www.cse.org.uk/thefsource)

### **Free Energy Saving Poster**

CSE have produced a free energy saving poster for download from their website.

<http://tinyurl.com/8n3kdz4>

### **D. National News and Events**

#### **EVENT: Low Carbon Living Workshop**

24<sup>th</sup> September, Milton Keynes

Free (funded by DECC). Book: [kirsty.millar@cse.org.uk](mailto:kirsty.millar@cse.org.uk)

Last year many of you attended a Low Carbon Workshop in either Matlock or Newark organised by MEA and the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE). Now CSE are holding a similar workshop in Milton Keynes – so if you missed out first time around, you have another chance.

The Localism Bill, the feed-in tariff for renewable electricity, and the introduction of the Renewable Heat Incentive. These combine to produce a fertile environment for community-led planning approaches to low-carbon development and real growth in community ownership of renewable energy generation. This workshop will help communities take advantage of this shift. They will introduce you to a **suite of tools and information** designed to support communities to plan low-carbon and renewable energy initiatives, including more strategic engagement with the statutory planning system. The day has been designed to ensure that you feel confident to take the resources CSE will present out to your community or those that you work with to kick-start the process of low carbon planning, or establish a renewable energy project.

<http://tinyurl.com/9d977pj>

### **RENEWABLE NEWS: Woolhope Woodheat Share Offer**

Woolhope Woodheat is a pioneering sustainable woodfuel/woodheat project in South Herefordshire. The project is creating a market to bring neglected woodlands back into management and installing state-of-the art woodchip boilers in hard-to-heat buildings. It has been thought up and put together over three years by a group of volunteers. The project's share offer is open until 28 September and currently has about half the members it needs. This is an opportunity to get involved in a renewable energy co-op which will pay a predicted 6.1% return on your investment.

<http://woolhopewoodheat.org.uk/>

## **RENEWABLE NEWS: Solar Panel Loans Now Available**

Householders can now buy a specialist loan to cover the cost of solar photovoltaics (and therm). Installer Engensa has teamed up with Hitachi Finance to offer 7.9% APR loans for Solar Panels claiming 85% of applicants should be accepted.

[www.engensa.com](http://www.engensa.com)

## **ENERGY PRICE NEWS: SSE to raise Gas and Electricity Prices**

The firm which operates as Scottish Hydro, Swalec and Southern Electric is to usher in price increases averaging 9%. They claim the increases are warranted by 'extra costs of using networks and rising prices on wholesale markets'. Increases will start to take effect in October - <http://bbc.in/SRVZKz>

Consumer Focus has published tables showing the impact this will have on bills: <http://tinyurl.com/8af2xk2>.

## **FOOD NEWS: Allotment Alternatives**

On a really long waiting list for an allotment? Try one of these schemes while you wait: [www.landshare.net/](http://www.landshare.net/) and [www.growzones.com](http://www.growzones.com).

## **AWARDS NEWS: Retro Awards**

Categories in the Retro Awards include: 'Domestic Retrofit Project of the Year' and 'Community-driven Retrofit Project of the Year'.

<http://tinyurl.com/8dtrt69>

## **FUEL POVERTY NEWS: Significant Invisibles: Young as Well as Old Live in Fuel Poverty**

New research has found that many young people are living in fuel poverty (spending more than 10% of their income on energy) but that most assistance for those in fuel poverty focuses on the elderly and the disabled. According to the report's author: 'This group (young people) represents a part of society that is invisible to fuel poverty assistance.'

<http://bit.ly/QgYz7J>

## **FUEL POVERTY NEWS: 'Green Deal Will Fail Without Fuel Poverty Changes'**

Consumer groups and environmental campaigners believe that the government's forthcoming Green Deal will fail if it doesn't do more to address fuel poverty - when a household spends more than 10% of its income on fuel bills. Campaigners include WWF, Which? and Greenpeace are asking for more emphasis on tackling fuel poverty, including extended support for loft and cavity wall insulation. <http://bit.ly/Nbonb4>

Meanwhile the government has announced a u-turn on its initial decision not to fund a publicity campaign for the Green Deal. It is now expected to spend £2 million.

<http://bit.ly/MWDOxR>

## TRANSPORT NEWS: How Your Car Can Buy Your Lunch

A new campaign from the Energy Saving Trust aims to show people how habits such as driving more efficiently and car sharing can help people save enough money to pay for their lunch.

<http://tinyurl.com/9mxttw>

### E. And Finally...

Michael Fish does a base jump to raise awareness of climate change:

<http://tinyurl.com/9bngaaa>

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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:ccan@mea.org.uk).

The Everybody's Talking Website is the climate change portal for Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire: [www.everybodys-talking.org](http://www.everybodys-talking.org).