



Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire and Wiltshire CRI Newsletter



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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

The Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Local Support Team (LST) key outcomes of the last 3 months have been: -

- Installation of the roof integrated PV system at the Wilderness Centre (see feature).
- New projects identified: -
 - 2 potential community hydro projects
 - Community horticulture project
 - A school PV system.
- 4 CRI projects have secured capital funding for their projects. 1 CRI project has secured funding for a full feasibility study - see *Funding Successes*.
- Country Land and Business Association (CLA) and SWEA micro hydro seminar was held on the 16th of March at Hartham Park, near Corsham, Wiltshire (see In Brief).

The SWEA CRI team are also actively working on around 15 existing projects which are hoped will make substantial progress in the final year of the current 3 CRI programme.

Ben Sang

CRI Diary

Forthcoming events and dates in the CRI diary are:

- 31st March 2004 - End of the Lydney Local Power project - see article.
- 15th April 2004 - Green Fayre; bringing together local and fair trade food and goods, environmentally friendly businesses and campaigns for social justice - 12 noon onwards Brunswick Square, Gloucester.
- 20th April 2004 - CIEF event: Integrating renewables: planning, development and building design - The CREATE Centre, Bristol. See attached flyer for more information.
- June 2004 - Gloucestershire Warm and Well is expanding into solar water heating with the launch of Solar Warm and Well due in June - for more information visit www.swea.co.uk or contact sarah@swea.co.uk

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

Lydney Local Power Round Up - March 2004

End of Innovation Program Funding - The first phase of the Lydney Local Power project is now coming to an end. The project received two years funding from the Energy Saving Trust Innovation program which ended April 2004.

Background

Lydney Local Power is a community-led sustainable energy project based in the town of Lydney in Gloucestershire. The project is co-ordinated by the Severn Wye Energy Agency in partnership with the Forest of Dean District Council, Gloucestershire County Council and Lydney Town Council.

An independent local consultation process identified that strong and genuine support for a community renewable energy project existed in the town and a network of local volunteers came forward to establish the Lydney Local Power 'Energy Club'. The club has now grown to 115 members and has established itself as a partner in the regeneration of the town.

The club has set up a structure of a series of small steering groups that have investigated the renewable energy potential in the surrounding area and decided on projects suitable for the local environment.

Community Renewable Energy Projects

The major project being developed by the Energy Club is a small scale hydro project located at the Dean Forest Railway, a popular local visitor attraction and heritage railway. The grid connected hydro turbine will generate 55,000 kWh of power from the outfall of a disused drift mine that spans the Forest of Dean. The system will be visible to the 33,000 visitors who come to the Railway each year and will be a prime example of a unique small scale community driven clean energy scheme.

A funding package is now in place for the system with money coming from the DTI Clear Skies program and two private sector grants schemes as well as a small contribution from the Railway Preservation Society. Environment Agency permits are now being obtained and the scheme is expected to be generating power within a year. A proportion of the profits will be used as a community fund to support other renewable energy schemes in the area.



The Lydney Local Power steering group visiting the Ecotricity 500kW wind turbine at Lynch Knoll near Nympsfield (Stroud).

The Lydney Local Power Energy Club has also identified a suitable wind turbine site on farm land to the east of the town and is currently looking into developing the site as a community venture in conjunction with a local strategic partnership.

Some members of the club have also installed renewable energy systems on their own homes including solar water heaters, a pellet stove and a ground source heat pump whilst others have opted to switch their electricity supply to a 'green tariff'.

Domestic Energy Efficiency Measures

The Energy Club have also been promoting the installation of domestic energy efficiency measures and energy efficiency grants and bulk discounts available for both for club members and the public in Lydney.

Results show almost 500 domestic energy efficiency installations as a result of the Lydney project, these included:

- Small changes such as fitting low energy light bulbs and purchasing energy efficient appliances
- Low cost, short payback measures such as loft insulation and cavity wall insulation.
- Higher investment energy efficiency measures such as condensing boilers and double glazing

Local investment in energy efficiency measures has been calculated to be worth £44,872 with lifetime CO₂ savings of 3,865 tonnes.

Future of the Scheme

The Lydney Local Power Energy Club is now well established with a strong core group and wide membership. The next step is to establish the Energy Club as a formal committee affiliated to the Lydney Area in Partnership (a local strategic partnership with Industrial and Provident Society status).

The Club will continue to oversee the installation of the Norchard Drift hydro project and the progression of the community wind turbine. The Severn Wye Energy Agency will continue to support the project under the Countryside Agency Community Renewable Initiative.

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Photovoltaic at the Wilderness Centre

The installation of the roof integrated PV system was completed in February on the Eco-house at the centre.

The centre runs environmental courses and INSET days for schools across Gloucestershire. When fully refurbished the Eco-house will provide sustainable living experiences for young people across Gloucestershire.

The Eco-house has a 2.7kWp BP mono-crystalline roof integrated PV system which will make the Eco-house electrically self-sufficient. The system is also linked to a portable read out which displays the systems real-time electrical generation and carbon savings. The project has attracted funding through the DTI PV grant scheme, Gloucestershire County Council and the EDF Green Energy Fund.



A local builder discusses the new PV system with the PV installers Solar Energy Installations.

In the long term the Wilderness centre aims to become 'Carbon Neutral'; they are currently investigating a woodchip heating system for which they have secured a Clear Skies grant.

Ben Sang

In Brief:**SWEA and CLA Hydro Seminar**

On the 16th of March 2004 the County Land and Business Association (CLA) and Severn Wye Energy Agency (SWEA) held a seminar for land owners and communities on micro hydro power at Hartham Park, Corsham, Wiltshire.

The event 'Micro Hydro Power - from concept to installation' was well received with a large amount of interest in the South West and attracted over 30 delegates. The event covered key aspects including:

- *Site requirements & hydro basics*
- *Methodologies of installing hydro*
- *Finance and funding a hydro system*
- *Case studies*
 - Somerset Mills Project
 - Community Hydro Projects in the Forest of Dean and Wye Valley

The aim of the event was to equip delegates with the necessary information to evaluate whether or not hydro power is a possibility on their land. Several projects have subsequently been identified by attendees of the hydro seminar.

Renewable Energy Action Plan Consultation Drafts

Work has continued on the Action Plans for both Gloucestershire and Wiltshire over the last few months. The draft Action Plans will soon be out for consultation and the documents will be available on the SWEA website.

Following the consultation, the Action Plans should be launched with implementation towards the end of the year. Full details on the consultation dates and documentation will be released shortly.

Funding Successes

In the last few months there has been several successful funding applications which SWEA have had differing amounts of involvement with: -

<i>Project</i>	<i>Technology</i>	<i>Funding source</i>
Norchard Drift	Micro-hydro power - funding for installation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EDF Green Energy Fund • Clear Skies
Cotswold Water Park	Lake source heat pump (installed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EDF Green Energy Fund
Wilderness Centre	PV system (installed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EDF Green Energy Fund
Oaklands Park	Wood heating system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear Skies
Melksham Nursery Project	Ground source heat pump (work underway)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EDF Green Energy Fund
Dean Heritage Centre	Micro-hydro feasibility study (underway)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EDF Green Energy Fund
Wye Valley Hydro Projects	Micro-hydro feasibility study (completed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EDF Green Energy Fund

Collectively this has brought in over £100,000 of funding for the development of renewable energy projects in the area.

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