

Community

Energy

Update

February 2015

From the Centre for Sustainable Energy



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section 1 The latest CSE news ...



Urban Community Energy Fund update

Another application deadline falls at the end of this week. The deadline for the next round of applications (March) is Friday 27th. If you're thinking of applying then, please get in touch with the UCEF team (0800 038 6345 or info@ucef.org.uk) who can talk your ideas through with you, and also look over draft applications before the deadline. And don't forget to read the guidance notes: www.gov.uk/urban-community-energy-fund

Free conference: Community and Local Heat in England and Wales

CSE will be at the DECC Community Heat Conference taking place on 10 March at Birmingham Town Hall. Rachel Coxcoon (right) will be on hand to talk to people about heat projects, and will be demonstrating CSE's new and improved National Heat Map (www.cse.org.uk/heatmap).



The conference is aimed at public sector and community groups wishing to develop community heat projects using heat pumps, biomass and community heat networks. Ticket info from www.bit.ly/1A9Y19s

A focus on research

You may or may not know that CSE has a large research team who beaver away behind the scenes on projects which aim to understand better the challenges we face and the quality of solutions being proposed. Our researchers work with UK government, universities, the EU and other social researchers to evaluate and influence policy, analyse data and develop tools to enable new insight and understanding (see www.cse.org.uk/research).

We don't often shout about our research findings here so we thought we'd start a regular 'Focus on Research' feature, highlighting the outcomes of different arms of research. In this month's first feature we're looking at 'Climate Justice' – how different social groups are impacted by climate change and climate change policies.

Turn to p5 to read the feature



continued overleaf

Community energy share offers

We're aware of three community energy projects with current share offers:

Corwen Electricity Co-operative

This is a 55kW hydro scheme on the Nant Cawrddu, which rises outside Corwen and flows through the town. A pioneer share offer to raise the money for the development costs has already taken place. A new share offer was launched on 19 February to raise the funds for the capital construction. Additional grant funding has been obtained through the Ynni'r Fro scheme to cover legal fees. www.corwenelectricity.org.uk

Reach Community Solar Farm

Plans to install just over 1,000 solar panels on farmland on the edge of Reach, Cambridgeshire which will generate sufficient electricity to meet the needs of around half the homes in the village. £360,000 is needed and shares from £500 to £20,000 are welcomed. www.reachsolarfarm.co.uk

Sunart Community Renewables

A 100kW hydro scheme in Strontian, Scotland on a disused dam. The share offer is open until 15 March and the target is £850,000. www.sunartcommunityrenewables.org.uk



Green Open Homes



Spring is on its way and with it a new season of Green Open Home events. Here's a roundup of some events coming up:

Warming Up for 2015, Oldham

Saturday 7 March

Bus tour of three local eco homes, 13:00–16:30. A free workshop will precede the tour (9.30–13:00) providing an introduction to renewable technologies, the feed-in tariffs and the Renewable Heat Incentive. www.bit.ly/1ArhmZM

This event is being run by Carbon Co-op who are also running Routes to Retrofit, an open home event in Manchester, on 28–29 March. They are on the lookout for homes to take part in this event so email info@carbon.coop if you'd like to take part.

21st Century Homes, Muswell Hill, London

Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 March

On Saturday 21st March, listen to interesting talks by experts on energy-efficient renovation of older houses, and visit stalls set up by organisations offering products and services. On Sunday 22nd, at least five houses will be opened up by local residents to tours of renovated houses which will show improvements varying from the modest to the Superhome level. www.bit.ly/1EQ2MdU

There are lots more events to come over the next few months so watch this space!

And there is still funding available if you want a grant of between £500 and £2,500 to run your own event between now and the end of May www.greenopenhomes.net/support-for-organisers/grants-2015

Event

Transition@Trinity, Bristol

Transition Bristol is holding a day of workshops, networking, talks and celebration on Saturday 14 March in The Trinity Centre, Easton (pictured). The aim is to provide connections between groups and projects to help them scale up and collaborate to create something really effective. Anyone with ideas or involved in projects across Bristol and beyond are welcome.



Sophy Banks of Transition Network will be leading two workshops on the day. The first one is entitled "Health Checks for Existing Groups", the second will be helping us figure out how we can become effective changemakers. The event costs £5 (waged or free if you're unwaged) and lunch is provided www.bit.ly/137YYs5

Power to Change launches first grants programme

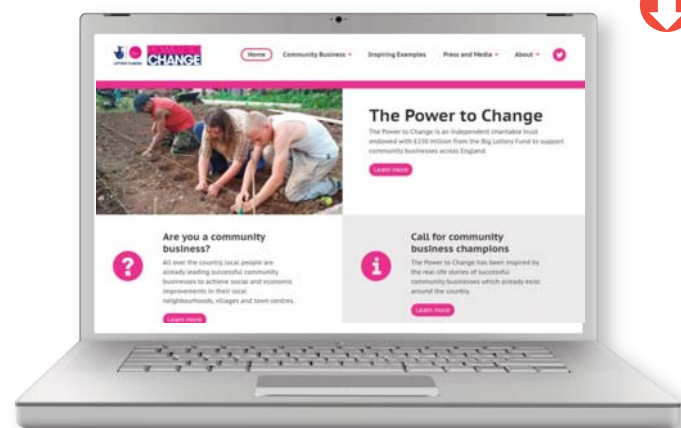
Power to Change is a new grant-making foundation set up by the Big Lottery Fund. The aim is to fund the development of community businesses over a 10 to 15-year period.

In its first programme, Power to Change is offering grants of at least £50,000 over the next six months to community businesses that already operate in England. The money should be used for working capital and asset purchases. It is also seeking "community business champions" who will identify existing community businesses that already make a difference in their local areas.

Organisations eligible to apply for funding are charities, social enterprises, cooperatives or companies that are not-for-profit and are owned, led or governed by local people with the aim of improving the social and economic prospects in their areas

A spokesperson said "We are looking for the most inspirational existing community businesses across England to help spread the word and inspire others about the potential of community business to make positive change for local people and places."

Community businesses can register their interest in the programme by completing a form on the Power to Change website. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. www.thepowertochange.org.uk



RHI roadshows

DECC are on the road in February and March, meeting householders and talking about the RHI, energy efficiency and the Green Deal. The events are geared towards those off the gas network who spend more on heating and could benefit most from these initiatives. Local authorities, installers and representatives from DECC will be on hand to answer questions. All of the events are free and take place in the evening from 18:30–21:00.

Some of the roadshows have already taken place but there are upcoming events in Nottingham, York, Stoke-on-Trent, Bristol, Exeter and the Eden Project, Cornwall. Book a place at www.bit.ly/1AICZJR



Energy Efficiency Best Practice Awards

Are you involved in helping to improve energy efficiency in your local community? British Gas and fuel poverty charity National Energy Action are inviting applications for the Energy Efficiency Best Practice Awards. Eight organisations with a track record of delivering projects to save energy and reduce CO₂ will win up to £5000 to help them in future energy-saving initiatives.

The scheme is open to not-for-profit and statutory agencies delivering projects in the following locations only:

- City of Cardiff
- Northamptonshire
- Walsall
- Enfield
- Barking and Dagenham
- Greater Manchester
- North East of England (Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, County Durham)
- Liverpool

To find out more and apply go to www.bit.ly/1woaqgn. Closing date is Friday, 13 March.



Dataset of the month

We know some of you really love seeing some statistics so in our first 'dataset of the month' here is some ECO (Energy Company Obligation)* installation data, available by local authority area. It's on the statistics section of the government's website: www.bit.ly/1MRo2Wb

*The ECO provides funding across the UK for home energy efficiency improvements.

Village SOS

Village SOS is a programme from the Big Lottery Fund with the aim to support rural communities with setting up and managing social enterprises. An event was held last weekend in Bristol and another is coming up this weekend (Saturday 28 February) in Darlington, with a chance to find out more and chat to experts. It's not too late to sign up to attend via: www.bit.ly/1AJHluy

If you missed the events find out more from Village SOS at www.villagesos.org.uk.

What's with the shortened web addresses?

We're making more use of 'bitly' URLs. This is to keep web addresses nice and short so they fit on one line and can be typed into a browser address bar easily.



Community Foundations

There are local community foundations all over the UK who can link community groups and projects with grants and provide support to help them succeed. As impartial, local, grant-making organisations, community foundations can provide local knowledge to donors about local needs, what groups are tackling which issues, and how donations can be strategic and best support the community.

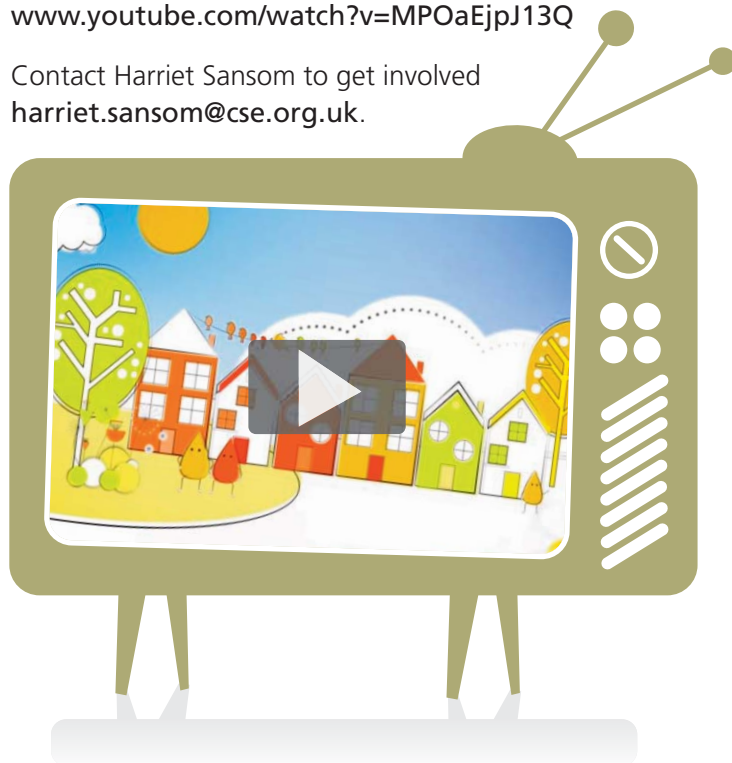
UK Community Foundations is the umbrella body linking the various local organisations. This link contains details of all the local foundations: www.bit.ly/1DUppqw

Video of the month:

'Low Carbon Localism'

We've just re-launched our support service for neighbourhood planning groups, so here's our short film introducing 'Localism and Neighbourhood Planning'. www.youtube.com/watch?v=MPOaEjP13Q

Contact Harriet Sansom to get involved harriet.sansom@cse.org.uk.



Focus on Research

Climate change and social justice: an evidence review

Climate justice examines how the effects of climate change will be experienced by different groups and how some people and places are more vulnerable to negative impacts than others. Numerous factors are considered including institutional practices, people's ability to respond and how the costs and benefits of climate change policy are distributed.

What defines climate justice?

Vulnerability to climate injustice is more likely amongst certain groups, such as older people, lower-income groups and tenants. For example older people are most at risk of health impacts from extreme heat and cold; while tenants cannot modify their homes, so are less able to prepare for and recover from major events such as flooding. Climate injustice is experienced by disadvantaged groups in the following ways:

- They contribute the least to climate change but are more likely to be impacted by it;
- They pay, as a proportion of their income, the most towards the implementation of climate change policies and yet they benefit the least from them;
- Their voices tend to go unheard in decision making.

Key Policy Issues: Mitigation and Adaptation

Carbon mitigation: The wealthiest 10 per cent of households are responsible for 16 per cent of domestic emissions, while the poorest 10 per cent are responsible for just 5 per cent. So far little consideration has been given to how responsibility for emissions could help to plan how to mitigate climate change. Much of the UK's sustainable energy policies are paid for through levies on bills rather than taxation. Consequently, lower-income households pay more as a proportion of their income than higher-income households.

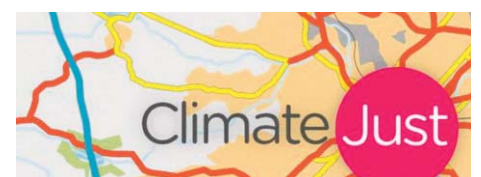
Climate adaptation: Constructing physical infrastructure to ensure long-term resilience against climate change impacts is essential. Economic benefits of adaptation activity, such as green growth and jobs, could also bring social justice if they are fairly distributed. A number of initiatives at the local level are beginning to address questions of climate justice in adaptive planning and offering valuable lessons to others.

“ Many of the UK's sustainable energy policies are funded via levies on bills, which means poor households pay more as a proportion of their income than rich ones. ”

Creating more socially just policy

- Climate justice requires cross-sector working so that plans are in place to reduce poverty and enable green growth.
- Vulnerability needs to be better understood and not just related to individual circumstances or location.
- Policy must move beyond emergency planning and build the infrastructure for permanent resilience for all social groups, including local authorities making use of new planning powers.
- New methods for engaging communities in more collaborative planning processes so that those most affected by climate injustice have more say.

You can read more on this study and download a full review at www.cse.org.uk/projects/view/1237



A recently launched tool called **Climate Just allows researchers to identify populations and places most likely to be impacted by climate change at a local level. You can get the data at www.climatejust.org.uk.**