



Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire and Wiltshire CRI Newsletter



CRI — Newsletter : Number 12

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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

Over the last three months key local support team activity has been: -

- Promotion of the CRI for Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and South Gloucestershire at local authority renewable energy training in Swindon.
- Continued input on the development of the Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Renewable Energy Action Plans (For more information see *In Brief*).
- Continued support on the Wilderness Centre woodchip heating system (potentially the first automated woodchip heating system in Gloucestershire) and research into developing wood chip supply in the Forest of Dean.
- Funding secured from the EC INTERREG programme for a project which aims to help develop woodfuel projects in the Forest of Dean. The project includes site surveys for potential biomass projects and there will also be limited capital for installations. This initiative will complement the CRI in this region for development of woodfuel.

Ben Sang

CRI Diary

Forthcoming events and dates in the CRI diary are:

- 10th - 18th July - Dragon Fire Event (See *Events*)
- 16th July - Deadline for EST Schools Poster Competition (see *In Brief*)
- 13th August - Deadline for responses to the Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Renewable Energy Discussion Documents (see *In Brief*)

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

Global Warming – More Than Just Hot Air

Hollywood blockbuster “The Day After Tomorrow”, released recently, tells of a doomsday scenario triggered by the effects of global warming.

The Severn Wye Energy Agency recently staged its own preview of the film at the UGC Cinema, Peel Centre, Gloucester. The event was attended by a audience of 80, which including representatives from five local authorities, the Environment Agency, University of Gloucestershire, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and several local businesses.

Following the screening there was an opportunity to ask questions and share comments from the audience with a panel of experts (pictured right) chaired by Catrin Maby, director of the Severn Wye Energy Agency.



The panel of experts who led discussion after the film. Left to right – Alex Steele (University of Gloucestershire), Catrin Maby (Director – Severn Wye Energy Agency), Dr. John Hunt (University of Gloucestershire) and Nigel Jones (MP for Cheltenham).

Catrin Maby said “Although the film is more about entertainment than reality that does not alter the fact that climate change is happening right now - just last year the UK experienced an unprecedented combination of record temperatures, tornadoes and flooding. “The Day After Tomorrow” shows climate change causing a sudden and violent shift in global weather. Although a dramatisation of the likely effects, the film brings these issues to the attention of the general public like never before.”

The panel of experts included Nigel Jones MP, Alex Steele (University of Gloucestershire) and Dr John Hunt (University of Gloucestershire). Local councillors, students and other interested parties also took part in the discussion.

Catrin Maby said “We are delighted to have key contacts from the region along to preview this film. It is important that we don’t let an extreme scenario depicted for dramatic effect obscure the fact that Gloucestershire will continue to be affected by climate change unless we all take action now.”

She went on to say “There are many organisations and individuals that are trying to tackle these problems and it is vital that we strike the right balance between complacency and despondency.”

The distance the audience travelled to the event was calculated and the 450kg of CO₂ released by their journeys will be offset through Carbon sequestration.

Ed Dearnley (LASP Co-ordinator)

Warm & Well Goes Solar

Gloucestershire Energy Efficiency Advice Centre manages the Warm and Well project which is active in Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire. The scheme offers grants (to those who are eligible) and bulk discounts on loft insulation, thermostatic radiator valves and boilers. Starting from this year the scheme has expanded to include solar water heating.

This project has been set up on behalf of the local authorities in Gloucestershire to promote the use of renewable energy technology in the county. The scheme will take advantage of the government grant scheme "Clear Skies" which offers grants of £400 towards the cost of solar water heating systems. In some areas there will be a further grant of £500 available from the local authority, reducing the cost by a total of £900.

The Solar Warm and Well scheme hopes to make the process of installing solar thermal technology as straight forward as possible. Following an open tender process SWEA has appointed two Clear Skies approved installers to the scheme who are required to carry out the installations in order to secure the local authority funding.

Please feel free to contact SWEA on FREEPHONE 0800 512 012 or email warm&well@swea.co.uk if you require further information.

Sarah Giff (Warm & Well Project Co-ordinator)

Events

Dragon Fire

The Dragon Fire event in North Wales is an exciting event at which you can find out more about renewable energy technologies with a particular focus on biofuels.

Dragon Fire offers a two day conference event with a line up of well known international speakers and workshop events covering biofuels and a range of innovative technologies. The event will also house a wide-ranging renewable energy exhibition and conduct tours to local installations.

The majority of conference participants will be taking advantage of the renewable energy powered camp site in the beautiful Llanberis Valley. Hotels and B&B's are available nearby. Dragon Fire will be running from the 10th - 18th July and welcomes all who want to expand their knowledge of sustainable energy.

Dragon Fire is being organized by Energy 21 in conjunction with Biopower. It is now only one week away and you need a confirm to place if you are going.

Download the booking form from www.dragonfire.org.uk/booking%20form.pdf

Energy 21



In Brief:**Action Plan Consultations**

Both the Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Renewable Energy Action Plan discussion documents are currently out for consultation; these action plans are being developed by local authority-led forums for each county. For more information on the process and to download the discussion documents and accompanying Action Plan Consultation Guidance please visit: -

- [Gloucestershire Renewable Energy Action Plan webpage](#)
- [Wiltshire Renewable Energy Action Plan webpage](#)

The forums would welcome all views on the action plan discussion documents, the deadline for the consultation on the discussion documents is the 13th of August; following the consultation process and integration of comments into the documents there will be a feedback workshop for each county later in the year.

Clear Skies

There are now only two rounds remaining of the current Clear Skies program, the next rounds are as follows: -

Deadline for Grant Applications	Date of Panel Meeting
Friday 30th July 2004	Tuesday 7th September 2004
Friday 29th October 2004	Tuesday 7th December 2004

Although it is hoped that the scheme will continue there has not been official confirmation of this. In the meantime if you have ideas for a Clear Skies project and would like assistance with your application don't hesitate to get in contact with SWEA.

Schools Poster Design Competition

The EST's Energy Certification for Schools Scheme has launched an environmental poster design competition - 'Poster Power'. The competition is now open to pupils in all primary schools across England. Winning entries will receive a £2,000 prize for their school. The two categories include:

- Save Energy - the poster design should encourage schools to save energy (for example, by switching off lights/appliances and turning down heating, by wearing appropriate clothes for the time of year etc).
- Save the Environment - the poster design should either show what the child thinks the effect of Climate Change (global warming) will be (for example, flooding, increase in storms etc) or encourage others to look after their local environment.

The competition closing date is Friday 16 July 2004 and the winners will be announced in September 2004. For further information on how your pupils can enter Poster Power, please visit:

www.est.org.uk/schools/news/article.cfm?news_id=13

Contacts for further information on the CRI :

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