



Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire and Wiltshire CRI Newsletter



Community
Renewables
Initiative

CRI — Newsletter : Number 7
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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 and provides help and support to community groups and local organisations interested in developing renewable energy projects.

CRI Update

Since the May CRI newsletter, SWEA has continued to support existing projects with several of them now ready to apply for funding, 2 new projects have been identified, a micro-hydro opportunity and a small wind turbine. We have also been active in our awareness work, delivering several presentations to schools (both pupils and teachers) and stands at several local events providing information and advice on renewable energy.

The kick-off meeting for Gloucestershire Renewable Energy Forum was held on the 18th of June. The forum aims to develop a renewable energy strategy for Gloucestershire following on from the recent REvision 2010 work on county targets for renewable electricity. The first meeting was specifically for local authority representatives but the forum will be broadened to engage with the voluntary sector and relevant agencies and businesses. SWEA has also been working with number of local authorities in the area on energy strategies and policies .

By the next newsletter we hope to be able to report back on some applications to both the Clear Skies grants scheme and PV grants scheme, so watch this space...

Ben Sang

CRI Diary

Forthcoming events in the CRI diary are:

- Sunday 13th July - Sustainable Energy and Jazz in the Park - Part of Lydney Festival (See *In Brief* for more information).
- 5th - 7th September - Sustainable Futures Convention –Taurus Crafts Lydney (See *In Brief* for more information).

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

Project Focus : Hydro Power Focus

Small scale hydro power can often be overlooked by national policy makers looking to deliver government targets by 2010. Whilst hydro is possibly one of the most demanding technologies in terms of site criteria, there are many sites including a large number of old mill sites that could be utilised for hydro power especially with recent developments in low head hydro systems.

Below is a round up of some of the prospective hydro projects in and around the Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Local Support Team area.



Norchard Drift - The site was identified by the Lydney Local Power group. It is an interesting site that plans to utilise the outfall from an old mine working, this has several advantages:

- Little fluctuation of flow rate due to reservoir effect of the mine
- Minimal amounts of debris in the water
- No fish
- Reduced need for licences (it is anticipated there will be no need for an abstraction licence)

The site is low head (4m) and the scheme proposal has an estimated annual generation of 40,000 kWh (equivalent to the annual consumption of 10 –12 homes). The project will be moving to the detailed design stage within the next few months.

Dean Heritage Centre - This site is a historic mill site, although the resource at the site is not large, due the amount of existing infrastructure the scheme is a worthwhile project.

The site has a micro-hydro system which is now derelict, if refurbished it would have an estimated resource of 3.9kW with a annual generation of 16,000kWh (4 - 5 homes). There is also the possibility of using the existing overshot water wheel (pictured) to generate electricity. It is anticipated that a micro hydro system on the site would meet a large proportion if not all of the centres electricity requirements.

It is hoped that this project will be taken forward for a full feasibility study under the Clear Skies initiative.





Wye Local Power - 6 potential hydro power sites in the Wye Valley AONB in Monmouthshire have been identified by the local community through the Wye Local Power scheme.

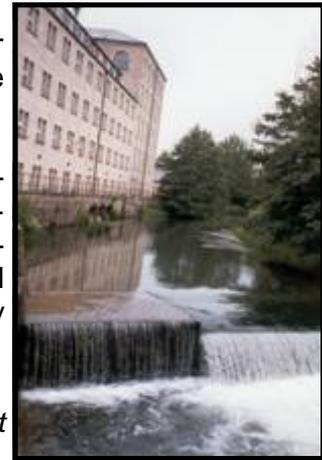
All the sites are low head between 2.5 and 4 meters, and most have existing infrastructure from the previous industrial works in the valley. Feasibility studies were carried for the sites, 4 of the sites are on the Angidy watercourse. It is estimated that these 4 sites could produce 90,000kWh a year (enough to power around 22 homes).

Due to the landownership of the 4 Angidy sites there are opportunities for community ownership which are currently being investigated. More detailed system designs are planned for the near future.

Ebley Mill - Stroud District Council have had long term plans for hydro power at their offices in Stroud. Various studies of potential for Hydro power have been carried out since 1990 when the site was redeveloped.

The most recent of these studies was carried out last year and identified several schemes, the most likely a 20kW system. There are several issues surrounding the hydro scheme such as how it might affect flood risk, the re-opening of the canal and a nearby river gauging station. Despite these potential barriers it is hoped that the project will progress and be a valuable case study with regards to overcoming these common perceived problems.

If you have a site which might be suitable for micro hydro contact us here at SWEA for advice on setting up a hydro project.



Ben Sang

Action Plan – Where do you fit in?

As I'm sure many of you are aware, the South West Region now has a renewable energy strategy, including a target for renewable electricity. The strategy aims to include everyone with an interest in renewable energy and is both ambitious and comprehensive in its scope. It includes an action plan which aims not only to deliver the renewable electricity target but to make the South West a centre of excellence on renewable energy.

The action plan details the activities needed to deliver the strategy and indicates which organisations should be involved with each activity. We are now working with Regen SW to provide more detail at a County level, so we need your help.

A copy of the action plan from the strategy is attached with this newsletter, we would like you to have a look at the Action Plan and let us know which activities you feel your organisation could be involved with.

Graham Ayling

In Brief:

Sustainable Energy and Jazz in the Park - Part of Lydney Festival

The event offers the chance to hear great music from the JB Blues Band and Roy Kirby Jazz band and also to visit the renewable energy field with opportunities to discuss renewable energy options for the town of Lydney, your own community or your home.

There will be a range of renewable energy companies at the festival offering advice on specific technologies. Severn Wye Energy Agency and Gloucestershire Energy Efficiency Advice Centre will also be on hand to offer advice on saving energy and money in the home and advice on renewable energy and government grants available.

Lydney festival's Sustainable Energy and Jazz in the Park event is on Sunday the 13th July from 2pm at Bathurst Park, Lydney. For information about the event contact Kierson Wise at SWEA on 01594 545368 or email: kierson@swea.co.uk

The Sustainable Futures Convention

The first Royal Forest of Dean Sustainable Futures Convention is to be held in the grounds of Taurus Crafts in Lydney, Gloucestershire on the 5th - 7th September 2003, from 10 am - 11pm daily.

Over the three days the entire site will become the venue for creative discussion, participation, learning and entertainment and will provide an event new and unique to the Royal Forest of Dean.

A light-hearted and eclectic mix of music interspersed with dance, poetry, mime and short talks is planned as a backdrop to an informative series of lectures, exhibition stands and local tours together with information, services and products provided by trade and local and national organisations concerned with all aspects of sustainability.

The three day programme will be broadly themed as follows

Friday: Local Solutions

Saturday: Global Perspectives

Sunday: Personal Considerations

For further information on this event contact Kierson Wise at SWEA on 01594 545368 or email: kierson@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	- Energy@wiltshirewildlife.org