

WARM AND WELL HITS THE MILLION MARK!



Lisa Jones (South Gloucestershire Council) introduces the Warm and Well scheme to a meeting of health professionals

The Warm and Well scheme provides advice and measures to improve energy efficiency and reduce the health risk from cold damp homes. It is run by SWEA on behalf of the seven Gloucestershire authorities, and in close cooperation with health and

social services.

The Warm and Well pilot phase was completed in March, with over £1 million of energy efficiency improvements installed in almost two thousand Gloucestershire homes.

Five thousand people have contacted the scheme and received

advice on energy saving.

Funding from the scheme has come from the Energy Saving Trust HECAction programme, Scottish Power, and from some of the local Primary Care Groups, which evolved into Trusts during this period. A new phase of the scheme has now been set in motion for 2003-4.

The success of Warm and Well has been the focus of considerable interest from other parts of the country, used as a good practice case study for the DEFRA 'Dying to Be Warm' roadshow, and a GO South East guide for local HECA support. We have also assisted the Bristol EEAC to establish a similar scheme.

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Current SWEA Projects Include:

- The Gloucestershire Energy Efficiency Advice Centre
- Warm and Well
- The Community Renewables Initiative
- Lydney Local Power
- The Local Authority Support Programme

JOINING THE FEDS (OR HOW TO BE A GOOD EUROPEAN)

SWEA have been accepted as a new member of the Federation of European Energy Agencies (FEDARENE). This will help us to keep in touch with sustainable

energy developments at European level, and to work in partnership with the network of agencies across Europe. Since our inception we have worked with

Swedish, Austrian, French, Spanish and Norwegian agencies on renewable energy in schools and developing the market for refined biomass, as well as con-

OPENING THE GREEN DOOR FOR GLOUCESTERSHIRE FARMERS

Gloucestershire farmers have hit particularly hard times, with foot and mouth and floods adding to the vagaries of the market in recent years.

To alert farmers to new opportunities both to reduce long term running costs and bring in a new form of income from their land, the Community Renewables Initiative team ran a successful one day event this spring on renewable energy for farms.

Around 45 delegates attended the meeting, with half being farmers from across Gloucestershire, while the re-

mainder included representatives from DEFRA, Government Office South West and Cotswold and Gloucester local authorities.

The seminar hosted a range of presentations including wood fuel, coppice, miscanthus, solar water heating, wind power, anaerobic digestion and funding.

Delegates went away with practical information that they can use to identify renewable



Energy crops are one of the opportunities farmers explored at the meeting

energy opportunities on their own farms, and will be supported by SWEA to make this a reality.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE EEAC QUADRUPLES OUTPUTS

The EEAC team (known for their attention-seeking behaviour) went wild with joy and presented each other with strange gifts when they reached the year end and their target of 12,000 home energy advice reports.

This represents a quadrupling of outputs since SWEA took on the EEAC in February 2001, with only 3,000 advice reports being delivered the previous year.

According to national estimates of savings achievable by the average EEAC customer, this means we have helped Gloucestershire households to save £462,000 a year on fuel bills, as well as 5,667 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions. OK, now we understand. We also forgive them



The Gloucestershire EEAC Team are (from left), Kaye Welfare (manger), Barbara Moreton, Keren Price, and Sarah Giff

for making us all dress up and do embarrassing things in public on Comic Relief day. We were particularly impressed at Fairy Efficiency and

Fairy Inefficiency getting past the security guards at British Energy in their determination to reach the Gloucester Partnership meeting.

SUN SHINES ON BROCKWEIR AND HEWELSFIELD

The new Brockweir and Hewelsfield Community Shop, currently under construction in the Forest of Dean, is an exciting flagship development. The new energy efficient building will be "carbon-neutral", using renewable energy from a solar photovoltaic panel and a heat pump.

The building itself is being built from locally grown oak, so very little energy will be used in its construction. The shop will sell local produce (reducing food miles), and provide internet access and a café for local people.

SWEA worked with the project team to develop the sustainable energy side of the project, assessing options for renewable energy on the site

and suggesting sources of funding for the solar panel and heat pump.

However the success of the project is the result of the hard work and skills of the community shop team and the people of Brockweir and Hewelsfield. The project is a great example of local sustainable development and we hope it will be an inspiration to communities across the region.



The ground loop for the heat pump was installed early in the project. This collects heat from the ground to provide warmth for the shop

Visit our new
website!
www.swea.co.uk

BRINGING BENEFITS TO THE BOIL

Gloucestershire EEAC joined forces in March with the new-look Pensions Service to promote energy efficiency and benefit take-up together in the Boiling Benefits roadshow – assisted by BBC Radio Gloucestershire, with whom an excellent partnership has been developed during the past couple of years.

This ambitious event consisted of simultaneous roadshows at six post offices across Gloucestershire, where members of the public could get energy efficiency advice and a "Benefits Health Check" to



Jug kettles can help people boil small amounts of water, saving electricity

make sure that they were claiming all the benefits that they were entitled to. Jug ket-

tles were given to anyone over 60 years old who completed a Home Energy and a Benefits Check. During the course of the day over 150 kettles were claimed and BBC Radio Gloucestershire made live broadcasts from the several of the venues.

By our reckoning this event will have saved Gloucestershire households 577,609 kilowatt hours and £10,680 a year on their fuel bills, with an estimated saving in carbon dioxide emissions of 132,577 kilograms a year.

WYE VALLEY GOES ANGYDY OVER HYDRO

The Angidy Valley in Monmouthshire could be hydro-powered once again through a partnership between the Wye Valley AoNB office, the local community and SWEA. At the initial meeting of the “Wye

Local Power” community renewable energy initiative, residents of the Angidy Valley were keen to look at small scale hydro power at a series of derelict mill sites on the Angidy.

Surveys have suggested good potential for a community scale project, and the partnership is now finalising land ownership issues in preparation for making funding applications to take this forward.

Useful Websites

- www.swea.co.uk - The SWEA website
- www.savenergy.org.uk - Useful energy efficiency tips and grant information
- www.practicalhelp.org.uk - Help and advice on sustainable energy for Local Authorities and their partners
- www.nea.org.uk - National Energy Action are a charity campaigning for the eradication of fuel poverty
- www.greenenergy.org.uk - General information on renewable energy
- www.uswitch.com - a website to help you compare electricity and gas tariffs, including ‘green’ tariffs

EYES DOWN LOOK IN, IT'S ENERGY EFFICIENCY BINGO!



Yes it's finally come to this! The EEAC Team have a new game plan to promote energy efficiency to the public. So if you've got the 'key of the door' to 'Blair's den' and you know 'one fat lady' or even 'two' then maybe bingo is the game for you!

There is an energy efficiency tip for every

number called so we can get the message across and have fun at the same time.

So it's fine to cross the 'line' and win a CFL and let us help to improve your 'house'.

If anyone is interested in booking a session for their group 'call' the EEAC team on 0800 512 012 .

SWEA INFORMATION

The Severn Wye Energy Agency is one of a network of agencies across Europe set up to stimulate the development of sustainable energy through local and regional action for energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy resources. It is an independent not-for-profit company and registered charity.

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