

**Parishes Liaison Meeting  
Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

**Sustainability Team: Updates and Opportunities**

**1. Bath Community Energy: Renewable Energy for Community Benefit**

Our Sustainable Community Strategy commits us to building a prosperous future whilst doing our part to address climate change. We now have an opportunity to do both.

Renewable energy is now a sound investment due to the “Feed-In Tariff” (FIT) that is paid for each unit of renewable electricity generated. Time is of the essence: the level of the FIT for solar PV for example will start to decrease from April 2012, reducing the potential community benefits significantly.

Many commercial companies are profiting from the FIT but ideally, profits from renewable energy could be re-invested locally to benefit our communities. For this reason, we are developing a partnership with Bath Community Energy (BCE). BCE is a registered not-for-profit community enterprise<sup>[1]</sup> founded by local people who have many years experience of renewable energy, energy efficiency and community projects.

BCE intend to deliver renewable energy projects throughout Bath and North East Somerset. They will identify locations, develop the projects and own and operate the technologies. BCE would set up a lease arrangement with the land owner to cover any nominal rent, and an agreement around the sale of electricity as appropriate. BCE would collect the Feed-in Tariff.

BCE intend to use a community investment model. Some funds will be raised through a “community share issue” where residents invest in projects, become shareholders and members of BCE and get a return on their investment. Thus residents would literally own and benefit financially from energy assets.

Most importantly, BCE will use the revenue from its renewable energy installations to establish a revolving community fund to re-invest in more local energy projects to tackle fuel poverty and climate change. The aim is to install 1.5 megawatts of renewable energy over the next few years which would generate a significant annual fund for re-investing in further projects.

Currently, BCE are developing several projects: a hydro-power scheme; solar panels on school roofs and a car park. BCE is currently looking for further sites for solar, hydro and wind turbines, since well-sited turbines have a shorter pay back time than either solar PV or hydro schemes and will generate greater community benefits as a result.

**For further information on BCE see [www.bathcommunityenergy.co.uk](http://www.bathcommunityenergy.co.uk). If you have questions about BCE, please contact Peter Capener: [pete\\_capener@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:pete_capener@blueyonder.co.uk) or 07775781331**

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<sup>[1]</sup> IPS BENCOM : Industrial and Provident Society established for the benefit of the community, see <http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/bdotg/action/detail?itemId=1077475850&type=RESOURCES>.

If your Parish might have potential sites for any of the technologies above, we would be happy to discuss further. Please contact Sara Grimes: 01225 395418  
[sara\\_grimes@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:sara_grimes@bathnes.gov.uk)

## **2. Local Energy Champions**

It's not too late for your Parish Council or community group to join the Local Energy Champions Scheme, and win £1000. Groups are doing a wide range of projects and receiving expert support from Community Sustainability Officer Kathy Tate. So far the following groups are participating:

- Somer Sustainability Forum
- People and Planet, University of Bath
- Transition Larkhall
- Timsbury Environment Group
- Radstock Action Group
- Energy Efficient Widcombe

The deadline for Local Energy Champions is the 13th of May. There will be a celebration event in June where the prize will be awarded to the group that has made the most progress.

## **3. Keynsham Sustainable Energy Plan**

**Are you interested in creating a Sustainable Energy Plan for your area, perhaps to augment your Parish Plan?** Transition Keynsham is being supported to undertake a Sustainable Energy Plan in association with The Converging World. An example of the Sustainable Energy Plan which the Keynsham group are working towards can be found at the link below:

[file:///S:/Policy%26Pships/Corporate%20Sustainability/4.%20TEAM%20WORKSTREAMS\\_NEW/COMMUNITY\\_ENGAGEMENT/Community%20Carbon%20Footprinting/SEP\\_Redl and.pdf](file:///S:/Policy%26Pships/Corporate%20Sustainability/4.%20TEAM%20WORKSTREAMS_NEW/COMMUNITY_ENGAGEMENT/Community%20Carbon%20Footprinting/SEP_Redl and.pdf)

## **4. Home Electricity Monitor Loan Scheme**

The Sustainability Team and the Library Service joined forces to launch the Home Electricity Monitor Loan Scheme in October 2010. They are available from Bath Central, Keynsham and Midsomer Norton Libraries and have so far proved very popular.

**For more information on Local Energy Champions, Sustainable Energy Plans or the monitor loan scheme, please contact Kathy Tate: 01225 477528**  
[Kathy\\_tate@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:Kathy_tate@bathnes.gov.uk)

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