

Community action for energy

Network newsletter

July 2008

Issue 25

New £18 million fund for Scottish climate change projects

A major new fund to support climate change projects in Scotland has been launched this month. The Climate Challenge Fund will provide £18.8 million over three years (2008-11), enabling communities to come forward with their own projects which make a significant reduction in carbon emissions.

Grants of up to £1 million will enable communities to take action to reduce their carbon footprint. The initiatives that the fund will consider include:

- Projects to reduce carbon emissions (but not the installation of energy generation equipment that could be funded through other government grants).
- Support to community organisations to develop action plans for carbon emissions reduction.
- Feasibility studies or community engagement for carbon reducing projects.
- Community capacity building - raising awareness about carbon emissions reduction, training and skills development.
- The costs of a community establishing a partnership, setting up a company, or project management costs related to the community carbon emissions reduction project or action plan.



Carbon reduction must be at the heart of every proposal, but projects can involve a range of actions - from helping people to use less energy, or walk and cycle more - to local sustainable food. Applicants must be Scottish-based, legally constituted not-for-profit community groups.

For more information on how to apply, please contact the fund administrator on 01786 471333, email ccf@ksbscotland.org.uk or visit: www.infoscotland.com/climatechallengefund

Welcome to the Community action for energy (CAfE) newsletter published quarterly by the Energy Saving Trust

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Low Carbon Buildings Programme

“alive and kicking”

Ask a range of people involved in community energy projects about the Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP) and you'll probably hear a fair proportion of negative comments. 'The forms are complicated.' 'The money ran out within a few weeks.' 'They make you jump through too many hoops.'

But here's the good news - according to CAfE's Amy Kinnear the scheme is “alive and kicking”.

“Lots of people either think that the LCBP is finished or that it is really hard to get money from. But neither is true. It's very much alive, the application process has been simplified and the scheme's managers are keen to hear from applicants!”

Phase 2 of the LCBP has just been launched - and there's £48 million still in the pot, just waiting to be applied for. It's a scheme that could benefit many members of the CAfE network.

Amy continues: “CAfE can help you with your ideas, support your application and help find the match-funding.”

To date, the LCBP has either helped pay for, or committed to 541 solar photovoltaic installations, 128 solar thermal hot water installations, 72 ground source heat pumps, 68 wind turbines and 18 wood fuelled boiler systems.

Phase 2 myth-buster

- The Low Carbon Buildings Programme is still 'live' and the application success rate is currently very good - funds need to be used up by March 2009.
- If there is a local supplier you wish to employ, you can get them on the approved Framework Suppliers' List.
- The application form is not complicated and a supplier should be able to fill in all the technical bits for you.
- There are quite a lot of places where you can go for match-funding (apart from other central government funding). CAfE can help you find them, so please ask.
- The energy efficiency assessment that is part of the LCBP application procedure isn't as rigorous as it was during Phase 1.
- Renewable energy can be a feasible option for all sorts of buildings, in all parts of the UK. A wind turbine may not suit your building - but perhaps solar hot water or a ground-source heat pump does.



For more about the LCBP visit www.lowcarbonbuildingsphase2.org.uk

Selbourne – where natural energy meets natural history

The Hampshire village of Selbourne is known for its most illustrious resident, the Reverend Gilbert White (1720-1793). Author of the world-famous *Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne*, he has often been referred to as the founding father of the ecology movement.

How fitting then that Selborne's Edwardian-era village hall should be taking leaps and bounds towards becoming a showpiece - demonstrating the possibilities of energy efficiency for a listed community building set within a conservation area. No mean task!

The transformation began in 2005 when the hall was refurbished and an extension added. Motivating the 16 members of the village hall's management committee was the desire to reduce emissions and set a shining example of what is possible by prioritising energy efficiency.

Cavity wall insulation was installed in the old Hall and there are plans to replace four single-glazed Georgian windows on the front of the building with hand-made double glazed windows.

All the radiators have thermostatic radiator valves, linked to a room-thermostat and timer. The building's users are encouraged to switch off lights and appliances when not in use. With reduced energy consumption and lower bills, the long-term aim is to cut hire costs for individuals and groups, as well as significantly reducing the building's carbon footprint.



Not wishing to rest on their laurels, the committee applied to CAFE's Community Support Network for expert advice on what more they could do. Was there, for example, any potential for renewable technologies as well?

Through CAFE, energy expert Lucy McKenzie visited Selborne Village Hall in February 2008. She surveyed the new and old parts of the property and submitted an in-depth report.

Happily, our expert has reported that both solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and a solar water heating system are viable. These measures would provide the users of the village hall with renewable heat and light - and send out a signal that Selborne upholds the pioneering spirit of Gilbert White.

Of the two options - and taking initial cost, potential usage and pay-back periods into account - PV looks like the most suitable. The committee hopes to secure

between 50 and 100 per cent funding to cover the capital cost (likely to be in the region of £10,000 to £15,000) through the new Community Sustainable Energy Programme: www.communitysustainable.org.uk

A local registered installer has been found and, at the time of writing, Selborne Village Hall could be proudly sporting an array of solar panels by the autumn.

If you would like more information on this project or any of the other sources of information within this article, please contact the CAFE team at cafe@est.org.uk or call us on 0844 848 0077.

News shorts

CAfE training: Planning for Success

Are you currently running an energy project in your community? Would you like to develop your skills and meet other people running similar projects?

If so, our Planning for Success course could be for you.

The dates and venues for Planning for Success in 2008-09 are now finalised.

Edinburgh

(The Melting Pot),
Tuesday 9 September

York

(St Nicholas Fields Environment Centre),
Thursday 11 September

Bristol

(Knowle West Media Centre),
Thursday 2 October

London

(Coin Street Community Builders),
Tuesday 2 December

Abergavenny

(Mulberry House Outdoor Centre),
Wednesday 28 January

The course is specifically designed for members with existing projects.

Places on CAfE courses are free to members.

If you would like to book a place, please call the CAfE team on **0844 848 0077**.

New CAfE phone line

The new CAfE phone line is now up and running **0844 848 0077**.

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Email cafe@est.org.uk

www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/cafe

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Cumbrian village communities 'fleeced' by sustainability project



Many Cumbrian village halls and community buildings are now enjoying more comfortable temperatures and lower fuel bills thanks to over £380,000 worth of renovations. They included insulation using the fleece of local sheep and renewable energy technologies. This followed audits of over 50 facilities to assess their energy and water use under a project called the Cumbria DEVICE Programme.

The list of villages and communities that have benefited reads like a roll call of Cumbrian rural life: Glenridding, Kirkandrews-upon-Esk, Askham, Burgh by Sands, Nether Denton, Crosby-on-Eden, Langwathby, Bassenthwaite and Cleator Moor.

The initiative was managed by Phil Davies and Richard Suddaby of Cumbria Action for Sustainability (CAfS), who presented the project to last year's Community Action for Energy conference in Gateshead.

A feature of the insulation measures has been the use of Thermafleece made

from locally produced sheeps' wool. According to Phil: "Nearly 20 of the buildings used sheeps' wool insulation, often installing it themselves. The material is intimately connected to the Cumbrian farming community - its use galvanised local interest and support.

"The Thermafleece was provided by local company Second Nature UK, and the substantial discount they offered represents a generous gift by them to the people and communities of Cumbria. We also developed a valuable relationship with our local Energy Saving Trust advice centre - they helped find contractors for the cavity wall insulations we carried out, and provided talks and forums for the local communities involved."

In fact, the work on sustainable community buildings was one of four projects carried out under the DEVICE Programme. The others covered related sustainability issues such as recycling. You can find more information about them on www.cafs.org.uk



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