

DSEN Newsletter

Welcome to the fourth edition of Devon Sustainable Energy News. Produced for the Devon Sustainable Energy Network this quarterly newsletter aims to facilitate the exchange of news and information across Devon. It covers all aspects of sustainable energy from renewable energy to energy efficiency and affordable warmth and encourages partnership working across all the sectors. If you would like to make a contribution to the next newsletter, have an event to publicise or wish to be removed from the mailing list, please contact Fiona Swan, secretariat for DSEN on 01752 235185 or email info@dsen.org.uk.

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- **NEA Silver Jubilee Conference** (Monday 4th to Wednesday 6th of September)
- **Better Utility Metering Seminar** on the 19th of September.
- **Resource06** 27 September to 28 September

DSEN News

Energy for Your Generation

Renewable Energy 4 Devon has moved on since the first news of the RE4D funding. Staff have been recruited, breathing life into this new and exciting project. Manager Melanie Sealy, based at Devon County Council starts on the 7th of August, Melanie brings with her significant experience of working with businesses on a number of environmental projects, including delivering regional sustainability projects supporting the growth of the eco-enterprise sector. Melanie has also worked as a Director for Ecosys Environmental Management and Education in the South East where she was responsible for a number of projects. Ben Eardling and Nick Goff will cover North Devon and South Devon respectively leading Small to Medium Enterprise (SMEs) clients through the process of installing renewable technologies. Holly Tiffen will be acting as the first port of call for new clients and will make referrals to the other mentors. The post for the Business Liaison Officer, which is yet to be filled, aims to increase the capacity of existing businesses and encourage the development of new ones. So welcome to all the new staff for RE4D. For initial RE4D enquiries please contact the Devon Energy Efficiency Advice Centre on 0800 512 012 or e-mail: energy@re4devon.org.uk

Private Landlords for Energy Action (PLEA) now in Exeter

Exeter City Council in partnership with **Westcountry Energy Action** (WcEA) is now running a PLEA scheme. Set up to encourage landlords to install energy efficiency measures in privately rented accommodation, the scheme offers £500 towards heating costs, £250 for energy efficiency measure (cavity wall and loft insulation) and energy efficiency advice and other discounts. For more information contact emma@devon-energy-advice.co.uk or call 0800 512 012.

Local Authorities Take a Closer Look at Their Carbon Footprint!

On the 29th of June a Carbon Footprint workshop was held at Devon County Council. Led by Devon County Council and Teignbridge District Council in partnership with the Carbon Trust, one of the objectives of the event was to cut Carbon Dioxide emissions and support the Devon, Plymouth and Torbay Declaration for Climate Change and Fuel Poverty through helping to make local authorities aware of their Carbon Footprint. Carbon Footprints which can be done at the householder, council and community level can be integrated into local authorities carbon management programmes. Further workshops will be held later on in the year. DSEN secretariat will send more information to DSEN members nearer the time. For more information on how to calculate a Carbon Footprint contact Climatchange@devon.gov.uk

DEVON NEWS

Teignbridge and Torbay Officer Wins Annual HECA Award

The Annual HECA awards were recently held in Blackpool. Good news for Devon was that Jarrod Hutt, Torbay and Teignbridge HECA officer won an award for the South West. Jarrod who has been in post since 2004 gained the award for two successful energy efficiency projects in Torbay and Teignbridge and for also introducing wind power through its 'Windsaver' scheme in Teignbridge. The awards sponsored by the Energy Saving Trust were presented by the Mayor of Blackpool and Councillor Alan Matthews, at the Home Energy Conference gala dinner. To see more of the HECA awards ceremony go to www.ukheca.org.uk/conference.



Devon Sustainable Energy Network

Exeter City Gives Go ahead for Micro-wind Turbines

Exeter City Council have provided planning permission for six roof-top wind turbines for it's Civic Centre building. The 8ft high wind turbines will generate 700kW of electricity, enough to power 160 computers at the council offices. The cost of the turbines is about £8,000 and will save the council around £500 a year on their energy bill and will help to reduce CO₂ emissions by 2% by 2007/8. Exeter City Council also hope for a biomass boiler to be installed at the Civic Centre, St George's Hall and Belle Isle Nursery. They are also going to be implementing a Green Travel Plan for employees and councillors. For more information go to http://www.exeter.gov.uk/media/pdf/d/3/CITIZEN_391.pdf

Support for Local Authority Sustainable Energy Action Plans

The Energy Saving Trust are now funding the Devon Local Energy Support Team to work in a new way with local authorities. Based on a pilot that partly took place in Devon last year. The new approach is about the Local Support Team (formerly LASP) working with LA's to develop sustainable energy action plans based upon EST recommendations further to a survey undertaken in the following 4 areas; housing , LA's own buildings, transport and the wider community. Last year West Devon, Mid Devon and Exeter went through the process and found it to be a very useful exercise. Paul Mc Cormick from Exeter City Council who led on the initiative at Exeter City Council says, 'The production of the action plan has enabled us to see quite clearly where we are doing well and where improvements need to be made and as a result we have now identified a number of projects particularly in terms of the use of renewable energy and sustainable construction methods that will put the council at the forefront delivering services in a way that mitigate their impact on the environment'. To get more information about the initiative, please do not hesitate to contact Fiona Swan, **Devon Local Energy Support Team** on **01752 235185** or e-mail Fiona@devon-energy-advice.co.uk

Fuel Prices on the Rise—Exeter Warms up for Action Against Fuel Poverty

Members of Exeter City Council were briefed recently about the detrimental impacts fuel poverty. Martin Eibl the Devon Affordable Warmth Officer, provided an update on grants available and action that is taking place as part of the Devon Affordable Warmth Strategy. Keith Williams, private sector housing manager, who organised the session said " Councillors are rooted within the community and have access to the most vulnerable householders. They know their areas very well and can help to target appropriate advice. Involving councillors and raising their awareness about affordable warmth is an important step to make sure households in Exeter get to know about the grants and advice that will help keep their homes warm and healthy."

Councillor Dilys Baldwin also commented "Fuel poverty is a serious social problem which I do not think is high enough on the political agenda. With fuel prices rising, the future looks bleak unless we do something to improve the quality of life for our citizens now."

For more information or if you would like your organisation to hear a talk from Martin Eibl call 01752 235183 or e-mail martin.eibl@nea.org.uk

Devon Sustainable Energy Network

New Energy Guide for Devon's landlords

Good news for Devon's private sector landlords is that an energy efficiency guide has been developed to help them make improvement to their properties and save money. The guide titled '**Modernising your Property**', explains how landlords can improve the energy efficiency of their dwellings and get grants and discounts to do the work. Landlords can therefore increase the assets value of the properties, meet housing standard regulations and receive fewer complaints from tenants.

John Sharpe Vice Chair from the National Federation of Residential Landlords says "Effective heating and insulation improves the property and benefits the landlord and the tenant alike. The Federation encourages all private sector landlords to improve the energy efficiency of their properties". The guide which has been developed by Martin Eibl the Devon Affordable Warmth Officer, Eaga partnership, National Landlord Association and the NFRL is supported by all local authorities in Devon, Westcountry Energy Action charity and the National Energy Action charity. More information and copies of the leaflet can be obtained from Martin Eibl on 01752 235183 or e-mail martin.eibl@nea.org.uk

Regional News

South West Draft Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS)

The draft regional spatial strategy is now out for consultation and it contains some key renewable energy measures. The RSS is fundamental to the future of renewable energy development in the South West. Once the RSS is in it will become part of the statutory development plan against which all planning applications will be assessed across the region.

- The policies of the RSS are renewable heat targets. The RSS is the first regional planning document to incorporate renewable heat targets.
- A 'Merton style' policy for onsite renewable energy generation, requiring all new developments of over 10% of the buildings energy requirements from on-site renewable energy sources. This will act as a huge stimulus for the micro-renewable, industries.
- Renewable electricity to be broken down to a county level by 2010, which will help drive forward the development of commercial renewable electricity projects in the region. Planning inspectors have already recognised the importance of these sub-regional targets.

If you would like any more information about the Regional Spatial Strategy or would like any help drafting up a response contact Cheryl Hiles, Planning and Policy Manager on 01392 229398 or e-mail her on chiles@regensw.co.uk

National News

Action pack launched to help councils tackle Climate Change

Angela Smith, Minister for the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has recently provided support for the Nottingham Declaration Action Pack. Designed to offer step by step guidance, the Nottingham Declaration Action Pack marks significant progress in supporting local authorities to help develop a coherent response to the challenge of climate change. It is a free resource, available from www.nottinghamdeclaration.org.uk.

Philip Sellwood, Chief Executive of the Energy Saving Trust who were involved in creating the pack said: "We are delighted to be part of such an important project. Local councils really do hold the key to fighting the local causes of climate change, as well as providing cleaner and safer places for residents to live. We have listened to them; we understand the barriers to taking action and in partnership have developed this pack to address some of these."

The pack has been created by a unique partnership of the Carbon Trust, Energy Saving Trust, the Environment Agency, Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA), International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), Local Government Association (LGA), Nottingham City Council and the UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP).

The Heat Is On

National Energy Action (NEA) the leading fuel poverty charity, has produced a DVD in 15 different languages for vulnerable fuel consumers who do not use English as their first language. The DVD provides energy efficiency advice for those people who face difficulties in understanding English and find it hard to get advice because of the language barrier. The DVD was funded by npower Health Through Warmth Community Projects grant scheme. Copies are available from Martin Eibl call on 01752 235183 or e-mail martin.eibl@nea.org.uk

DaimlerChrysler UK to make first carbon neutral car

DaimlerChrysler UK has announced plans to develop the world's first carbon neutral car, by offsetting production emissions with renewable energy and forestry initiatives. For every tonne of CO2 emitted in the logistical production of a 'smart ev', the carmaker will absorb a tonne of CO2 through projects already underway in France where design begins there and the UK, where final technological assembly is conducted.

Both DaimlerChrysler and the CarbonNeutral Company anticipate that the 'smart ev' will become the world's first carbon neutral vehicle. The car will be powered by electricity and produce zero emissions.

To help make the project a reality, the carmaker has enlisted the help of the Britain's leading low carbon and fuel cell technology specialists, Cenex, funded by the Department of Trade and Industry.

"This is exactly the kind of project that Cenex was formed to support," explained Robert Evans, chief executive of the centre for excellence.

"Cenex is looking forward to working with DaimlerChrysler and the many customer fleets interested in operating smart evs to help validate the proposition that low carbon vehicle technologies can meet or exceed customers operational requirements whilst simultaneously delivering big gains in environmental performance," he added.

First deliveries will be made in November this year. For more information www.est.org.uk

Future Training

Understanding Fuel Poverty

Aimed at Local Authority employees, health and community workers and Housing Association staff. This one day training provides an in depth look at energy efficiency and background in fuel poverty.

- Tuesday 19th September, Plymouth
- Wednesday 11th October, Barnstaple

Renewable Energy Basics

An intensive one day course which covers domestic scale solar thermal, solar electricity (PV), wind power, biomass and ground source heating. Looks at planning issues, costs and grants available.

- Thursday 7th September, Plymouth
- Monday 25th September, Barnstaple

Housing Standards for Sustainability

One day training course that covers the latest legislative changes in relation to sustainable housing. Suitable for housing and planning officers, developers and people who are interested themselves in building an Eco home. Looks at the new part L of the building regulation and Ecohomes.

- Thursday 14th September, Exeter

All of the above courses contact are run by Westcountry Energy Action, for more details contact Kate@devon-energy-advice.co.uk or call 01752 235180.

Dates for your diary

- NEA are having their **Silver Jubilee Conference** on Monday the 4th to Wednesday the 6th of September. For more information go to www.nea.org.uk
- **Better Utility Metering Seminar** on the 19th of September 2006 for more details visit www.nea.org.uk
- **Resource06** is an exiting two day event from the 27 September to 28 September featuring CPD seminars, networking event and exhibits relating to the Low Carbon and Building Agenda. For more information visit www.bre.co.uk/resource06