

Taking action on energy

Following the successful Energy Open Space public meeting held at the beginning of October, Transition Stratford supporters have been setting up project groups to take forward some of the ideas that emerged from the discussion.

A workshop to follow up the Open Space was held on Thursday 22 October. This confirmed interest in four of the proposals put forward at the Open Space meeting, and groups were formed to investigate them further and prepare plans for putting them into action.

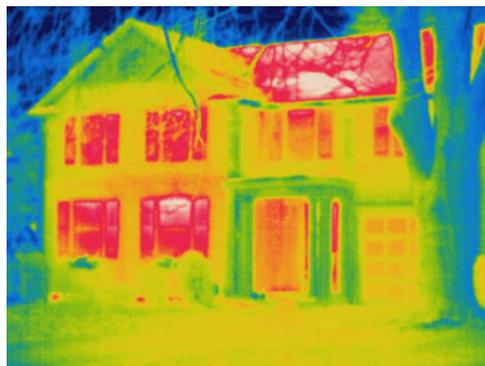
The four projects are

Greening Your Street: developing a local, volunteer-based service to help friends and neighbours cut their carbon emissions, improve energy efficiency and reduce their fuel bills. As a first step, the group is looking at a number of existing schemes, including the Green Star Homes initiative in Henley in Arden, the award-winning Household Energy Services scheme in Shropshire and the Sydenham Community Insulation Project launched recently by Action 21 in Leamington Spa to encourage the take-up of energy efficiency measures in south Leamington. The Greening Your Street project group is co-ordinated by Jenny Farr, who can be contacted at jenny.farr@vanderlande.com

Green Energy Centre: setting up a "shop window" in Stratford town centre to showcase energy efficiency and sustainable living. The group is currently exploring the options for finding and financing premises. The Green Energy Centre project group is co-ordinated by Mike Woollacott, who can be contacted at mike@greenwatt.co.uk

Promoting Sustainable Energy: encouraging collective investment in renewable

energy technologies such as solar, hydro and geothermal. The group is looking at existing projects such as the Ouse Valley Energy Services Company (OVESCO) set up by Transition Town Lewes and exploring whether a similar body could help to stimulate investment in sustainable energy in Stratford district. The Promoting Sustainable Energy project group is co-ordinated by Barbara Cooper, who can be contacted at barbaracooper@108shipston.freeserve.co.uk



Energy from Food Waste: how food waste from Stratford's hotels, restaurants, shops and households could be converted into useful renewable energy using anaerobic digestion technology. At this stage, the group is focusing on two issues: where an aerobic digestion plant could be sited; and how food waste in Stratford is currently managed. The Energy from Food Waste project group is co-ordinated by Duncan Forbes, who can be contacted at dforbes99@gmail.com

Don't worry if you haven't been able to get to the meetings held so far— all the project groups are looking for additional members and new ideas. To get involved, just contact the co-ordinator of the project group or groups that you're interested in.

Countdown to Copenhagen

The UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December has been described as the most important meeting in human history. Forthcoming local events to coincide with the Conference include:

Fri 4 Dec: the film *The Age of Stupid* will be shown at Life-ways Centre, 30 Albany Road Stratford CV37 6PG at 7.00pm, admission £2. To book, contact James Pavitt on james@nettlesoup.co.uk or phone 01789 414002/07855 801105



Sat 5 Dec: "The Wave" demonstration, London. A Transition Stratford coach will leave Stratford at 8.00 am, returning at around 7.00 pm. Return £10 (children under 5 free). To book, contact James Pavitt as above.

Wed 9 Dec: Transition Stratford general meeting, Ken Kennett Community Centre, Justins Avenue, Stratford CV37 0DA at 7.30 pm. External speakers will lead a discussion on "Communities acting on climate change"

Fri 11 Dec: prayer vigil for the success of the Copenhagen Conference, Methodist Church Lounge, Old Town, Stratford CV37 6BG, 7.00 pm – 10.00 pm

Food, glorious (home-grown) food....

Launch of garden share pilot

Anyone who took part in Transition Stratford's first public meeting, the Food Open Space held in May, will recall that one of the ideas put forward was a garden-sharing scheme to match up would-be food growers with garden owners who are willing to share some of their garden or allotment.

The first garden share scheme was started by Transition Town Totnes about three years ago. Since then the idea has been taken up by other Transition Towns and by Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, who has set up the internet-based Landshare scheme.

Michael Rolfe, helped by other Transition Stratford supporters, has been working out the details of a garden-sharing scheme for Stratford, and is now proposing to pilot the scheme in Stratford town. He would like to hear from anyone who would be interested in taking part in the pilot. Please get in touch with him at michael-rolfe@ntlworld.com if you:

- have a spare plot in your garden or allotment and would be willing to share it with another Transition Stratford supporter
- would like to grow your own fruit and veg but don't have access to land
- could help with the running of the garden share scheme, for example by providing support for garden owners and growers

Planning the harvest

There have been bumper crops of both cultivated and wild fruits this year, and many supporters have suggested that Transition Stratford should be doing something to ensure that fruit from gardens and hedges is harvested and put to good use. Colleagues in Transition Shipston have done just that, collecting apples from a neglected orchard and arranging for them to be juiced at a local school.

There's lots we can do to collect, store and preserve fruit, but we need to start early and plan what we're going to do. Some suggestions are:

- making a local "fruit map", including hedgerows, neglected orchards and unharvested trees
- running teach-ins on making jams, chutneys and pickles
- arranging to beg, borrow—or even buy—the equipment needed to process and store crops
- organising arrangements for sharing surpluses and storage space

If you'd like to get involved in planning for a fruit-full 2010, please get in touch with James, Roger or Barbara (see *Contacts* panel, right).



Promoting practical projects

Transition is all about taking action to make our communities more sustainable, and supporters at the inaugural General Meeting in September had lots of ideas for positive, practical initiatives which could be taken locally. Suggestions included:

- projects to promote car sharing and cycling
- reducing the use of plastic bags
- tackling the problem of food waste
- producing directories to local food and green business
- introducing a time banking or LETS scheme

If you would like to work with other Tran-

sition Stratford supporters on any of these ideas—or if you have other suggestions for practical local initiatives – please get in touch with Roger Matthews (see *Contacts* panel, right) to find out who else is interested and how you might work with them to turn ideas into practical activity.

Now that practical projects are getting under way – see articles in this issue on garden sharing and energy projects – Transition Stratford's Steering Group has prepared some guidelines to help with starting a project. If you would like a copy of the guidelines, please get in touch with Transition Stratford secretary, Barbara Cooper (see *Contacts* panel, right).

Contacts

Group representatives

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