



Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire and Wiltshire CRI Newsletter



CRI — Newsletter : Number 10

January 2004

This Newsletter:

CRI Update

CRI Diary

Off-shore Wind Announcement

Lydney Local Power Energy Efficiency Challenge

In Brief:

- *Gloucestershire Renewable Energy EIP Meeting*
- *Wilderness Biomass Boiler Success!!!*
- *Forest Woodfuel Meeting*

Contacts for further information

The CRI

The CRI aims to encourage community involvement with renewable energy and maximise the local benefits from renewable energy projects. Severn Wye Energy Agency (SWEA) manages the CRI for Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and South Gloucestershire areas and provides help and support to community groups and local organisations interested in developing renewable energy projects.

CRI Update

Seasons Greetings from all the staff at SWEA. The Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Local Support Team (LST) key outcomes and work over the last two months has included:

- SWEA held the first Forest of Dean Wood Fuel meeting on the 2nd of December at the Forestry Commission offices in Coleford (see In Brief)
- 3 new projects have been identified since the last newsletter including: -
 - A solar water heating system for residential community for young people with learning difficulties
 - A community wind project.
 - A PV system for a local company.
- Work has continued on a hydro seminar which is planned for the 16th of March at Hartham Park near Chippenham. Details on this event will be released shortly.
- Wilderness Centre have secured a Clear Skies grant for a woodchip boiler (See In Brief).

The newsletters will be quarterly from now on, so you should expect the next Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and South Gloucestershire CRI newsletter at the beginning of April.

Ben Sang

CRI Diary

Forthcoming events and dates in the CRI diary are:

- 31st January 2004 - Deadline for 4th round of Clear Skies community renewable energy grants.
- 23rd January 2004 - the UK's first Wood Pellet & Heating Conference at Flimwell, East Sussex on Friday 23rd January 04 - for more information visit www.logpile.co.uk
- 3rd - 7th March 2004 - World Sustainability Energy Days 2004 - European Pellets conference, Wels, Austria. For more information visit the conference-website www.esv.or.at/wsed04.

If you have an event you would like to feature in the CRI diary please let us know.

Off-shore Wind Announcement

On the 18th of December it was announced that fifteen projects, representing between 5.4 and 7.2GW of new wind capacity, will be offered leases to develop projects off the coast of the UK. When completed, these projects will provide power equivalent to 4 million homes, or one in six of UK households.

Details of the sites, together with the developers chosen to build them, were revealed today by the Crown Estate, which leases the seabed around the UK. The sites will be built in three strategic areas of shallow sea: the Thames Estuary; Greater Wash; and the North West. Of the 15 wind farms, three are fully outside territorial waters and include the world's largest proposed offshore wind farm, in the Greater Wash area, which will provide up to 1.2 GW of generating capacity.

Today's announcement follows the commissioning in November of the UK's first large-scale offshore wind farm at North Hoyle in Wales and an important government decision, taken on December 1st, to boost investor confidence by expanding the renewables obligation from 10% by 2010 to 15% by 2015.

Commenting on the historic announcement Marcus Rand, Chief Executive of the BWEA said:

'We have the best wind resource in Europe and today's announcement puts the UK in the fast lane to becoming a world leader in developing it offshore. This is a win, win, win for our industry, our environment and our economy as these fifteen projects will create thousands of new jobs and provide clean power for one in six UK homes. It is critical that we now work with all stakeholders to ensure these projects quickly obtain consents and the necessary finance to ensure they are built on time. These projects alone should help us achieve at least half the Government's 10% by 2010 renewable target.'

The UK wind industry is widely recognised as playing the leading role in delivering clean renewable power for the nation over the next decade helping us meet the government's target of providing 10% of electricity from renewables by 2010. The industry already has planning consents in place for new wind farms, on and offshore, equivalent to some two and half percent of the UK's total electricity needs (2.5GW). Today's announcement is equivalent to up to a further seven percent of supply (7GW).

Currently 1.2GW of offshore projects under 'Round 1' have been consented. One of these, at North Hoyle, is complete and another, at Scroby Sands, is currently under construction. At present the UK wind industry has an installed capacity of some 640 MW of projects onshore and offshore (including 100 MW commissioned in 2003) and generates clean power equivalent to the requirements of over 400,000 UK households.

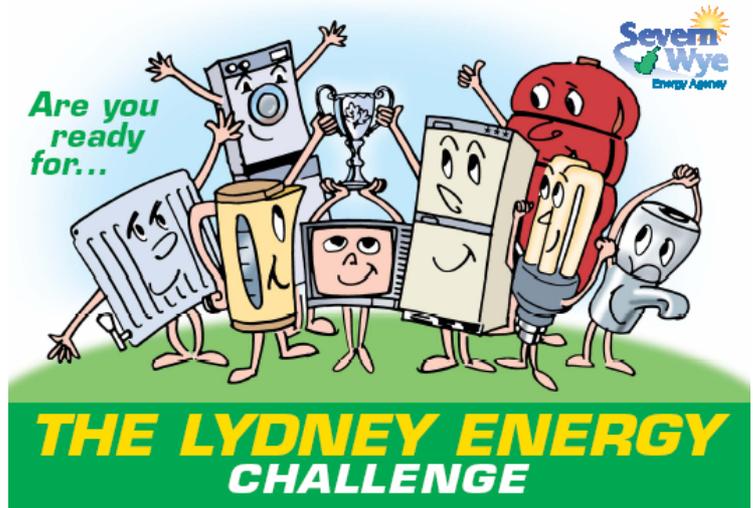
BWEA Press Release

Lydney Local Power Energy Efficiency Challenge

The Lydney Local Power Energy Efficiency Challenge was a two week program of energy saving measures that took place between the 1st and 15th of December 2003 coinciding with National Warm Homes Week.

A team from the Lydney Local Power Group took on the Primrose Hill Trinity Church Group and the Severnbanks Primary School in a bid to save the most energy in their homes.

A new energy efficiency measure was introduced each day over the fourteen day period as the teams battled to beat bad energy habits. None of the measures were very difficult (turning thermostats down, switching lights and appliances off when not in use) and most could be done without spending money.



Kaye Welfare, manager of the Gloucestershire Energy Efficiency Advice Centre handed over a cheque for £150 cheque to the School and three individual prizes of a solar power/wind up radio, low energy light bulbs and other energy efficiency goodies.

The School came out on top with a good turn out of pupils from years six and seven (these pupils had just finished a science module on electricity) who approached the challenge with a good deal of effort and enthusiasm. Tasks were set as homework and course work and several of the teachers joined the activities. Individual prizes of wind up/ solar powered radio and low energy light bulbs were given to individuals from each team who scored the most points or put in the most effort.

**Based on combined behavioural measure savings resulting in a 10% reduction on household bills/emissions*

Average annual household energy bill: £590
Average annual household CO₂ emissions: 6,000 kg

Kierson Wise

Each participant received a challenge sheet to record their progress and points were awarded for the different activities. At the end of the challenge a round up and prize giving was held at Severnbanks School (pictured above).

After the two week period the 3 groups had notched up a significant saving of 2117 kg which would correspond to a equivalent cash saving of £208.20 over the two week period*.

Severnbanks school won the competition with a massive 1,202 points, Trinity Church Group came second with 123 points and the Lydney Local Power Group brought up the rear with 93 points.

The results of the challenge showed how the Lydney Local Power team suffered from a poor turn out and late submission of forms while the Trinity Group had a small number of very dedicated entries.

In Brief:

Gloucester Renewable Energy Examination In Public Meeting

On the 29th of November SWEA attended the Gloucestershire Examination In Public (EIP) meeting on the Renewable Energy Policy within the Gloucestershire Structure Plan at Shire Hall, Gloucester. The purpose of the meeting was to enable the Structure Plan inspectors to gather further information on various aspects of the policy, the main areas for discussion were: -

- Will the approach to renewable energy development in Gloucestershire adequately contribute towards meeting regional targets for electricity generation from renewable sources?
- Does the Plan give sufficient encouragement and guidance for the development of other forms of renewable energy?
- Should the sub-regional target for Gloucestershire be set out explicitly in the policy?
- Does the Plan contain sufficient encouragement and guidance on energy conservation measures in new development?

The meeting was attended by a variety of different organisations including the National Farmers Union, representatives from the Country and District Councils, Friends of the Earth and the Cotswold Protection Group. Varied views on the role of renewable energy in the country were put forward in a useful, constructive debate. The EIP inspectorate report of their findings and recommendations of the panel will be available late spring of 2004.

For information on the Gloucestershire EIP process visit www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/examinationinpublic/.

Wilderness Biomass Boiler Success!!!

The Wilderness Centre have been successful in securing a grant from the *Clear Skies* community fund. The grant will be used to fund the installation of a wood chip boiler at the centre to replace the existing oil fired system. The system will be the first automated wood chip system to be installed in Gloucestershire and is hoped to initiate the development of wood fuel supply in the Forest of Dean.

Work is currently underway to progress the project and finalise investigations on boiler housing, delivery of wood fuel and wood fuel supply for the system. The proposed system is likely to be in the order of 120kW and will initially run on wood chip but will have the capacity to run on pellets when a local supply is in place.

Forest Woodfuel Meeting

The first Forest of Dean woodfuel meeting was held at the Forestry Commission offices in Coleford on the 2nd of December. The meeting was attended by potential users and suppliers of woodfuel in the Forest of Dean and included a Forestry Commission representative, sawmill and local park owners, a local architect and a representative from a Housing Association. The local stakeholders in attendance started to address how a woodfuel supply could be developed in the area.

Since the start of the CRI there has been significant interest in woodfuel in the Forest of Dean, with the identification of a number of potential wood heating projects totalling 1MW of installed capacity. SWEA hope to address the points that were discussed at the meeting and work towards the development of a woodfuel supply in the Forest of Dean and West Gloucestershire area, notes available on request contact ben@swea.co.uk

Contacts for further information on the CRI :

Graham Ayling	- 01594 545364	- graham@swea.co.uk
Ben Sang	- 01594 545366	- ben@swea.co.uk
(Wiltshire)		
Jo Badham	- 01380 725670 EXT-261	- Job@wiltshirewildlife.org