

Getting moving on renewables

Research carried out on behalf of Warwickshire County Council suggests that up to 30% of the county's electricity demand could potentially be met sustainably, using technologies such as hydro, wind, anaerobic digestion and solar PV. Much of the potential renewable resource is located in the south of the county, so how can we make sure that renewable energy projects are developed, owned and operated for the benefit of local communities?



Solar PV in Freiburg, Germany, where a long-term strategy of energy conservation, CHP and renewables is benefiting the environment and the local economy

To address this question Transition Stratford, in partnership with neighbouring Transition and other local groups, is organising a major conference which will bring together people from towns and communities across south Warwickshire to explore the technical, planning and commercial criteria for successful community investment in renewable energy projects. Speakers will include representatives from Energy4All, a national not-for-profit organisation which promotes community-owned renewable energy projects, and Wessex Community Assets, a leading provider of advice and support to community groups on raising project finance.

Hosted by South Warwickshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, the conference will take place on Saturday 26 June at the John Turner Centre at Warwick Hospital. The conference is open to anyone in south Warwickshire with an interest in sustainable energy, but places are limited so booking is essential. To book your place, phone 01789 298503 or e-mail admin@transitionstratford.com.

Become an Energy Champion!

With energy bills forecast to rise by at least 60% over the next ten years, it makes sense to find ways to reduce energy use in the home, saving money on fuel bills and cutting CO₂ emissions. Transition Stratford, in partnership with Transition Shipston, is setting up an Energy Champions scheme to help people to do exactly that.

Energy Champions are trained volunteers who can help and encourage householders to take steps to save energy in the home. Backed up by the technical experts from Warwickshire's local energy efficiency ad-

vice service, Act on Energy, Energy Champions will help people to take realistic and affordable steps that will make their home cheaper to run and more energy efficient.

A training session for Energy Champions is being held on Saturday 12 June at Friends' Meeting House, 37 Maidenhead Road, Stratford upon Avon CV37 6XT. This will explain the scheme and how it works, as well as providing training in basic energy efficiency in the home. To find out more and to book your place on the training session, phone 01789 298503 or e-mail us on admin@transitionstratford.com.

Dates for your diary

Fri 4 June @ 7.15pm, Life-ways, 30 Albany Road: Film Friday - Three TED lectures, including Rob Hopkins on Transition to a World without Oil.

Sat 5 June @ 10.30—3.00, St Stephen's Church, Redditch: Transition Stratford stall at Redditch Green Fair

Mon 7 June @ 7.30: Transition Stratford Steering Group meeting (please ring 01789 298503 for details)

Sat 12 June @ 10.00—12.30, Friends' Meeting House, 37 Maidenhead Road: Energy Champions training

Wed 16 June @ 7.15pm, Friends' Meeting House, 37 Maidenhead Road: Transition Stratford quarterly general meeting, with speaker on Sustainable Transport

Sat 19 June @ 9.30—12.30, Corn Market, Sheep Street (opposite Town Hall): Transition Stratford monthly street stall

Sat 26 June @ 9.30—4.00, John Turner Centre, Warwick Hospital: Conference on community ownership of renewable energy projects

Sat 3—Sun 4 July, Recreation Ground, Stratford: Transition Stratford stall at Stratford River Festival 2010

Historic buildings workshop a big success

Our built heritage can be made more energy efficient – that was the message given at a well-attended workshop on sustainable energy for historic buildings held on 18 May. Organised by Transition Stratford and the Stratford Society and hosted by the Town Council in Stratford's historic Town Hall, the workshop featured presentations from experts on ways to improve the energy efficiency of older homes.

Speakers included John O'Brien of the Building Research Establishment, who discussed ways to refurbish older buildings, looking particularly at those measures which have the greatest impact on energy efficiency and are most cost effective. Nicole Solomons of Marches Energy Agency gave examples of historic buildings in Shrewsbury, showing how energy consumption can be cut by up to 40% using appropriate materials and techniques. Nick Molyneux of English Heritage examined the role of traditional building techniques in improving energy efficiency, pointing out that new technologies are not always necessary: Old-established methods - such as using curtains and shutters against draughts - are effective, as well as cheaper and kinder to the fabric of older buildings.

Finally, Tony Perks, Interim Head of Planning at Stratford District Council, drew attention to the need to balance the preservation of historic buildings with making them more sustainable. In considering proposals for changes to historic buildings, the council will look for intelligent changes

which ensure that buildings can be passed on to future generations, recognising that some changes may have to be made to preserve that inheritance.



Audience members and trade exhibitors at the sustainable energy for historic buildings event

The presentations were followed by a lively question-and-answer session chaired by Councillor Jenny Fradgley, Mayor of Stratford, who underlined the need for better access to information and advice for owners of historic buildings. There was also consensus on the need for improved skills in the building industry and better project planning.

A report of the workshop is being prepared and a further meeting will be organised to discuss how ideas raised in discussion can be taken forward. For a copy of the report, or to find out more about further developments, phone 01789 298503 or e-mail admin@transitionstratford.com.

Come to the fair!

This summer, Transition Stratford will be out and about at local fairs, fetes and festivals, where we'll be running stalls to draw attention to our aims and publicise activities such as Garden Share and our new Energy Champions scheme, and hopefully recruit new supporters.

If you can spare an hour or two to help run stalls, please let us know—a list of forthcoming events at which we'll be present is given in "Dates for your diary" overleaf.

We'll also be continuing with our regular street stall on the third Saturday of each month, but please note that from June we'll be moving to the Corn Market at the top of Sheep Street (opposite the Town Hall).

And if you know of any other local events where there might be an opportunity for us to have a stall, please let us know on 01789 298503 or by e-mail to admin@transitionstratford.com.

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