

Community Climate Action Email July 10

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.

Please note that there will not be a Community Climate Action E-newsletter during August, but we will be back in September.

For the September edition it would be great if some of you could answer this question: **what is the best eco product you have bought in the last year and why?** Answers in an email with your name and location (we will only publish your first name and your town/village/city) to: ccan@mea.org.uk and the best ones will make it into the next newsletter.

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A. Local News

Advertise Your Groups Events Online for Free

A new, **free** facility on the Everybody's Talking website allows groups to advertise their events online with minimum fuss. Simply fill in the form at <http://www.everybodys-talking.org/community-events> and hit 'submit'. Your event will be reviewed and added to the website as soon as possible (please allow up to five working days, although most events will be added sooner).

Online Community Group Profiles Now Live

A number of local climate change-focused community groups now have an online profile on the Everybody's Talking website (www.everybodys-talking.org). A profile gives a group an online presence without requiring the group to maintain their own website. It could help you to advertise your group and recruit new members.

If your group doesn't yet have a profile and would like one please fill in the form attached to this email and return it to: ccan@mea.org.uk. We will then add a profile to the site as soon as possible. Please only submit one form per group.

Nottingham: Most Self-Sufficient City for Energy in Britain

Looking for some positive news amongst all the doom and gloom of spending cuts? Well look no further than our very own Nottingham! A document outlining Nottingham's Sustainable Energy Strategy for the next decade has also revealed that it is already the most self-sufficient city in Britain in terms of energy.

Nottingham generates almost 3% of its entire energy consumption from renewables and waste – mostly from an 'Energy from Waste' plant in the city centre which provides heat and power to much of the city centre and 4700 homes. If you also include generation from 10 small-scale CHP (Combined Heat and Power) plants based in the city then it supplies 14% of its own non-transport energy from low or zero carbon sources. Using either the 3% figure or the 14% figure this makes it the most energy self-sufficient city in Britain.

Of course energy efficiency is also key to tackling climate change and the city has also dramatically cut its domestic energy use in recent years with a fall in gas use of 16%, driving down per capita CO2 emissions to the lowest in the East Midlands.

Despite already achieving cuts in CO2 emissions of 31% against 1990 levels the council plans to go further and has set targets to bring that figure to 52%, well in advance of national targets.

Read Nottingham's Sustainable Energy Strategy at:
<http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=19119&p=0>.

Networking and Signposting Service

Marches Energy Agency's Networking and Signposting Service allows Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire-based community groups taking action on climate change to enquire about projects or activities they might want to set up or topics they would like to know more about. We can help you to find other groups and organisations that you would like to work with, learn from and share with. We can also direct you to resources, websites and courses. **No question is too easy or too hard** and we aim to respond within 10 working days. So if your group is big on ideas but short on time to research those ideas let us know.

The service has been set up in direct response to the needs of local community groups as identified in a recent survey of those groups.

Email your question or enquiry to ccan@mea.org.uk or call 07748 508704.

B. Local Events

Launch of Unique Eco Centre in Derbyshire

Derbyshire Eco Centre, nr Wirksworth
Saturday 18th September

I love to kick-start autumn by deciding to learn something new over the coming academic year. Last year I embarked on a gardening course and recently I've harvested my first potatoes, onions and kohlrabi. My broccoli has gone spectacularly wrong (apparently I didn't water it enough and so it went to seed) but mistakes are all part of the fun and I plan to try to save the seeds for next year!

So you can imagine that I'm very excited about the opening of the Derbyshire Eco Centre - the County Council's brand new adult community education centre. It's the only such facility in Britain to focus on sustainability and will play host to all kinds of courses and activities including those focusing on sustainable development and climate change.

A 10% discount on autumn term courses is available if you book before the 24th September and you can also get a discount if you travel to the centre in a sustainable manner. Why not attend the launch event on 18th September or download a brochure and booking form:

www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/adcommed/derbyshire_eco_centre/default.asp.

Celebration of City Farms

University of Nottingham's Jubilee Campus, plus site tours of local community gardens and farms
3rd-4th September

Local community groups in Nottingham will be at the centre of this year's celebrations to mark the 30th anniversary of UK charity the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens (FCFCG). The charity has chosen Nottingham for its main birthday celebration which will include a conference session, workshops and site visits to local food growing and gardening projects, as well as a civic reception hosted by the Lord Mayor and a celebration ceildh.

There will also be a special bedding display in the shape of FCFCG's logo at Nottingham Castle. The mini-garden has been filled with edible plants specially chosen for their colour as well as reflecting the ethnic diversity of some of the city's community groups.

Community gardening and farming groups from across the county are being invited to attend the event, with free places up for grabs on a first come, first served basis. Book a place at: www.farmgarden.org.uk/anniversary or contact admin@farmgarden.org.uk or 0117 923 1800.

Date for your Diary – Living For Tomorrow: Nottinghamshire Community Climate Action Conference

Saturday 13th November 2010

If you live in Nottinghamshire get this date in your diary!

Nottinghamshire Climate Change Partnership is organising a one-day conference for community groups in Nottinghamshire which are taking action on climate change, and also for individuals who would like to form or join such groups. Further details about this exciting event will be in the September newsletter – or keep an eye out on the Everybody's Talking website: www.everybodys-talking.org.

C. National News

Zero Carbon Britain Plan

The Centre for Alternative Technology has launched a document setting out 'a fully integrated vision of how Britain can respond to the challenges of climate change, resource depletion and global inequity.' It's a weighty document but the executive summary is definitely worth a scan for inspiration: www.zerocarbonbritain.org.

Mentoring Scheme Launched

Low Carbon Communities Network has launched a pilot mentoring scheme for those running low carbon community groups. Mentors need to have a couple of year's experience of running such groups and mentees need to want to learn how. Find out more: <http://lowcarboncommunities.net/mentoring/>.

Transition Conference Round-up Online

If you didn't attend the national Transition Towns conference which took place earlier this month then you can find out what went on, through articles, video clips and audio clips on their website: <http://www.transitionnetwork.org/news/2010-07-12/transition-network-conference-2010-round>.

Campaign for Better Transport

Many local authorities are currently reviewing their **local travel plans**. Find out how to influence these plans for the benefit of the environment:

- www.bettertransport.org.uk
- www.ctc.org.uk/DesktopDefault.aspx?TabID=5323
- www.foe.co.uk/community/campaigns/climate/transport_days_21600.html

D. And Finally...

Summer Reading

Still looking for a book to read on your holidays? Need to keep the kids entertained during the summer holidays? Why not try one of these:

Funny Weather by Kate Evans. A cartoon-style book explaining climate change.

How Bad Are Bananas? The Carbon Footprint of Everything by Mark Berners-Lee. You can 'Look Inside' this book on its entry on Amazon which gives you a good idea of its contents. It gives you the carbon footprint of a range of items from 1kg of steel to 1kg of

carrots. According to the author this information will allow you to 'pick your battles' in trying to reduce your carbon footprint. A book to flick through rather than read from start to finish.

Where Does the Poo Go?.. When You Flush by Caren Trafford. One of six children's books by this author available from <http://shop.newint.org/uk/>. Each book addresses an aspect of the environment from renewables to recycling. Where Does the Poo Go? takes a humorous, but also educational, look at composting and recycling.

That's all for this month. **Please note that there will not be a Community Climate Action E-newsletter during August, but we will be back in September.**

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.

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.