



Community Renewables Initiative Newsletter

CRI — Newsletter : Number 2
September 2002



Community
Renewables
Initiative

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CRI Progress

CRI Information events - We have now run information events in Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire, which highlighted opportunities for new projects and useful partnerships. The Wiltshire event will be incorporated into a renewable energy strategy day on the 10th September from 10am-2pm at County Hall, Trowbridge.

Project Development Support – we have had a great response to publicity surrounding the CRI and have already provided advice to quite a range of potential projects including: -

- An organic farm that would like to generate electricity through renewable energy, options include hydro power, a small wind turbine and Photovoltaics.
- A community hydro power system in a Cotswold village at old mill sites.
- Several developers of new business and housing developments have approached us for information about incorporating renewable energy in to new developments.
- Renewable energy powered buildings (with interpretation materials) at several nature reserves.

The next advisory group will be held on the 26th September at 2pm at Swindon Borough Council.

Please contact us if you have any more ideas for new community renewable energy projects.

Project Focus

We would like to include a profile of one of the projects we are working with in each issue of the newsletter, after all new renewable energy projects are what the CRI is all about. If you would like to promote your project through the newsletter send us a brief project summary (around 100-200 words) including:

- Where the project is

- What type of organisation are you
- What technologies you are looking at
- What sort of community involvement/benefits are there
- Contact details
- A photograph if possible

Feel free to add pleas for help/funding as the newsletter goes to a wide range of different organisations who may be able to help.

Community and Household Renewable Energy Grants Scheme

The *Community and Household Capital Grants Scheme* is a new UK-wide DTI funding programme that should be announced in December. Details of grant eligibility are still being finalised following a consultation but the grant will target households and community renewable energy projects with a budget of £10million over 3 years. The scheme will not fund technologies such as grid-connected PV which already have their own funding programmes.

SWEA participated in the consultation process for the grant scheme, with one of our key messages being “There is loads of interest out there – you will need to make more money available”.

Consultation on SW renewables strategy

South West Renewable Energy Group (a partnership including SWRDA, GO-SW and a wide range of other stakeholders) has developed a “Strategic Framework for the Development of Renewable Energy in the South West”. This document outlines how the South West can meet a target of 11-15% of electricity from renewable sources by 2010 whilst developing a strong local renewable energy industry.

The framework is out for consultation at the moment and will hopefully develop into a renewable energy strategy for the South West, so have your say! There will be two major consultation events in the South West: County Hall, Exeter on 8th October and GWR Museum, Swindon on 9th October.

Download your copy of the strategic framework from: www.southwestrda.org.uk/publications/regensw

PIU Consultation

The closing date for the consultation on the government white paper on energy is 13th of September 2002.

The Energy Review written by the governments Performance and Innovation Unit (PIU) published in February this year can be found at www.PIU.gov.uk/2002/energy/report/1.html. The consultation document on the key issues raised by the energy review can be found at www.dti.gov.uk/energy/developpe/. There is also a web forum which can be found at www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/ecf.htm.

Have your say!

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