



Warwickshire Climate Change Community Newsletter

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/climatechangepartnership

August 09 Issue 19

Green Community Heroes







The Energy Saving Trust's Green Community Hero Awards, in conjunction with the Guardian, aims to celebrate and promote the achievements of the nation's most inspiring community projects and groups.

The challenge of addressing climate change alone can be an over whelming one, however when working as a community the challenge doesn't seem as tough. Community projects are a testament to this view, as communities up and down the country have come together to share a common vision to combat climate change, cut their energy usage and save money.

From energy awareness events to community wide energy generation through renewable technology, there are communities making a real difference, and that's worth to celebrating. The Energy Saving Trust would like to encourage communities to enter the Green Community Hero Awards.

The winners will be recognised for their achievements at the annual Green Communities conference and will receive further national recognition with a feature in Society Guardian. This will serve to further promote the project, help with further funding bids, gain support from local councils, organisations and residents of your community, not to mention inspire other community groups to take action.

There are 5 categories you can enter, including an individual recognition award:

-  Best Rural Community Project and Urban Community Project
-  Most Innovative Project
-  Most Sustained activity by a community group
-  Outstanding contribution by an individual

To find out more please go to www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/green-communities/green-community-heroes

Transition Shipston

Transition Shipston is a grassroots movement working to build local resilience against the threat of oil depletion and climate change within Shipston-on-Stour.

The group will be facilitating a number of open space events to allow people to share ideas for how we can tackle the threat of Peak Oil and Climate Chaos.

Open space events are designed to allow people and communities to share ideas on how a particular problem can be tackled. From these ideas practical projects and solutions can be established.

The open space sessions will be on the following 3 topics: Food, Energy and Transport.

The dates for the Open Space sessions are as follows

Food: Sept 8th
Energy: Oct 6th
Transport: Nov 10th

For more information go to <http://transitionshipston.blogspot.com/>

Have your say



This is your newsletter and your opportunity to publicise any events you may be holding, and let other groups know what you are currently up to share your experiences. What do you want to see in future editions?

Please send all comments or enquiries about this newsletter and suggestions, for news items, case studies, details of events etc to emmaclarke@warwickshire.gov.uk

Future Proofing your Community

Saturday 31st October 2009
Ettington Village Hall 10am – 4pm

Here in Warwickshire we have examples of Community Shops, Flood Teams, Bio-diversity Action Groups, Transition Towns, Pig Clubs, Energy Efficiency schemes, Allotments and Local Food groups, Farmers Markets, Community Transport initiatives and Eco schools.

Warwickshire Rural Community Council invite you to this free event which will showcase the achievements of these pioneers and should encourage other communities to follow their inspiring lead

Zero Carbon Caravan



The zero carbon caravan is the idea of Chris Keene. The idea is to travel using zero carbon transport through the towns and cities of England, Wales and onto the continent to arrive at the International Climate Conference at Copenhagen on 5th December. On the way the caravan is going to hold a series of rallies, conferences and concerts which will all be zero carbon and raise awareness of the need to tackle climate change by creating a zero carbon economy. They will also visit projects aimed at meeting the challenge of climate change such as our local initiatives at Garden Organic at Ryton and Practical Action at Rugby.

Transition Town Leamington is a group which has formed to deal with the coming challenges of climate change and peak oil by encouraging a zero carbon local economy in areas such as food growing, transport and energy use by industry. They are looking for members to join in this exciting project. The Centre for Alternative Technology has already demonstrated in its Zero Carbon Britain report in 2007 www.zerocarbonbritain.com how Britain could completely decarbonise in twenty years.

A benefit concert is being organised by members of Transition Town Leamington to raise funds for the zero carbon caravan and at the same time increase awareness of the need to tackle climate change locally and internationally. It is hoped that the zero carbon caravan will take the views of the people of Leamington to Copenhagen. Chris Philpott is going to give mini talks on climate change to the audience throughout the concert. Gitta Ashworth has written songs about climate change and will lead a sing along session at the concert. The occasion will see the performance of 4 climate change songs by the Eco Worriers. It is hoped that young people will attend as two young vibrant and original local bands will be performing, Knoxville Paranoia and No Face. All Sparks are going to play a set and provide a P.A. and do the sound mixing for free and Dan Briton is going to charge up batteries with his solar generator and provide zero carbon energy to drive the amps. Matt Bishop of the Leam Boat Centre has kindly made available the venue at no cost.

The concert starts at 7:30 through to 11pm at the Leam Boat Centre, Mill Road, near Jephson Gardens on Friday September 4th. The £2.00 entrance fee is designed to make it affordable and enjoyable to all.

Chris Philpott Transition Town Leamington Member

Britain's Green Communities

British Gas has opened up a new community energy fund of up to £2million, as part of a nationwide Green Streets campaign to search for Britain's innovative green communities.

The fund is in response to a growing grassroots movement of community groups across the country wanting to start their own energy project but needing help to get their own energy project plans off the ground.

Any community group can apply for part of the money with projects which can range from solar, wind or hydro power to bio-mass, ground source and air source heat pumps. Projects must involve local residents and businesses and include a site of importance to the community such as a sports club, pub, scout hut, church or mosque.

The short listed groups will be invited to present their project in an area near them. The presentations will be to an expert panel consisting of a mix of press, industry experts and British Gas representatives who will tour Great Britain to hear the presentations and to make a decision on which short listed projects will be allocated a share of the funding and provided with assistance to realise their project.

Interested community groups with energy projects should apply by the 31st August. Around fourteen community groups will be selected from across the country to share in the money. British gas will provide the funding, support and technical expertise to develop and implement the successful groups ideas. Next year all the projects will go head to head in a number of challenges to reduce energy use, generate local energy and increase support amongst members of their own community. Their progress will be monitored for a year by the Independent Institute of Public Policy Research think-tank.

The winning community project will receive a further £100,000 prize in funding from British Gas.

Applications should be made online by 31st August by visiting www.britishgas.co.uk/greenstreets