

LLES

Llanidloes Energy Solutions Ltd

NEWSLETTER



September 2005

Updates from Diana Berriman, our development officer ...

Survey

All of the surveys for Llanidloes and immediate surrounding area are on a spreadsheet now, and this info has gone off to be analysed to give us an idea of Llanidloes' domestic carbon emissions. It also gives us a lot of information about where energy savings can be made in the home, by carrying out insulation measures for example. A scheme has recently been launched by Powys County Council whereby householders can access funds to have works done to their homes to save electricity and heat, thus reducing bills. More on this later in the newsletter.

Energy Audits of public buildings

To get an idea of energy usage in the public sector, we have obtained permission to carry out energy audits of four buildings in the town and have completed three of these. The energy efficiency of the Town Hall and Community Centre is very poor and we have made recommendations for improvements to the Town Council. Bodlondeb belongs to Mid Wales Housing Association and many tenants find it costly to heat. We are putting together our recommendations for this also. The final one to do is the Leisure Centre.

Existing Schemes

As far as our ambition to be carbon neutral goes, there is already a fair amount of 'green' electricity being generated in the locality:-

- Landfill Gas Turbine – 1MW producing 6593 MWh/year (average)
- Hydro Turbines at Clywedog Dam – 700kW producing 350 MWh/year (on average).
- Solar PV – 1MW at Llidiartywaen
- Wind Farms - Bryn Titli – 10MW capacity
Carno – 34MW capacity
Llandinam – 31MW capacity

I was wondering if anyone knew of any old hydro pumps in the locality? In the past most farms used to have their own pumps or turbines and some may still exist even if they are not used. Please contact me (01686 411131 or diana@lles.co.uk) with any information. Thank you.

Continued overleaf

CONCERTO Project

Concerto is a European Programme which is looking to attract communities wishing to conduct a sustainable energy project. The three essential components for the scheme are:-

1. Energy Efficiency in existing buildings and new developments, including the renovation of older buildings
2. Renewable Energy Schemes – the more innovative the better, and CHP being an optional extra.
3. The integration between 1 and 2 – linking the energy demand of the community with the supply of green electricity.

This fits in precisely with the aims and ambitions of LLES Ltd.

About twenty Communities in the whole of Europe will be supported, with an eligible community having a population of between 500 and 5000. Funding will be 35% up to a maximum of about £2m per community, so the whole scheme could be worth £5m. Part of the criteria is to form partnerships, both within the community, such as Local Authority, WDA, Housing Associations, Community Groups and businesses, and with other European Countries. The programme will run for a period of 5 years - the deadline for applications is December, so a lot of work is necessary to form a bid which may not be successful.

The LLES Ltd Board of Directors held an emergency meeting to discuss whether to go forward with an application, and decided that we couldn't miss this opportunity. Even if our bid is not successful we will have put together a business plan to follow as funding streams allow. Also we will have made a lot more contacts in the area and hopefully got a lot more businesses thinking down the sustainable route.

Since the decision to go ahead, ideas have been flying in and these will be fine tuned in due course. There is a vast amount that we could achieve with this sort of programme. If you want to get on board with this, or have any comments, we would appreciate your views. We will be discussing the project further at our AGM on 6th October, so come along if you can.

Potential Schemes

Regarding potential schemes, Llanidloes is very well placed to realise a number of possibilities, including biomass, solar thermal, hydro, wind and anaerobic digestion.

LLES will be running feasibility studies for as many as we can get funding for, to see which are suitable to progress further.

STOP PRESS: The results are in ...

Based on our sample of 208 properties, (which is a little under 10%) the average domestic carbon dioxide emissions in Llanidloes are 9.2 tonnes (of CO₂) per property per year. This does not include domestic transport. The national average is 6 tonnes per property per year! This could be reduced by a further 2 tonnes by energy efficiency measures in the home.

So why are we creating so much? One possible

explanation for the difference is that the national average, being based on a winter sample, could include more newer, better insulated homes, whilst many properties in Llanidloes (and in our survey) are older, hard to heat, solid walled properties.

CO₂ is the main contributor to man made greenhouse effect. In the UK, according to the Energy Savings Trust, the energy we use in our homes produces 28% of the CO₂ emissions entering the atmosphere, with another 26% of emissions from domestic transport. It is therefore paramount that we try to become more energy efficient as a town.

Queen Goes For Renewables

The Queen is doing her bit to tackle global warming by installing a hydro-electric power plant near Windsor Castle. Four water turbines will be placed under water on the river Thames in Berkshire to provide a third of the Castle's energy needs directly, without entering the national grid.

Assistance for energy efficiency measures in the home

Powys residents can apply for financial help to make their homes more energy efficient under a new scheme introduced by the County Council.

Assistance of up to £500 will be available for measures such as loft and cavity wall insulation, draught proofing, and energy efficient heating boilers. Up to £1000 can also be granted for solar hot water systems, as well as contributions towards external insulation for mobile homes.

The Carbon Dioxide Initiative CO₂i, pronounced "Cosy", has been introduced by the Council in

partnership with specialist contractors and an energy supplier. The assistance being offered can be used in addition to that already being offered by the energy company, meaning in most cases the cost of insulation work will be free and residents could make substantial savings on their fuel bills.

Assistance is open to both home-owners and people living in private rented accommodation (subject to the written consent of the landlord and there is no means testing involved. Applicants must be 18 years of age or over.

For further information, please telephone the **Energy Efficiency Advice Centre** free on **0800 512 012**

Greener Homes and Buildings Event

There is a Greener Homes and Buildings conference on 30th September with a free public event and demonstrations on Saturday 1st October from 10.00am to 4.30pm at Dyfi Eco Park near Machynlleth railway station. There will be a children's corner where they can join in putting

together a solar hot water panel, a band and presentations for anyone interested in making their home greener. We are hoping to have a LLES stall at the event so if anyone is interested in helping please contact David Utting on 01686 **411128** or **princut2@cooptel.net**.

See **www.greenerhomesandbuildings.co.uk** for more information.

GREEN NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Being a bad sleeper I get to hear some interesting things on the BBC World Service, and this week there have been two items on the problems caused by plastic bags.

In India, the state of Maharashtra has banned the use and manufacture of plastic bags because they caused blocked drains and worsened flooding in the recent monsoon, contributing to water-borne epidemics.

In Ghana, the government has set up a task force to deal with the rubbish situation, which is affecting wetlands and coasts with a covering of floating plastic. 'Every plastic bag becomes a swimming pool for baby mosquitoes', someone said. It was sobering to learn at our first Eco Team meeting that our carefully recycled plastic bottles

go to China and back before being made into new products. We might be a little tidier in this country but are landfill and recycling sweeping the problem under the carpet? 'Reduce' and 're-use' come before 'recycle' in the waste-savers' mantra.

In Germany's Black Forest, not far from a decrepit nuclear power station, one town is making a positive contribution to renewable energy. The roof of the Lutheran church is covered with photovoltaic panels, as are many of the houses, and the pastor said that the church is heated with vegetable oil which he also uses in his car.

Beck Woodrow

ECO TEAMS WILL HELP TO TRANSFORM OUR ENERGY USE

Eco Teams are an innovative idea that really helps people to assess their use of energy and their level of waste production.

First started in the Netherlands in the late 1980s, where they now involve 10,000 households, Eco Teams have spread to Germany, Belgium, Denmark, South Africa, Poland, Austria, Turkey, the U.S.A., and the U.K. The scheme is organized by the international charity Global Action Plan. (see website www.globalactionplan.org.uk).

Recently it was trialled in Nottinghamshire, where households achieved a 43% reduction in waste and a 12% cut in energy use.

Now LLES has joined the scheme and has started a pilot EcoTeam. We hope there will soon be an opportunity for other members to join in.

EcoTeams are groups of 6 to 8 households who monitor their resource use and meet once a month to share ideas and experiences. Information collected from the households will include waste, energy use, water consumption and modes of travel. Each team will be supported by a trained coach who will be on hand to answer questions and provide suggestions. Being part of an EcoTeam takes around two hours a month and the programme lasts for four months.

The EcoTeams Programme is built upon a few simple principles:

- The idea that no-one can do everything, but we can all do something
- The work is shared by a group so that members can support and encourage one another and share experiences and ideas
- It is a step-by-step process that helps you to change your lifestyle by small adjustments that become good habits, benefiting you and the planet
- By measuring what resources you use on a weekly basis, you can see the improvements you have achieved during the course of the programme, as an individual and as a team.

The first meeting of our EcoTeam took place on Tuesday evening, August 30th, at David and

Gwen's house. Future meetings will be held at the homes of other members of the team. After a welcome by Gwen, who is our facilitator, we were introduced to the ideas outlined above, and then we all introduced ourselves. Seven households were represented by ten individuals: another member was unable to attend but is keen to join, which will bring the total of households in the group to eight.

At this initial meeting, Gwen explained that each of the next monthly meetings will be centred around a particular topic:-

- Month 1 – Rubbish and Shopping
- Month 2 – Energy, electricity, gas and transport
- Month 3 – Water

We were asked to take a reading of our gas and electricity meters the next day, and then to measure (weigh) our bin rubbish and recycled materials weekly, without making special efforts to make savings. These measurements will represent our behaviour as it is at present and give us a standard by which to judge future figures. By taking action and measuring the results, we will hope to see real improvements. These will show that we have made a difference, and looking back, we may find that we have achieved a good deal. Parliament is recognizing the value of this work.

We were each given a work book that explains the programme and contains record sheets on which to record our results. Everything is made as easy and simple as possible. Three of us volunteered to be a co-ordinator for each of our future three meetings, and set a date for our next meeting in a month's time.

LLES has been in existence now for four years, and we have achieved a great deal. We have consistently encouraged our members and the public to save energy and spread ideas on how to do it, but this is the first time we have been able to get down to brass tacks with members in finding out what our energy consumption is and taking steps to reduce it.

Barbara Anderson

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

We would like to send as many newsletters as possible by email, and save our precious funding (as well as paper and time!) for other things. Many of the members' email addresses we originally had are out of date or have mistakes. If you are able to receive future newsletters (as well as information about meetings) this way then please send a message to beck.woodrow@virgin.net with

'LLES Newsletter' in the subject line and we'll add you to the list. Please specify whether you would prefer an unformatted text version in the body of your email (much quicker to download) or a PDF attachment (which preserves the formatting of the printed version).

If you would like a PDF version of this newsletter to send to friends, you can download it from www.llanidloes.net/lles/newsletter/llesnews0509.pdf

But what is the government doing?

One cartoonist during the recent elections pictured politicians arguing together but ignoring the huge elephant of 'Climate Change' towering over them! Politicians are too concerned with getting elected and neglect long-term problems. We are all doing our bit, and we hope that what LLES is doing will make a big difference. But it is a drop in the ocean when we consider our national carbon emissions which are currently rising at 5% per year instead of reducing. We need to be pressuring politicians to do far more. 70% of the public think that the Government should do more about climate change.

Three concerned MPs have joined together across party lines to bring in a new Climate Change Bill: Michael Meacher, Labour, John Gummer, Conservative and Norman Baker, Lib-Dem are sponsoring a Bill which requires CO₂ emissions to be cut by 3% every year to 2050. This would ensure that we meet important long-term targets to reduce greenhouse gases sufficiently to avert the worst impacts of climate change. A gradual approach which would be measured and monitored would be much better than having to make drastic emergency

measures later, causing extreme hardship. Government could adjust policies if they were not working, and could ensure that cuts would not hit the poor hardest.

One obstacle to action on climate change is the resistance of those with vested interests such as industry and building. Setting annual mandatory targets across the whole economy would force change. This would also make innovation mandatory, for example in the motor industry which would be obliged to develop clean technologies much faster than at present. It would also make energy efficiency measures compulsory for business and industry.

Action by the UK government would also persuade the EU to follow, and put pressure on the G8. It would provide world-wide moral leadership. Please take a few minutes to write to Lembit asking him to back the Bill, or send an email online.

To find out more, or to send an email to your MP online, see www.thebigask.com.

Gwen Prince

As you are aware, LLES has kept its annual subscription very low so not to exclude anyone from membership. LLES's expenses (printing and posting the newsletter, running the office and generally paying our way) are not covered completely by the subscriptions, however, so we're asking any members who feel able to make a small regular donation (say £2 or £3 each month) to do so by Standing Order.

GIFT AID

If you qualify for Gift Aid you can increase the value of your donation by 28p in the pound at no cost to you at all. **Qualifying for Gift Aid is simple.** As long as the amount of tax you pay is equal to or greater than the tax that LLES Ltd claims back, you qualify.

Yes, I want to make a difference. I am a UK taxpayer and I want my donations to Llanidloes Energy Solutions Ltd to be Gift Aid donations until I notify you otherwise.

Name Signature Date
(PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS)

Standing Order Mandate

To be returned to Llanidloes Energy Solutions Limited, Glanafon, Glan y Nant, Llanidloes, SY18 6PQ.

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Sort Code: 08-92-99	Account Number: 65166662	
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