



## Community Renewables Initiative Newsletter

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Community  
Renewables  
Initiative

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*This is the first newsletter of Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Community Renewables Initiative (CRI) Local Support Team. The purpose is to keep people up to date with developments on the CRI programme and promote partnerships for community renewable energy. Any suggestions or comments on the newsletter are welcome.*

#### Introduction to the CRI

##### The Severn Wye Energy Agency

The *Severn Wye Energy Agency (SWEA)* is one of a network of energy agencies across Europe, established to simulate the development of energy efficiency and renewable energy through local and regional action. SWEA is an independent 'not for profit' organisation and is a registered charity.

The SWEA team members working on the CRI are Graham Ayling the *Renewables Project manager*, and a newly recruited *Renewable Energy Advisor*, Ben Sang. SWEA will be managing the CRI project for the Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Areas.

Further information on SWEA is available at [www.swea.co.uk](http://www.swea.co.uk)

##### The Community Renewables Initiative

The CRI is funded by the Countryside Agency and has the following objectives: -

- To attract the people, organisations or businesses to lead and undertake community renewable energy projects.

- To help assemble finance and support to ensure the projects are implemented.
- To advise on a subsequent, ongoing scheme of support to community renewables projects, based on lessons learned from existing projects and initiatives.
- To monitor progress and evaluate the success of schemes.

The Countryside Agency's CRI programme is supported by many government and industry bodies, environmental groups and charities, but has backing in particular from: -

- DTI
- DEFRA
- The Forestry Commission
- The Energy Saving Trust
- The Environment Agency
- Friends of the Earth
- The Local Government Association
- The Country Land and Business Association
- National Farmers' Union
- The National Trust
- Shell Better Britain Campaign
- The RSPB

### **How will the CRI Work?**

A network of 10 different Local Support Teams (LST's) has been set up in England. The support teams consist of a partnership of organisations that will contain organisations such as local councils, energy experts, government bodies and other specialist.

The LST will provide advice and training on the different issues surrounding renewable energy, these will include feasibility studies, funding, technology issues, planning, environmental assessment and community and public participation. The Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire and Wiltshire (Glos and Wilts) LST is managed by SWEA but works with a broad partnership of local organisations. SWEA will be working closely with Wiltshire Agenda 21/Warm Hearted Homes to deliver the initiative in Wiltshire

## **NEWS**

### **CRI Update**

- The official, public launch of our LST will be in the week commencing 17th June. Further details will be released shortly.
- The LST partnership is currently being developed and we are keen to identify new partners with an interest in the development of community renewable energy.
- SWEA is already working with a number of potential renewable energy projects and are keen to identify any further opportunities. We would interested to hear about any ideas for new possible projects, these might be for example: -
  - Schools, farms or industrial estates interested in installing small scale wind turbines.
  - Old mill sites which might have the potential for small scale hydro power schemes.
  - Market town or Parish Councils which would be interested in linking rural regeneration to renewable energy opportunities.
  - Groups of farm and local communities that would be interested in working in partnership to develop a local biogas plant.

## New Photovoltaic and Biomass grants available

Two new renewable energy grant schemes have recently been announced: -

### Photovoltaic (PV) grants

This grant money is part of the Department of Trade and Industries £20 million first phase of the PV demonstration programme. The grants are available for the part funding of the capital costs of installation of the systems. There are three distinct groups that can apply to solar grants\*:-

1. Domestic householders, small to medium enterprises (SMEs) and small-scale building projects (e.g. schools and community groups).
  - Up to 50 per cent 'fixed' grant funding for small-scale applications (0.5kWp - 5kWp).
  - Applications accepted and processed from May 2002 onwards.
  - Approval is on a rolling basis.
  - Grants fairly automatic provided applications meet certain criteria.
2. Social housing groups and larger-scale public authority building projects
  - Up to 65% 'fixed' grant funding available to large-scale applications (5kWp to 100 kWp).
  - Grants paid in two stages: 70 per cent at approval (with proof of contract). 30 per cent on completion.
  - Applications made on a quarterly competitive call basis.
  - First decisions made by an independent panel and expected by July 2002.
3. Commercial organisations
  - Up to 40% 'fixed' grant funding for large-scale applications (5kWp to 100 kWp).
  - Grants paid in two stages: 70 per cent at (with proof of contract). 30 per cent on completion.
  - Applications made on a quarterly competitive call basis.
  - First decisions made by an independent panel and expected by July 2002.

\*Information taken from the solar grants website for more information visit [www.solargrants.org.uk](http://www.solargrants.org.uk)

### Bio-energy Capital Grants Scheme

This grant scheme is UK wide and joint funded by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and Lottery Distributor the New Opportunities fund (the Fund). There is also input from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

The scheme is aimed at *'promoting the efficient use of biomass for energy, in particular the use of energy crops, by stimulating the early deployment of biomass fuelled heat and electricity generation projects.'* Capital grants will be awarded towards the cost of equipment in complete working installations. This scheme is aimed at project developers and organisations and not private individuals.

There are 3 broad aims of the scheme, these are sub-divided into different technical priorities.

- Deployment of state of the art electricity generation and CHP from energy crops and biomass
  - Large scale, state of the art electricity generating installations
  - Electricity generating or CHP, installations with a preference for CHP.

- Demonstrations of advanced power generation technology from energy crops
  - Large scale installations using technologies with much higher electrical generating efficiencies than current state of the art, and significant future development potential.
- Deployment of biomass heating and small scale CHP
  - Projects comprising clusters of heat or small CHP installations
  - Larger industrial heating units with outputs over 0.5MW for process or space heating.

For more information on the scheme [www.dti.gov.uk/renew/eoi.htm](http://www.dti.gov.uk/renew/eoi.htm)

### Contacts for further information on the CRI :

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