



Selected Activities of LLES from 2001

“It is a pleasure to come to a place where people are doing things, not just talking about them.”
 Sir John Houghton, Past Co-Chair of international Panel on Climate Change talking about LLES

Since early in 2001 LLES has been campaigning for energy saving solutions to the problems facing us. As the account below proves, LLES has been on the cutting edge of environmental issues in mid Wales. We have not been afraid to be bold and while our ambition has not always met with instant success (Concerto European Funding bid, hydro-electric scheme, bio-gas scheme) we have learned and grown through those experiences, in readiness for the time when our solutions are recognised as essential.

There follows, in reverse order, a very selective history of LLES achievements and activities.

2013

- ◆ **Open House Event**
- ◆ Trip to see Llamas ecovillage in Pembrokeshire
- ◆ LLES commissioned LED lighting survey for Llanidloes High School
- ◆ YEP project largely handed over to school. Diana continues to monitor energy use with team of pupils.
- ◆ **Green Drinks continued monthly** Subjects covered:
 - ◆ Newtown micro -hydro scheme
 - ◆ Discussion on 'Why being green won't save the planet' -Andrew Capel on Spiral Dynamics'
 - ◆ Emma Maxwell on 'Local and Community Gardening - a community garden for Llanidloes?'
 - ◆ 'Forest Schools' with Ben Webb and Anna Jenkins
 - ◆ George Marshall talk on 'Talking Climate Change with the Tea Party...'
 - ◆ 'The Size of Wales' Hannah Scrase on her successful project to raise money for rainforest conservation.
 - ◆ 'Bees and Globalisation' with Tony Shaw
 - ◆ 'Fracking' with Diana Marquand
 - ◆ Film; 'Transition2'
 - ◆ Talk by Mike Membrey: 'What Happens to our Waste?'
- ◆ **Micro-Hydro project in Hafren Forest identified as possible suitable Community Energy project.** Watch this space!

2012

- ◆ **Young Energy People (YEP) project launched at Llanidloes High School.**
- ◆ Pupils recruited for School Energy Management Team. Trained to do Energy Survey of School.
- ◆ Pupils produced report for school Management Board detailing energy saving recommendations.
- ◆ Report presented to school governors. Governors recommended implementation in full.
- ◆ **Funding received from DECC for Cambrian Mountains Initiative and LEAF project.**
- ◆ **Micro-hydro feasibility studies commissioned.**
- ◆ Cambrian Community Energy seminar held with interested parties.
- ◆ *'Money from the Mountains: Llani and the Cambrian Mountains Initiative - a new focus for development?'* public talk by Nick Venti
- ◆ **Study of Green Deal commissioned and produced.**
- ◆ **'Green Drinks' launched.** First one: film *'The Economics of Happiness'*

2011 was our 10th Anniversary year and we had a full programme.

- ◆ Film : ' *Garbage Warrior* ' at EGM to elect new Trustees.
- ◆ Talk by local householder Brian George on ' **Renovating an Old Cottage using Wood- based Blocks** ' Followed by a visit to see the project
- ◆ Film: ' *A Convenient Truth* ' - an inspiring story from Brazil
- ◆ **Lobby of MP Glyn Davies** to support tougher targets for the Energy Bill.
- ◆ **World Environment Day**. Stall on the theme of 'Forests' and free trees given out.
- ◆ Talk on ' *Renewable Energy Options for your Home* ' by Chris Lord-Smith
- ◆ Talk by Mary Mellor, author of ' *The Future of Money* ' on ' **Why Did the Banks Fail and Why are we Paying?** '
- ◆ ' **Food Preservation Day** with Annie Levy
- ◆ Our **4th Open House Event**.

LLES joined with other organisations to put on ' **The Tan 8 Debate** ' with various speakers exploring the issue of local wind farm development.

We had no funding for our activities in 2011 and were only able to keep the office open and employ Diana one day a week through the generosity of our LLES members who give regularly by standing orders. This changed with our new projects involving the High School and the Cambrian Mountains Initiative which Diana administered.

2010

- ◆ **Monthly 10:10 Stalls** promoting different topics. Competition for best energy saving idea with £40 prize donated by Llani Builders
- ◆ Public Meeting: ' *Green Gas in Llanidloes* ' David Williams, Potters
- ◆ Film: ' *The Yes Men Fix the World* '
- ◆ **Food Preservation Day** with Annie Levy & Emma Maxwell
- ◆ **Green Fair** with talks, workshops, films music and children's activities.
- ◆ **Transition Economics Conference:** ' *How to Survive the Financial Crisis* '
- ◆ Lobby of M.P. on Climate Change
- ◆ Public Meeting: ' *The Size of Wales* ' – Wales/Africa re-afforestation project
- ◆ **Eco-Renovation of the Community Centre:** new boiler, insulation and PV panels
- ◆ **Infra-Red Camera** acquired

2009

- ◆ **Low Carbon Community Project launched**
- ◆ Efergy Monitors acquired and lent out.
- ◆ Public Talk: ' *Local Food v Global Justice* ' George Monbiot
- ◆ **Open House w/e**
- ◆ Stall for World Environment Day: giving out free trees and Power Down energy saving devices
- ◆ Public talk: ' *Power to the People- Community Renewable Energy* ' David Saunders
- ◆ Joanna Macy Workshop: ' *The Work that Reconnects* '
- ◆ Film: ' *The Story of Stuff* '
- ◆ **PV panels installed in public toilets**
- ◆ Talk ' *Passivhaus Design* ' John Williamson.
- ◆ **Launch of 10:10 Campaign** with Mick Bates A.M

2008

- ◆ Public meeting: ' **Carbon Detox** ' – George Marshall.
- ◆ Big Green Challenge application (£1 million prize fund).
- ◆ Llanidloes and area public **Open House Day** for houses with energy saving features.
- ◆ **Feasibility study:** The potential for a biomass-fired CHP scheme in Llanidloes

- ◆ Successful second much larger **Green Fair** held in October with speakers, workshops and music from 'Seize the Day'
- ◆ Joined with Llani Ltd in '20-20 Vision' project for a truly sustainable future for Llanidloes.

2007

- ◆ **Green Fair:** Speakers included George Monbiot, George Marshall, Patrick Holden, Peter Harper
- ◆ Workshops to sew cloth bags to promote 'No Plastic Bags' campaign. Free cloth bags given at Green Fair.
- ◆ Primary school "*Find the Posters*" competition: LLES Climate change sessions for kids
- ◆ LLES supports development of Llanidloes Transition initiative (Energy Descent Llanidloes).
- ◆ LLES members' skills audit shows members with high levels energy and sustainable technology skills,
- ◆ Support for Newtown to help start up climate change action group

2006

- ◆ **Concerto European funding bid submitted** – projects developed and valuable links made
- ◆ Public meetings: **Tony Juniper** (FOE) meeting: "*Climate Change – time to act*":
- ◆ *Empowering Llanidloes – ideas for community energy*
- ◆ *Climate Change & World's Poor* (World Development Movement).
- ◆ Felindre Mill hydro scheme proposals developed. & plans proposed for bio-digester/biomass generator.
- ◆ **LLES featured on Radio Four 'Today' programme.**
- ◆ Participation in National Climate Change march and demonstration.

2005

- ◆ **Ecoteams project** – households look at waste, environmental shopping, energy, transport, etc.
- ◆ Successful bid for Spirit funding for progress on carbon neutral status.
- ◆ **Zero carbon community – Development Officer in post (Spirit funding).**
- ◆ Invited by NEF (New Economics Foundation) to trial their DEMOCS exercise.
- ◆ **LLES research shows average home CO2 emission 50% above national average.**
- ◆ **150 properties improved by CO2i (cosy) scheme – loft & cavity wall insulation, radiator valves, etc.**
- ◆ **LLES status as charitable trust established.**
- ◆ Talks delivered to Pensioners Club, Young Farmers, Chamber of Trade and Rotary Club.
- ◆ **Energy Surveys** of major public buildings in Llanidloes.

2004

- ◆ Public meeting: '*Wood for Good*'
- ◆ Public meeting: *Empowering Llanidloes – ideas and options for community energy*' (with LLANI Ltd).
- ◆ Promotion of green energy suppliers.
- ◆ **Home energy surveys started.**
- ◆ First home in area with Photo Voltaics connected to Grid.
- ◆ Mayor and wife join LLES. Members number over 100.
- ◆ LLES status as company limited by guarantee established.

2003

- ◆ Public meeting: *Sustainable lifestyles* with Laurie Michaelis
- ◆ Zero CO2 project.
- ◆ **PACE (Powys Action for Community Energy)** funding for energy efficiency and local renewable energy, solar, energy. Plans to erect 4 wind turbines, small scale hydro-electric scheme and wood chip.
- ◆ **LLES website set up.**
- ◆ **Concerto European funding bid launched.**

2002

- ◆ **Public meeting: 'Global Warming' - Sir John Houghton.** Over 110 people attended.

- ◆ Public meetings: '*Renewable Energy*,' '*Wind Energy*' and '*Recycling*'
- ◆ Set up **solar thermal club** to provide hot water systems at a reduced cost.
- ◆ LLES library established.
- ◆ Bodlondeb recycling scheme.
- ◆ Stop Esso photo protest.
- ◆ Stall on Reducing Oil Dependency - Display, Quiz on 'The Politics of Oil'

2001

th

- ◆ February 10 : **Inaugural meeting at Town Hall.**
- ◆ REACT scheme - save energy and cut fuel bills.
- ◆ REACT energy efficiency training..
- ◆ Stalls / displays in town - Energy Efficiency & Solar; "Facing up to Climate Change" with local MP Lembit Opik
- ◆ Talks to WI, Rotary Club, Inner Wheel and CYTUN (Churches Together in Wales).

"I want to congratulate them on their achievements. I hope we will see more groups develop in the towns of Montgomeryshire to follow this excellent example."

Mick Bates A.M. for Montgomeryshire on LLES.