

Delivering the Warwickshire Climate Change Strategy

Steering Group Meeting

Fri 20th March 2009 10:00 till 13:00

Council Chamber, University House, University of Warwick

Minutes

1. Meet in Council Chamber

2. Tour of the University of Warwick, Energy Centre and BREEAM Excellent Digilab



In the plant room, University of Warwick Energy Centre

Nick Hillard, Environmental Manager at the University of Warwick provided the group with a brief talk and tour of the University's Combined Heat and Power Systems.

The University of Warwick is set on 290 hectares of land with over 200 buildings. Its' core business is research and teaching.

The University's 2015 vision statement:

- To become a global leader by 2015
- Sustainability at the core of everything the university does
- Aspire to become a living demonstration of the principles of environmental sustainability

The University of Warwick has three Combined Heat and Power (CHP) systems, a 1kW wind turbine, a BREEAM excellent target on all new buildings and has involved it's students in leading energy saving behaviour campaigns.



3. Welcome, Present, Introductions, Apologies

Present

Dr. Jacky Lawrence (WCC)	Phil Dickin (Warwickshire Wildlife Trust)	Pat Ryan (KICC)	David Jullien (Act on Energy – formerly known as WEEAC)
Emma Clarke (WCC)	Linda Ridgley, (Warwickshire Rural Community Council)	Brent Davis (NBBC)	Bernard Perkins, (WDC Action 21 Energy Group, Leamington Transition Town, Encraft)
Nick Hillard (University of Warwick)	Joel Cardinal (University of Warwick)	Stephen Marks (RBC)	Leslie Turner (LIFE)
Dianna Turner (LIFE, Parish Councillor)	Karen Weber (RBC)	David Baxendale (NWBC)	Juliet Carter (Campion Hills Allotment Association, Building Arts)

Apologies

Alex Patterson (Stratford College)	Dave Passingham (Stratford Climate Action Network, Sustainable Action Stratford, Stratford Transition Town)	Simon Worth (Forever Fuels Limited)	Simon Warren (RBC)	Matthew Rhodes (Encraft)
Cllr Simon Jackson (SDC)	Cllr Matilda May (NWBC)	Cllr Martin Heatley (WCC)	Lynne Roscrow (Carbon Trust)	Paul Chapman (SDC)

4. Minutes of last meeting

Agreed

No matters Arising.



5. Warwickshire Climate Change Strategy – Communications

- **Progress Reporting**

ENERGY

Brent said that NBBC now have two CHP systems in leisure centres, the first five months savings have been made with no issues to report and around 300 tonnes CO₂ savings. A new lighting system has been installed in the town hall improving energy efficiency with motion sensors and monitors. During June 2009 they will be monitoring the effect this has made on electricity usage. Other initiatives include working with the Carbon Trust on the installation of a biomass boiler in the Civic Hall, NBBC still awaiting if can get the funding for this project.

There was a discussion over Local Area Agreement (LAA) NI 185 (emissions from own estate). NBBC are concerned about their ability to collect data on contractor mileage and efficiency of their contractors vehicles, as they have never had to ask them for this before.

Will concern all
LAA partners

Stephen says Rugby has problems with business mileage as they don't record exact mileage but as a band range, also public business transport mileage is not recorded

Jacky said that WCC has populated NI185 spreadsheet with building data, data on 600 vehicles and 3 years worth of street lighting. However, data from contractors has not yet been considered.

Brent suggested that data on mileage etc. on schools minibuses would be available from copies of their MOT certificates or service records.

The group discussed the impact of parental choice of schools on the environment. The question was asked – "Has the increase in parental choice of schools increased the number of miles traveled and therefore the amount of carbon emissions?".



David B said North Warwickshire is involved in a number of initiatives such as ...

- Swimming pool covers
- Eco homes project – Installing Ground Source Heat pumps, solar thermal in a refurb property.
- CRT Screens

David J reported on the work by Act On Energy (formally WEEAC). They continue to support organisations and have been recently involved in the Kenilworth School Energy Efficiency Evening and the University of Warwick Green Week. Act on Energy also provide grant information to house holds and is working on a project based in Stratford which provides an energy audit and £200 worth of energy efficiency products to community buildings.

Stephen reported that RBC is currently working on:

Affordable warmth providing an increased number of talks and engagement with organisations.

RBC is directly funding insulation for the over 60's on benefits, and is talking to David J from Act on Energy in order to replicate the work which is going on in Stratford with community buildings.

Around 8/ 9 renewable energy grants have been taken up per year over the last three years. These grants are being mainly used on ground source heat pumps and solar thermal systems.

COMMUNICATIONS & EDUCATION **COMMUNITY**

Linda said that the Warwickshire Rural Council will be hosting a community conference on the 31st October which aims to bring together active rural communities with newly formed groups to look at actions in their local area. The event will involve a number of key note speakers.

Linda asked the group if they were aware of any rural communities in Warwickshire who had done something outstanding, if so, could they inform her. All

Stephen asked if Linda could keep him informed.

Linda



Leslie reported to the group on Long Itchington and surrounding villages For the Earth (LIFE) current activities which include:

- Film showing evening (Age of Stupid, Inconvenient Truth)
- Tree planting
- Getting local school involved
- Insulation survey
- Setting up a freecycle site
- Involved on consultation on Cemex factory site
- Wishes to increase number of allotments within the area

Phil suggested the LIFE talks to Garden Organic for advice.

Leslie

Linda suggested LIFE finds out more about the LEADER project as a way to access possible funding opportunities.

Leslie

Phil has contacts he can pass on with a number of businesses which are looking to support community schemes such as tree planting.

Leslie

If any community groups are interested in tree planting, please supply Phil with location and number of trees which would be required. He may be able to get them for free.

All & Community
Groups

Pat fed back to the group progress from the Kenilworth Initiative on Climate Change (KICC). KICC has now been running for 15 months with the focus last Autumn on an energy exhibition, the group reformed at the beginning of this year. In order to accumulate some funds there is a paying membership, money has also been donated by the Rotary Club. The group is currently organising a film show however are awaiting the local youth club to get a projector.

The group has completed some thermal imaging and are booking stalls at local events. Walks around Kenilworth have also being organised stopping at points of interest such as a carbon free house, solar panels and ground source heat pumps. 150 -200 people have been involved in the groups' activities over the last few months with a lot of local organisations involved in events. A Kenilworth hotel has also become interested in the groups activities and has started arranging environmental awareness training for employees, the hotel chain has also donated money to the KICC group and allow them free use of rooms for meetings.

The next KICC meeting will take place on 4th April with a talk from the Renewable energy club, speakers include George Martin and David Searl.



Bernard spoke to the group about Action 21 and Transition Town Leamington work.

Action 21 is currently involved in:

- An insulation project, surveying households and directing people towards grants.
- Setting up a new allotment site in Leamington.
- The process of acquiring a warehouse which will allow for expansion.

Transition Town Leamington are currently acquiring a number of films in order to run a series of film viewings.

BIODIVERSITY AGRICULTURE HORTICULTURE

Phil said that Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (WWT) have been involved in the development of large areas such as Princethorpe woodland in the Thames Valley.

WWT have received money from Travel Wise to install CCTV and cycle racks at Brandon Marsh.

The Wildlife trust has received ISO14001 and is looking at procurement of services – anyone who they work with has to have an environmental policy.

WWT are running a Food and Farming event in September, if interested contact Phil. All

Warwickshire Wildlife Trust will be holding a green event in 2010 and are starting to take enquiries. Around 1,000 people have attended previous events with displays of electric cars and organic boxes.

STRATEGIC

Warwickshire climate change strategy review 2008

The Warwickshire Climate Change Strategy is on the web site.
www.warwickshire.gov.uk/climatechange

ii. Requests for help / Barriers to progress / previously unidentified projects



After the tour, there was little time left to discuss the whole of the agenda.

iii. Monthly Events update / Community Newsletter

Emma continues with the monthly community biased climate change newsletter. All to send a paragraph and photo of any community story they wish to promote. Emma
All

<http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/Web/corporate/pages.nsf/Links/1466126B3C07B210802572FD00382127>

Emma continues with the monthly business biased email with links to news and events. All to send Emma details of any climate change related stories and events they wish to promote. Emma
All

News, events and details of the Action Plan appear on the Partnership pages <http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/climatechangepartnership>

As of the end of March 2009.

- ❖ There are 362 people on the contacts database who get regular (at least monthly) communications including news, events and steering group minutes.
- ❖ These people represent 159 different organisations.
- ❖ 29 of these people are active members of the Steering Group.
- ❖ A separate group of 107 people have signed up to receive the monthly climate change community newsletter (plus all staff in WCC Community Protection).
- ❖ The Climate Change Action Plan is now being updated by the Climate Change Team at Warwickshire County Council for 2009 / 2010 with the addition of Community, Agriculture / Horticulture . Biodiversity and Sustainable Construction projects.

iv. Six Monthly / Case Study Reporting

v. Annual Review



6. Action Plan Progress – (green reporting – any update notes to be sent by email before steering group meeting)

The March 2009 project update list is on the web site.

[http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/Web/corporate/pages.nsf/Links/7E511CDA04990774802572E1004F3F09/\\$file/March+2009+update+list.xls](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/Web/corporate/pages.nsf/Links/7E511CDA04990774802572E1004F3F09/$file/March+2009+update+list.xls)

The Warwickshire Climate Change Strategy is on the web site
www.warwickshire.gov.uk/climatechange

7. Funding Opportunities

Bernard and Jacky are investigating whether it is feasible to get funding through the Intelligent Energy for Europe programme (The Covenant of Mayor's) to enable Parish and Town Councils to develop Sustainable Energy Action Plans with their local communities.

Bernard / Jacky

The Covenant of Mayors is a commitment by signatory towns and cities to go beyond the objectives of EU energy policy in terms of reduction in CO₂ emissions through enhanced energy efficiency and cleaner energy production and use.

<http://www.eumayors.eu/>

<http://www.westmidlandsineurope.org/wmie.html>

8. Performance improvements – how is the group performing in relation to meeting its own standards?

Jacky asked the group if they had any suggestions for improving the group's performance, such as by carrying out more group projects.

Stephen felt the group was an excellent forum to share information, and has led to additional special interest groups such as the Energy Managers Forum.

<http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/Web/corporate/pages.nsf/Links/1019AEED392D4E84802575190059F9CF>

It was thought that other specific Forums may be useful in focusing action to reduce emissions such as a Fleet Managers Forum.



The group agreed that we should all spread the word about the Partnership and encourage the use of the web site.

All

<http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/climatechangepartnership>

It was agreed that joint communications campaigns and other communication activities would be useful. Further discussion to be had at the next meeting.

Planning for the 'Switch it Off' campaign is just beginning. If anyone wants to join in, see the first meeting minutes on the web site.

<http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/Web/corporate/pages.nsf/Links/1D6FAF8BAF72D44C8025758D003CBA3D>

It was thought that we should investigate the potential for joint environmental training.

Jacky told the group that WCC were organising a network of Energy Advisors. Emma is arranging three basic training session for these volunteers. The first session is on energy efficiency and is being delivered by David J. The second session is on corporate energy use and is being delivered by WCC's Corporate Energy Manager, Bill Johnson, the third session will explore the setting up of a Renewable Energy Club for staff and will be delivered by Jacky.

Jacky suggested that such a network could be a good idea for other organisations and that we could facilitate links between them. All to let Jacky or Emma know if they are aware of any organisation in Warwickshire that have Environmental or Energy Champions.

All

The University of Warwick have students that volunteer to become 'Eco-Power Rangers' as part of 'Student Switch Off'.

http://www.studentswitchoff.co.uk/new/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=36&Itemid=65

<http://www.warwicksu.com/haveyoursay/campaigns/environment/>



Jacky went on to discuss with the group that a variety of people are trying to engage local communities, perhaps the group could work together on this.

Stephen agreed it would be useful to know who were doing talks to community groups and what information was being covered.

The group agreed that a sub group meeting looking at community engagement would be useful. Leslie, David J, Bernard, Karen, Pat, Jacky would be interested in exploring the potential for joint talks at community groups.

Leslie, David J,
Bernard, Karen,
Pat, Jacky

Linda and Phil suggested forming links from local websites to the Partnership pages would be beneficial. All to encourage others to put a link to the Partnership web pages on their sites.

All

9. Any other business

Warwickshire Rural Community Council have their AGM and Sustainable Communities Conference on Saturday 31st October at Ettington. Please contact Linda for more details on Tel: 02476 303232

All

10. Date and venue of next meetings

Friday June 5th 09 – Montague Road Training Room, Warwick

Friday September 4th 09 – Montague Road Training Room, Warwick

Friday December 4th 09 – Montague Road Training Room, Warwick

Friday July 3rd is the Partnership's third anniversary. To celebrate we have been invited by Matthew Dugdale to Merevale Hall, Atherstone, Warwickshire CV9 2HG. This meeting is 10:00 till 13:00 and will focus on the supply of wood fuel in the county. Godfrey Payton have secured a substantial grant from defra to develop the wood fuel supply chain in the county and we will hear about that project and more.

Saturday September 19th is the Partnership's first event for Community Groups who are tackling Climate Change. This is at Brandon Marsh, 09:30 till 13:30. There will be talks by the Environment Agency on local flooding, the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust on local biodiversity projects, Encraft about domestic renewable energy projects and someone from a local group to talk about how they are tackling climate change within their community.

