

Community Climate Action Email September 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.

Do you know someone who would appreciate receiving this e-newsletter? 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.

In the last issue I asked readers to email in **the best eco-product they had bought in the last year**. Here are two of the best:

'**An array of PV panels** on the garage roof. It's producing electricity at a rate of watts (sorry about the pun) and is a visible reminder to all of the importance of combating climate change.' – Derek, 2020 Green Vision Collingham

'My **push-along lawn mower** it doesn't need plugging in, charging, petrol or big muscles to use! And the hens like to eat and scratch around in the clippings too.' – Alexis

For the next newsletter I'd like to know: **What is the best free thing you've done to make your lifestyle more eco-friendly?** Answers in an email to ccan@mea.org.uk and the best will be published in the next newsletter.

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A. Local News

Wind Turbines for Schools and Landowners

Nottingham Energy Partnership (NEP) has launched an innovative new project to help schools and landowners install small wind turbines. They will pay two-thirds of the costs for installing and operating the turbines in return for two-thirds of the income from the energy generated. The turbine owner would also benefit from *all* the free, green energy generated. NEP's project aims to carry out the whole process of assessing sites, securing planning permission, buying and running the turbine, and uniquely, even helping teachers build the technology into their lessons.

For more information contact Jerome Badley, Sustainable Development Manager at NEP: jeromeb@nottenergy.com / 0115 985 9057.

Free Funding Search Facility Available in Derbyshire

Derbyshire-based community groups looking for cash to aid their efforts to tackle climate change can search for funding opportunities at GRANT net. Provided by Derbyshire County Council the facility can help groups looking for funding in these cash-strapped times! See: www.derbyshire.gov.uk/community/lottery_funding/grant_net/default.asp

Derbyshire Conference Report Available

Some of you attended the **Derbyshire Communication Climate Action Conference** in March. A conference report, which will be useful for those who didn't attend, as well as those who did, is attached. It includes summaries of the workshops, so you can find out what went on at the ones which you didn't go to.

For those of you in living in Nottinghamshire and Nottingham: the Nottinghamshire Climate Change Partnership are organising a very similar conference this November. See section B, or the attached poster, for more information and to find out how to book.

Borrow an Energy Meter

Libraries in Derbyshire are loaning out real-time energy meters to help householders identify where they are wasting energy. Useful for those interested in saving money as well as 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 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 <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.** 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 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. We will then add a profile to the site as soon as possible. Please only submit one form per group.
- **Networking and Signposting Service.** This 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. Email your question or enquiry to ccan@mea.org.uk or call 07748 508704.

B. Local Events

BOOK NOW! – Living For Tomorrow: Nottinghamshire Community Climate Action Conference

Forever Green, Ransom Wood, Near Mansfield

Saturday 13th November, 9:15am-4pm

FREE including a buffet lunch and refreshments

I'm a little bit biased about this event because I'm helping to organise it, but nevertheless, if you live in Nottinghamshire or Nottingham you need to be there!

Nottinghamshire Climate Change Partnership is organising an exciting one-day conference for community groups in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire which are taking action on climate change, and also for individuals who would like to form or join such groups. It will be similar to the conference organised for people living in Derbyshire earlier this year, for which a report is attached to this email.

The day will be informal but informative and will include workshops provided by community groups just like your own as well as by service providers. Confirmed keynote speakers include Mike Kinghan, who is part of a successful community group in Whittington and Fisherwick nr Lichfield, where energy surveys of 10% of the homes led to 80 of those homes installing insulation and 15 installing solar hot water systems. There will also be a chance to network over a lunch including some local ingredients and a marketplace to which community groups based in Nottinghamshire are welcome to bring materials for a stall (book in advance by emailing caroline.harmon@mea.org.uk).

Workshop topics will range from setting up a skillshare exchange scheme or community-owned renewable to how to find funding for your group and how to campaign for better public transport.

A flyer with more details is attached. Please feel free to distribute this in your community.

Places are limited so please book now by emailing: localagenda21@nottscc.gov.uk. You will receive a reply confirming your place and providing practical details, including how to travel to the event by public transport.

Rob Hopkins Visits Derby

Princess Anne HQ at St John's Ambulance Training Centre, Trinity Street, DE1 2RE
13th September, 4:30pm - 9pm
Entrance: £6

Rob Hopkins, author of the Transition Handbook and co-founder of the Transition Network, will be visiting Derby to meet Midlands Transition Groups and others interested in building community resilience to the implications of Peak Oil and Climate Change. Prior to his talk Transition Derby will run an Open Space session for groups to share their current experiences and after the talk there will be a Q&A session. Food provided.

Book here: <http://transitionderby.eventsbot.com> or by emailing: info@transitionderby.co.uk.

Eco Neighbourhoods by Design

Sheffield (exact venue tbc)
Friday 8th and Saturday 9th October
FREE

For those of you in the north of Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire this free training may be of interest. Led by The Glass-House Community Led Design it is a hands-on course for community groups who want to make their neighbourhoods more sustainable.

You will work with design professionals, visit some inspiring places and look at where power, food and services come from before creating a presentation to take back to your community. Places are free, but limited, and should be booked by Monday 20th September. Fill in an application form at:
www.theglasshouse.org.uk/event.php?pg_id=99&ev_id=51.

C. National News

Ways of Funding Domestic Renewables

The main problem people mention when they talk to me about the new Feed-in-Tariff is where to find the large upfront cost to buy photovoltaic panels or a wind turbine in the first place. So I'm pleased to hear that innovative ways of getting round this problem have been hitting the headlines.

A number of companies are offering to lease your roof space for 25 years and put photovoltaic panels (which generate electricity) on them. You get the free electricity and they get the feed-in tariff (FITS). They will maintain the panels. A Shade Greener will consider buildings within one hour's drive of Junction 36 of the M1:
www.ashadgreener.co.uk. Isis Solar work nationwide: www.isis-solar.com.

At first glance this seems perfect for anyone who can't fork out the initial purchase and installation costs of PV. However, the feed-in-tariff is worth a lot more than the free electricity and The Guardian have produced an interesting article suggesting that it would

be better to take a loan to pay for a renewable than to take up an offer from one of the above companies: www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/aug/09/solar-photovoltaic-panels-homes.

As with many with many things there isn't a 'one size fits all' solution here. Some people may prefer to have a company like A Shade Greener deal with the hassle of maintenance and claiming FITS. Others will see the benefit of doing it themselves in return for a tidy profit.

Information on FITS, the proposed Renewable Heating Incentive and a range of renewable technologies can be found at: www.mea.org.uk/fact-sheets. Also, for inspiration read about this local initiative in Rushcliffe: <http://rushcliffesolar.blogspot.com>.

Waste Incineration: Good or Bad?

The last e-newsletter carried an article about Nottingham's Sustainable Energy Strategy and mentioned the city's Energy from Waste plant.

Some readers have questioned how eco-friendly such a plant is. For more information on this from Friends of the Earth's point of view see:

- www.foe.co.uk/resource/briefings/dirty_truths.pdf
- www.foe.co.uk/groups/nottingham/229.htm
- www.foe.co.uk/groups/nottingham/200.htm

You can find out more about the incinerator from the point of view of the company which runs it here: www.enviroenergy.co.uk.

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

British Gas to Give Solar Panels to Schools

British Gas has unveiled £15 million investment in solar technology for the nation's schools. The company will donate and install solar panels - worth up to £40,000 - in up to 750 schools in the UK. Each school will be able to generate its own free, green electricity, cutting as much as 20% of its annual electricity bill. Schools receiving solar panels will also receive a British Gas smart meter, offering real time information so pupils can see the difference their solar panels are making.

For more information, and to register a school, visit www.generationgreen.co.uk/solarpanels.

FREE 'Beyond the Tipping Point' Film

Beyond the Tipping Point is a film which encourages people to explore questions about humankind's ability, or inability, to tackle climate change.

Community Groups can get a free copy of the film by emailing: beyondthetippingpoint@gmail.com (a small donation is requested, but is optional). The makers can also supply workshop materials to use as part of a screening.

<http://beyondthetippingpoint.com/>

D. And Finally...

To Wash By Hand or to Use a Dishwasher?

The Guardian think they have the answer: www.guardian.co.uk/environment/green-living-blog/2010/aug/19/carbon-footprints-dishwasher-washing-up

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 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.