



Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire and Wiltshire CRI Newsletter



CRI — Newsletter : Number 9

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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 and work over the last two months has included:

- Launch of Salisbury Solar Club
- The Dean Heritage Centre have secured 75% of funding for a micro hydro power feasibility study from Clear Skies and are currently trying to secure the remaining finance.
- The Wilderness Centre have secured funding from Gloucestershire County Council for a feasibility study to investigate a wood heating system at the site which is underway; they have also prepared a bid for Clear Skies for a biomass boiler.
- The LST have continued to work with the Wiltshire and Gloucestershire Renewable Energy Forums on the initial preparation for development of renewable energy strategies.
- The LST have continued to work towards the first meeting to set up wood fuel supply in the Forest of Dean which is due to be held at the beginning of December.
- Five new potential CRI projects have also been identified including solar water heating, solar photovoltaic and small wind power.

Ben Sang

CRI Diary

Forthcoming events in the CRI diary are:

- 19th & 26th November & 4th, 10th & 11th December - Marches Wood Energy Network are running workshops for farmers on wood fuel. For more information see *Events Section* and the attached flyer.
- 26th November 2003 - South West HECA Forum open meeting, featuring presentation from Enthuse and DEFRA - Crossmead Centre, Barley Lane, Exeter. For more information see *Events Section* and the attached flyer.
- 3rd - 7th March 2004 - World Sustainability Energy Days 2004 - European Pellets conference, Wels, Austria. For more information visit the conference-website www.esv.or.at/wsed04.

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

Project Focus : Salisbury Solar Club Launch

South Wiltshire Solar Club is a voluntary association of local people who wish to gather and disseminate reliable and commercially unbiased information on domestic solar water heating systems. The wider installation of such systems is one possible and desirable result of this process.

Five friends initiated this project with the help of Wiltshire Warm Hearted Homes (a partner in the Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and South Gloucestershire LST). They are all concerned about the impact on our environment of our dependence on fossil fuels for our energy needs. The precautionary principle indicates that we should all try to reduce this dependence by diversifying our energy supplies.



Solar shower at the launch: David Croxall, Jo Badham, Robert Key MP

A successful application to the national Millennium Awards scheme provided confirmation of this approach together with the funds to pay for the research and training involved. Visits have been made to the internationally famous Centre for Alternative Technology at Machynlleth for training and links with other solar clubs in the UK has been established. Direct contact with commercial suppliers and installers of the product has enabled us to assemble comprehensive information on the many different types of solar collector and the installation systems they require. In this way the Club has become a focal point in our community where any interested person may come to browse and learn. This facility is freely available to all.

In addition the five friends are working and training together to reach a position where they will have gained sufficient expertise and confidence to install domestic solar water heating systems in their own homes on a DIY basis. It is anticipated this position will be reached in the early Autumn 2003, and three such systems will be installed before Christmas. The cost to the individuals will be of the order of £1500.

For more information on the club visit their website www.solarclub.info.

Salisbury Solar Club

Severn Wye Energy Agency Conference

The Severn Wye Energy Agency recently held their first ever conference at Arle Court Manor in Cheltenham. The event, titled ‘From Strategy to Practical Action’, looked at the how we can move towards more sustainable methods of supplying and using domestic energy, and how local authorities can help implement practical improvements on a local level. Over eighty delegates had the opportunity to view examples of best practise, and discuss the challenges set out in Government’s recent Energy White Paper.

“Sustainable Energy is all about using energy more efficiently, and reducing our use of limited fossil fuels.” said Bart Venner, Chair of Trustees at Severn Wye. “Moving towards sustainable energy brings wide benefits for our communities.”

The event gave the opportunity to showcase some inspiring examples of local achievement as well as looking closely at the challenge of the future and the tasks that lie ahead. Key speakers included Philip Sellwood, Chief Executive of the Energy Saving Trust, Tim Perrin, Director of Health and Community at Forest of Dean District Council and Mathew Spencer, Chief Executive of REGEN South West.



SWEA Renewables Team - on hand to discuss renewable energy issues.

Representatives from all of Gloucestershire’s local authorities were joined by colleagues from Wiltshire, South Gloucestershire and Monmouthshire. “It’s encouraging to see so many people from throughout the South West showing such an interest in sustainable energy” said Kaye Welfare, Project Manager from Severn Wye Energy Agency. “The way that we all use energy has a huge impact on the environment. By working together, planners, councils, housing associations, the voluntary sector and community groups can come up with viable alternatives.”

The event was sponsored by Scottish Power and the EAGA Partnership. Both organisations work closely with the Severn Wye Energy Agency on projects such as the Warm and Well scheme, which offers energy efficiency advice and grants on behalf of the local authorities in Gloucestershire.

Ed Dearnley (SWEA LASP team)

In Brief:

Clear Skies Success

Since the last CRI newsletter 3 SWEA micro-hydro projects have been successful in securing funding from Clear Skies for feasibility studies; the following projects have been successful: -



Norchard Drift - This **Lydney Local Power** project has all the funding in place for the detailed feasibility study to be carried out. So it is full-steam-a-head for the project based at *Dean Forest Railway*.

Dean Heritage Centre - The heritage centre are currently seeking the remaining 25% of the funding required to pay for the detailed feasibility study before options for the site can be fully investigated.



Wye Local Power Hydro Project - The **Wye Local Power** project managed by Wye Valley AONB are currently trying to put in place the last 25% of the funding required for detailed feasibility studies can be carried out on the 4 potential hydro sites.



Planning Policy Statement 22 Consultation

An important national development is the release of the consultation paper on the draft Planning Policy Statement 22(PPS22) on renewable energy. PPS22 will be the document which guides planning decisions and policy for renewable energy projects and replace PPG22.

The consultation document is available on the ODPM website (www.odpm.gov.uk) under "planning" and then "consultation papers".

Events:

South West HECA Forum Open Meeting

The South West HECA Forum are holding a open meeting on the 26th of November at the Crossmead Centre, Exeter, EX4 1TF. The meeting is aimed Local Authority officers, Health, Housing and Community professionals.

This meeting will feature presentations from: -

- DEFRA - the future of HECA
- Enthuse - information on enthuse programme - renewable energy for Local Authorities.

Places at the meeting are free but are limited; for information on booking and full meeting details see the attached flyer.

Marches Wood Energy Network - Farm Wood Fuel

Marches Wood Energy Network are running a series workshops exploring opportunities for farm wood fuel across Herefordshire and Shropshire. Five workshops be run between the 19th November to 11th December (see the attached flyer for further details on dates and venues).

The workshops will be held during midweek evenings at 5 venues throughout the Marches. At the workshops delegates will learn all they need to know about:

- The types of boiler available, how they work and how much they cost
- How to get grants towards their cost
- How to produce wood fuel and manage a wood fuel supply
- The basics of small woodland management, and what support is available.

For full information on the workshops please see the attached flyer. To register to this free event contact Marches Wood Energy Network on **01952 432814**.

Renewable Energy Tours

The Local Support Team plan to run a renewable energy tour as a follow up to the renewable energy opportunities for farmers held in March. The day will be an opportunity to visit some renewable energy systems providing practical information on how the technologies could be integrated at their farms or on their land providing a new opportunities for investment or diversification.

There is the possibility of running further events for other partners and interested parties, these trips would be run at low cost, to visit local examples of renewable energy systems. The aim of the visits will be provide practical and learning experience about the key issues for the technologies and how they can be integrated into to our surroundings.

If you would be interesting in attending a renewable energy tour or have project that could be visited on a tour please e-mail ben@swea.co.uk registering your interest.

Contacts for further information on the CRI :

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