

Community Climate Action Email November 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 December issue of this newsletter. We will return in the New Year.

Did you know that 270 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

Last Chance to Book! –Living For Tomorrow: Nottinghamshire Community Climate Action Conference

Forever Green, Ransom Wood, Near Mansfield
Saturday 13th November, 9:30am-4:15pm (Booking closes 3rd November)
FREE including a buffet lunch and refreshments

If you live in Nottinghamshire or Nottingham you have until Wednesday (3rd November) to book for this free conference for community groups taking action on climate change.

The conference includes:

- A beautiful venue in some peaceful woods just outside of Mansfield – the location is near some recently erected wind turbines. Forever Green's kitchen has a garden which supplies some of the ingredients used in the venue's buffets.
- Inspiring keynote speakers from Whittington and Fisherwick Environmental Group (www.wfeg.org.uk) and Incredible Edible Todmorden (www.incredible-edible-todmorden.co.uk).
- A range of workshops led by local community groups and service providers on topics as diverse as 'Going Plastic Bag Free', 'Community-Owned Renewables' and 'Setting Up a Community Allotment'
- A free buffet lunch with some local ingredients
- A marketplace full of ideas and resources for your group
- The chance to network with other groups and those who can support you in your work to tackle climate change

A flyer with more details is attached. Book by Wednesday by emailing: localagenda21@nottsc.gov.uk. You will receive a reply confirming your place and providing practical details, including how to travel to the event by public transport.

Guided Cycle Ride to the Living for Tomorrow Conference

Meet outside the main entrance of Mansfield Town Station at 9:10am (trains arrive from Nottingham at 8:56 and from Worksop at 9:09).

As part of the Living For Tomorrow Conference members of Pedals, a bicycle group based in Nottingham, will be providing a guided cycle ride from Mansfield Town Station (not to be confused with Mansfield Woodhouse Station) to the conference venue.

The ride will take about 30-40 minutes and is primarily off-road. It will take you past some wind turbines recently erected near the conference venue to provide some inspiration at the start of the day! It is timed to arrive at the venue in time for the start of the conference. Participants will then be guided back to the train station in time to catch trains back to Nottingham and Worksop at the end of the day.

If you would like to take part you just need to turn up! Please wear warm, light coloured, waterproof clothing and bring lights for your bike for the return journey and a lock to secure your bicycle at the venue. If you intend to bring your bike on the train then the bike travels for free (but you will still need a ticket!) and you don't need to book space for it, but if you would like to then see:

www.eastmidlandstrains.co.uk/EMTrains/YourJourney/CarParkingAndCycles.htm. Please bear in mind that If lots of people want to put bikes on the same train there is a possibility that they may not all be allowed on.

Online Energy Monitoring Training

Thursday 2nd December & a second date tbc
Nottingham CVS, 7 Mansfield Road, Nottingham
FREE

Marches Energy Agency (MEA) are offering free training sessions on energy efficiency and carbon management for third sector organisations based in Nottinghamshire. The training, which will run over two sessions, will explain how to use MEA's innovative interactive webtool WeSave (www.wesave.org.uk) to monitor and reduce energy consumption in your organisation. You will also explore how to engage staff in this process and how to produce an energy report for a building.

The training sessions are part of a larger support package for Third Sector Organisations which is being funded by the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership. For more information: <http://twoak.com/fbzb>. To book a place contact Phil Wilson on 01623 727600 or pwilson@rcan.org.uk.

Eco House Group Meeting on Renewables

Tuesday 16th November

7pm for refreshments, prompt start at 7.30pm

SNC Training, South Notts College, Mere Way, Ruddington Fields Business Park, NG11 6JZ

This event is one of a series of monthly meetings to look at different aspects of making a home more environmentally friendly. It was inspired by Transition Wet Bridgford, but you don't need to be a member, or even live in the West Bridgford area, to take part.

See: <http://wbecohouses.blogspot.com/p/meetings.html>

Meeting Regarding Wind Turbine Proposal in Beeston Rylands

Monday 22nd November, 7:30pm

Leyton Crescent Community Centre

The University of Nottingham has submitted proposals for three wind turbines on university-owned land next to the River Trent close to Clifton Bridge. Beeston Rylands Labour Party have invited the university to a public meeting at which the BBC is also planning to be present.

The University have put details, including a map and artist's impressions, on their web-site <http://nottingham.ac.uk/renewableenergyproject/index.aspx>

B. Local News

Free Online Energy Monitoring Tool

Two weeks ago I succumbed to changing the settings on my central heating system's programmer to allow for the colder weather. An extra jumper and occasionally pressing the 'one hour boost' button just wasn't cutting it anymore I had to admit that summer was long gone! As the clocks go back and the nights draw many of us will already have upped our energy usage to heat our homes. Marches Energy Agency have produced a free online tool which allows you to monitor your energy usage throughout the year. It even allows you to opt to show others in your community what your usage is and to take a peek at theirs! This generates healthy competition to lower carbon emissions.

Find out more, sign up and get others in your community to sign up, at www.wesave.org.uk.

Community RePaint Scheme

Nottinghamshire County Council have launched a new scheme to reuse paint. RePaint operates from two of the county's Household Waste Recycling Centres: Calverton & Worksop. Paint that is donated by members of the public at these two centres is checked and sorted by the trained site staff and any tins that are over half full of reusable paint are stored separately in a Community RePaint container on site. The paint is then made available free of charge to community groups and voluntary organisations that have registered onto the scheme.

More details: www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/communityrepaint

Wind Power Installed at Sports Club

A wind turbine installed in at Butt Field Sports Club in Bingham has already saved around 364kg of carbon after being installed in June. The 15-meter high turbine, which cost £31,000, joins a number of other measures on the site including rainwater harvesting system and a ground source heat pump.

The former chairman of Bingham Town Youth Football Club, Mr Steve McRobie, who led the turbine application, said: "Our wind turbine will help us to reach out and engage more with the local community. We hope to inspire other groups and individuals to make use of sustainable energy grants and initiatives to do their bit to help the environment." The club is hoping to put a display in the pavilion reception to show visitors how much energy is generated and utilised.

The project was paid for using grants from the now closed Low Carbon Building Programme, the Community Stability Energy Programme, Nottinghamshire County Council and the ScottishPower Green Energy Trust. Bingham Town Council submitted the application on behalf of Butt Field Sports Club.

Local Hydro Project Used to Encourage Water Mill Renaissance

Climate Change Minister Greg Barker recently visited Torrs Hydro, a hydropower scheme in the Peak District and used it as an opportunity to call on others to start generating both energy and money from hydro power.

The visit was also used to highlight the fact that hydro is now eligible for support under the feed-in-tariff scheme. In addition the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) is launching a new hydropower help guide, prepared by the Environment Agency, which offers advice to groups looking to use the power of local streams, weirs or rivers to cut emissions and generate new income for their areas.

Barker said that 'hydropower is currently a missed opportunity. There is more to renewable energy than just large wind turbines. We need to unlock the clean energy of our past as well as the future. To do that we need to make it easy and attractive for local people to revive our traditional waterways and help produce more local clean energy.'

Currently hydropower in the UK is generating the equivalent of 1.4% of electricity demand with a potential to contribute up to a further 1%— enough to power the equivalent of one million homes. In the last two years alone the Environment Agency have seen a 10-fold increase in applications for hydropower permits.

Torrs Hydro is a community share scheme supported by local action group, H2OPE and the Co-op Community Fund. The community group of 230 members invested over £125,000 and then raised the remainder of the scheme's full cost (£330,000) from community bank loans and grants. The scheme earns an income from the energy exported to the local Co-op supermarket. This is a clear example of the power of local action and the sound investment from hydro projects that can be rolled out across the UK.

Read the full press release at:

www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/news/pn10_113/pn10_113.aspx.

Has GRANTnet Helped You Secure Funding?

GRANTnet is a free funding search facility for Derbyshire. The system was devised to assist community and voluntary groups, sports and other clubs, schools, social enterprises and small businesses to identifying funding opportunities for specific projects.

Groups can access the facility here:

www.derbyshire.gov.uk/community/lottery_funding/grant_net/default.asp.

The county council are currently looking for groups who have secured funding with the help of the facility. If you are in such a group please send brief details to ccan@mea.org.uk and we will pass them on to the council.

Learning Opportunities in Sustainable Communities and Environmental Technologies

Aston University's Lifelong Learning Centre has begun offering modules in a variety of topics relating to sustainable communities, urban regeneration and environmental technologies. Each one takes around three months to complete and they can be studied individually or as part of an award (Certificate HE, Diploma HE, BSc) in Professional Development. They have been designed to develop the understanding and skills needed for the emerging green knowledge based economy.

Modules include Sustainable Built Environment; Practical Strategies for Local Food; Engaging Communities in Climate Change and Planning for Energy and Carbon Reduction.

See: <http://www1.aston.ac.uk/study/professional/sustainable-communities/>. Contact John Blewitt (j.d.blewitt@aston.ac.uk / 0121 204 4284) or Shelly Campbell (s.campbell@aston.ac.uk / 0121 204 5220).

Borrow an Energy Monitor

Libraries in both Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire are loaning out real-time energy monitors to help householders identify where they are wasting energy. Useful for those interested in saving money as well those who care about the environment. Visit your local library for more information.

Free Services for Groups

Marches Energy Agency produce this newsletter and also provide a number of other free-to-use services to community groups:

- **Advertise Your Groups Events Online for Free.** A facility on the Everybody's Talking website allows groups to advertise their events online with minimum fuss. Simply fill in the form at www.everybodys-talking.org/community-events and hit 'submit'. Your event will be reviewed and added to the website within five working days.
- **Online Community Group Profiles.** 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 your group an online presence without requiring you to maintain your own website. It could help you to recruit new members. If you would like a profile for your group please fill in the form attached to this email and return it to: ccan@mea.org.uk. Please only submit one form per group.
- **Networking and Signposting Service** for groups that are big on ideas but short on time to research those ideas. Send us an enquiry about a project you want to set up or a topic you want to learn more about. We will do some research for you and signpost you to other community groups you might want to work with or learn from, as well as resources, websites and courses. **No question is too easy or too hard** and we aim to respond within 10 working days. Email your question or enquiry to ccan@mea.org.uk or call 07748 508704.

C. National News

CSR News is Mixed

The Comprehensive Spend Review brought a mixed-bag of good and bad news from a climate change perspective:

- Investment in the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) will be reduced by an average of five per cent and eight per cent respectively per year until 2015.
- The development of controversial **carbon 'capture and storage' (CCS) schemes** at coal-fired power stations are being supported, with up to £1 billion for a single CCS pilot project. This is a reduction of the original proposed four projects originally lined up for public money in the coalition agreement, and the £1bn represents only half the sum requested by DECC.
- By contrast, **offshore wind technology** will receive just a fifth of that amount - £200 million - towards developing offshore the technology and manufacturing, as well as supporting the upgrade of ports to support the industry.
- The **Green Investment Bank** will receive initial funding from the public purse limited to £1 billion, with the promise of more from the sell-off of government assets. Businesses and environmental groups have warned that £4-6 billion is needed over the first four years of the green investment bank, from a combination of public and private sources.
- **Feed-in-tariffs** will remain untouched for now and be reviewed in 2013 as originally scheduled – unless deployment of installations is higher than expected. In other words, if take up is high (good for the environment) they'll probably cut the scheme

early! On the plus side, funding of £860 million was confirmed for the **Renewable Heating Initiative** to support renewables which generate heat.

- **Winter Fuel Payments** and **Cold Weather Payments** to the elderly have been protected, despite not being means tested. On the other hand, **Warm Front**, a scheme which supports the poorest to heat their homes properly and is means tested, will be phased out. National Energy Action said that they were: 'deeply concerned about the levels of funding allocated to the Government's Warm Front programme over the next two years.'
- Controversially, the Government will use revenue raised by the **Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Energy Efficiency Scheme** to support public finances, rather than being used to help its participants. This new scheme originally obliged large businesses to put money into the scheme with a promise that all or some of it would be returned to them based on how much they lowered their carbon emissions by. They will now not receive any of the money back and there is no guarantee that it will be spent on reducing carbon emissions or anything else even remotely 'green'. This reflects an ongoing debate within the Treasury about 'green taxes'. For example, the link between landfill tax being used to help waste reduction was broken 18 months ago. There are now concerns that businesses will have no faith in future schemes to reduce their carbon emissions and will see them merely as an opportunity for the government to take 'stealth taxes' from them.

First Figures on Feed-in-Tariffs Released

Feed-in-Tariffs (FITS) are working! The first figures on FITS show a big increase in installations since the tariff was introduced in April. 2771 units were registered between 1st April and 30th June. By 9th September this figure had reached 9350. The units installed in the first quarter have a total capacity of 15.2MB (photovoltaic (44%), wind (35%) and hydro (21%)). For more information see:

www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/Environment/fits/Documents1/FIT%20Update%20Newsletter%20Issue%201.pdf

Ecotricity's New Green Gas tariff

If you want your gas bill to be invested in building new biogas plants, switch to Ecotricity's Green Gas supply. Ecotricity is planning to supply up to 10% biogas in its mix by the end of 2010, growing this figure year-on-year by investing the money from customers' bills straight back into building more green gas plants. For more info go to:

<http://www.ecotricity.co.uk/news/ecotricity-customers-cooking-on-uk-s-first-green-gas>

Ask Your MP to sign up for ZeroCarbon Britain

MP John McDonnell has introduced an Early Day Motion (EDM) to parliament which calls for action on climate change which will achieve a Zero Carbon Britain by 2030. It includes proposals to devote two hours prime time television each week to explaining the gravity of the climate change, phase out domestic flights and introduce a speed limit of 55 miles per hour.

An Early Day Motion is a formal motion submitted for debate in the House of Commons. However, very few EDMs are actually debated. Instead, they are used to draw attention to specific campaigns and demonstrate the extent of parliamentary support for a particular

cause or point of view. Constituents can ask their MP to sign an Early Day Motion, although they are not obliged to do so.

You can find out who your MP is, and their address, here: <http://findyourmp.parliament.uk/>.

Read the EDM here:

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=41832&SESSION=905>

D. And Finally...

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, Nothing is going to get better. It's not." — Dr. Seuss, from The Lorax

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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. You can send comments about the e-newsletter to the same email address.

If you would like to read this e-newsletter as a pdf please 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. 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.