

Delivering the Warwickshire Climate Change StrategySteering Group Meeting

March 5th 2010 09:30 for 10:00 till 13:00
Montague Road Training Room, Warwick

Minutes**1. Welcome, Present, Introductions, Apologies****Present**

Nick Hillard (University of Warwick)	Roger Matthews (Transition Stratford)	Stephen Marks (Rugby BC)	Ed Brown (Energy Savings Trust)
Steve Maxey (North Warwickshire BC)	Brent Davis (Nuneaton and Bedworth BC)	David Jullien (Act on Energy)	Dr. Jacky Lawrence (Warwickshire CC)
Siobhan Hill (South Warwickshire Foundation NHS Trust)	Steven Hoskins (Transition Town Leamington)	Mike Woolacott (GreenWatt – a division of ATI Projects Ltd.)	Andrew Wolstenholme (Sterling Associates)
Emma Clarke (WCC)	Roger Poole (WCC, Highways)	Siobhan Smith (Wolseley Sustainable Building Centre)	Barbara Cooper (Transition Stratford)
Bernard Perkins, (Craydene Associates, Encraft)	Cllr Simon Jackson (Stratford DC)	Gitta Ashworth (Warwick and Leamington Friends of the Earth, Action 21)	Phil Dickin (Warwickshire Wildlife Trust)
Edward Leddy-Owen (EST)	Phil Dickin (Warwickshire Wildlife Trust)	Steve Harris (Allied Vehicles)	

Apologies

Paul Chapman (SDC)	John Barnham (Orbit Heart of England HA)	Linda Ridgley (WRCC)	Darren Henry (NBBC)	Melody Stokes (EST)
David Baxendale (NWBC)	Simon West (Forestry Commission)	Roy Shearing (KICC)	Cllr Alan Cockburn (WCC)	Bede Howell (Chartered Forester)
John Shaltack (GOWM)	David Curle (WCC Adult Care)	Paul Webster (Forestry commission)	Jason Reakes (BMW)	Karen Cartwright (NWAFC Committee)
Chris Thomas (UKCIP)	Alex Patterson (Stratford College)	Chris Begg (Hill Close Gardens)	Richard Berry (Climate Change Solutions)	Bob Bullock (Warwickshire Police)



Juliet Carter (Transition Leamington)	Matthew Rhodes (Encraft)			
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2. Minutes of last meeting

Agreed

No matters Arising.

3. Warwickshire Climate Change Strategy – Communications

- **Progress Reporting**

ENERGY

RM, Transition Stratford reported that the group has been consulting with Act on Energy and Transition Shipston on setting up a network of trained volunteers who can carry out simple home energy checks and offer basic advice (with technical back up from Act on Energy).

Group looking at feasibility of using anaerobic digestion fed by commercial food waste to generate energy.

Working on idea of a conference to explore options for community owned renewables in South Warwickshire.

PD, WWT, provided an update on the wood chip boiler which has recently been installed, he stated that anyone is welcome to come and view the boiler and if they wish to do so please give him a ring. One learning point which has emerged from the installation is the size of the wood chip store which only holds 4 tonnes of wood chip, ideally this should have been 8-10 tonnes. PD has been speaking to Warwickshire Wood Fuel for the supply of the wood chip with Brandon Marsh providing the wood this would then become cost neutral. Estimated CO₂ savings are 19 tonnes.

Other properties across the county with biomass include: St Johns Museum, Ragley Hall, Morton Morrell, North Leamington School, Kingsbury Water park.

EC / JL, WCC, reported on progress from the Corporate Energy Delivery Group and the intention to renew WCC's energy policy and adopt an energy code of behaviour plus Energy Advisor's.



BD – The CHP In the two leisure centres have now saved £100,000 in energy costs. The installation of the equipment cost £170,000 thus payback could be less than three years at the current rate. NBBC did take out a 10 year maintenance contract on the equipment.

NBBC have received £100,000 in Salix funding for voltage optimization in 5 buildings. Hoping for a 5 year payback and a saving of 175 tonnes CO₂ and £20,000 a year.

Lighting in car parks are not delivering savings expected, this is due to a inaccurate baseline – worth checking consultants figures.

BP, Encraft – Working on a project with EST which looks at planners, PV and training.

NH, University of Warwick, district heating being extended on CHP and thermal stores. This is the third year of their Carbon Management Action Plan and around £30million worth of investment is still needed to meet targets by 2020. It may be that funding becomes linked to reductions in absolute carbon emissions.

SS – Wolseley has launched its solar ready scheme – Identified a skills shortage as plumbers do not want to get up on roofs. Thus Wolseley now offer a full package where customers purchase product and installation.

Wolseley SBC has been visited by politicians Hillary Benn , Chris White and Caroline Spellman.

A mini CHP kit will be on sale soon and a Baxi biomass boiler for domestic use. They now have a range of recycled plastic street furniture.

The group had a short discussion on how to get more sustainable construction products used in Warwickshire.



SM – Provided an update from RBC
Rugby Borough Council is having discussions around the 10:10 challenge, a report is going to overview and scrutiny.

Core Strategy – Urban Plan

Originally new large scale developments were to be built at code 6 sustainable homes standard however there is debate over whether such high standards can be justified. Currently both large scale developments proposed for area are looking at on site energy generation.

SH reported on progress at the SW NHS Foundation Trust on Salix projects, insulation, CHP, co-mingled waste, recycling, sustainable food, seasonal food and behaviour change.

TRANSPORT

MW update the group on the Johnson's electric bus trial at Stratford park and ride. Match funding is needed for data gathering.

NH stated that the University of Warwick were looking at low carbon vehicle procurement – Mitsubishi electric scooters, offered to staff and students at a discounted rate.

RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

MW – Working on a project with WCC on a construction waste recovery project with an eye to the Schools for the Future programme. Looking at trying to create a case for a recycling depot for construction waste.

JL to send MW information on WCC's Leycester Lane recycling centre. JL

SM –RBC reported on a feasibility study taking place to look at the replacement or refurbishment of the leisure centre.

ADAPTATION

Steve H reported that Transition Leamington are organising a community market to run on days when the farmers market is not on, this will sell locally grown produce, arts & crafts.

RP reported that WCC were now the lead authority for flooding in the county following new regulations.



JL – Planning to adapt to NI188

Service areas have been requested to consider the frequency and nature of extreme weather events and how these would effect their service delivery. WCC Risk Manager has offered to lead an event to get all service areas to create standardized impact sheets and scores asking them to consider adaptation methods.

RM, Transition Stratford reported that the group has been setting up a garden share scheme which aims to link up people who want to grow their own food but have no gardens with those with spare space in their garden. Team of four organisers established who interview would-be gardeners and garden owners and broker matches. Launched February – 12 growers and 8 gardens to date:1 agreement signed. The group is also working with Stratford upon Avon Town Council on ways to bring unused land into temporary use for food growing

COMMUNICATIONS & EDUCATION

RM, Transition Stratford reported that the group is planning a “Sustainable energy for historic buildings” workshop, to take place on the 18th May in Stratford Town hall. Jointly organised by Stratford Upon Avon Town Council, Stratford Society and Transition Stratford. Speakers from Building Research Establishment, English Heritage, Marches Energy Agency and Stratford DC. Aim is to raise awareness of sustainable energy solutions for older and historic buildings. RM

The group has been looking at raising awareness with monthly newsletter, website development, monthly film showings, talks and exhibitions. There will be a monthly street stall in central Stratford from April. Planning education update on climate change, peak oil and transition at end of May.

Established formal links Practical Action to showcase impact of climate change in developing countries and Practical Action’s work in these areas.

BP reported that Transition Stratford, Transition Town Leamington and the Warwickshire Renewable Energy Club intend to run an open space meeting and begin a debate on peak oil issues, risks and energy security of supply. Bristol has produced a report looking at the risks of peak oil on delivery of public services.



DJ reported that Act On Energy currently has a project with Warwickshire schools assisting them with energy strategy and action plans. Other projects they are involved in include energy efficiency in Rugby community buildings audits and grants, thermal imaging of significant buildings and leading on the National Indicator on fuel poverty NI 187.

PD has a contract with Job Centre Plus, project which focuses on 19 – 25 yr olds who have been out of work for a year, come to work for your business/organisation to gain some experience on a 25 wk placement for minimum wage paid for by the government. PD asked if anyone was interested in this a joint programme could be put together. JL offered to help with communications by putting news on the WCCP web page.

EC - The Switch it Off campaign over it's 4 years has meant the project has gone national through the Eco Schools programme and Energy Savings Trust. People are now asking what are the next steps to saving cash and carbon within the home. The "Save Warwickshire A Tonne" (SWAT) campaign aims to raise awareness of how simple measures within the home, garden, business , school and travel can save both cash and carbon. SWAT will be a year long campaign and will begin latter this year. It will consist of a number of initiatives, with followers of the campaign being able to monitor progress via the campaigns web pages, through Face Book and Twitter.

EC – The WCCP 4th anniversary event will be held on Tuesday 6th July at Peugeot's head office, Pinley, Coventry. This event will focus on low carbon vehicles. Speakers include Energy Saving Trust, Peugeot, Allied Vehicles and Johnson Coaches.

EL-O – Has been recently appointed Micro generation co-ordinator.

EB's – focus is on the EST Local Authority support programme, this programme is currently being refreshed.

STRATEGIC

Warwickshire climate change strategy

The Warwickshire Climate Change Strategy is on the web site along with the review undertaken in 2008.

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/climatechange

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



BC – Transition Stratford, has a proposal for a workshop or conference to provide information on community investment in larger scale renewables. Would like to organise with other transition colleagues. It will look success factors and feed in tariffs.

Action All - require venue and any interested people to join project group

All – contact BC to sign up to attend.

iii. Monthly Events update / Community Newsletter

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

EC

All

JL / EC, WCC continue with the monthly bulletin with links to news and events. All to send Emma details of climate change related stories and events they wish to promote.

JL / EC

All

As of 5th March 2010.

- ❖ There are 596 people on the contacts database who get regular (at least monthly) communications including news, events and steering group minutes.
- ❖ These people represent 201 different organisations.
- ❖ 37 of these people are active members of the Steering Group.
- ❖ A separate group of 141 people have signed up to receive the monthly climate change community newsletter (plus all staff in WCC Community Protection).

iv. Case Study Reporting

Please let EC or JL know of any good case studies in the county that could be written up.

v. Annual Review

Will need to be completed by the 4th anniversary event in July.

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

NEWS RECEIVED FROM



John F. Hill, Coverteam

Coverteam remain the UK's largest exporter to the Wind industry. Some of it comes back to the UK, in particular in the form of power converters within the Siemens Wind Power 3.6MW turbines, which are now being deployed offshore, and the 2.3MW turbines onshore. Coverteam are also famous for supplying the electrical power train for the world's biggest (3.6MW) Permanent Magnet Generator based, Direct Drive turbine in 2008. They will deliver their first Renewables generator using their superconducting technology this year, to be installed in a Run-of-River project in Germany. Both of these ground breaking generators were designed and built in Rugby. Coverteam will be making various other announcements during 2010.

The WindSupply project ceased operation over a year ago, and is replaced by an initiative called RESCO.

http://www.staffs.ac.uk/schools/sciences/geography/links/IESR/services_sustBus_RESCO.shtml

With different funding, and by employing academia, the purpose of this idea is not the same as WindSupply. Nevertheless, the intention is to maximise the skills and experience of the West Midlands in the development and manufacturing of low carbon technologies.

Andy Brindley, Midland Bioenergy Ltd. Midland Bio Energy Ltd is a specialist wood pellet supplier supplying wood pellet fuel to the UK market and, particularly the growing Warwickshire market. They are supplying domestic grade pellets supplied in 15kg bags and the commercial sector through bulk blown delivery service. All of their pellets are produced here, in the UK from sustainable FC sourced timber produced to cen/ts 14961 draft European standard. All of the pellets are batch produced with full traceability available. They are committed to providing a secure source of sustainable fuel with local economic benefits and offering a personal, efficient service to the local energy needs.

John Barnham, Orbit Heart of England

Ground source heating programme: programme continues focusing on replacing all solid fuel boilers with gshp, where no mains gas supply exists. This will possibly extend to electric storage heated properties in similar circumstances.

Air Source heating: currently conducting trials on differing makes to determine suitability for UK climate and fuel cost benefit to our residents.



Passive retrofit programme: works programme to shortly commence on two estates (Coventry and Wellesbourne) with full and part passive pilots being created. Focus being on improving thermal efficiency of the home before consideration of renewable technology solutions.

Data monitoring: we are working closely with Coventry University in recording a range of data electronically with homes to determine 'quality' of the internal environment and how best this can be improved through our retrofit programmes. i.e. what works would be more suitable than others. This also links to resident education programme where residents understand how to use the differing equipment installed and reduce CO₂ and fuel costs by how they live in their homes. There is also a health improvement monitoring programme which is in very early stages of development but being discussed at high level in Warks Health Authority.

Grant funding: working with our key partner E-ON to review grant funding provision and identify if this can be extended to current non-granted funded works, also extending to private households.

Matthew Rhodes, Encraft

TSB Retrofit

Encraft won two of the TSB Retrofit for the future projects to reduce carbon emissions from social housing by 80%, and will be delivering one in partnership with Warwick District Council on three of their houses.

AWM

We've also won a contract from AWM to develop the small scale renewable energy (microgeneration) supply chain across the region (RESCO) and expect this to start this in March.

Leam Hydro Project

Encraft have submitted £285k of funding bids for the Leam Hydro scheme recently, although this is an on-going search for funding.

Renewable Energy Toolkit

The Renewables Toolkit for Planners (CSWAPO) is fully specified and we will be coding this in the next three months, for trials hopefully in Warwickshire from June.

Renewable Energy Site Assessment

We have launched a property portfolio renewables site assessment tool for organisations with more than 100 properties who are wondering where is the best place to put wind turbines or solar panels, and this can be seen at

<http://www.encraft.co.uk/ws/P/Professional/Software/RPAT.php>

Planned Community Owned Renewables Event

Encraft would be very happy to support the community ownership of renewables event if helpful.



Bede Howell, Chartered Forester

My long experience is with existing woodland and labour and machinery. I doubt whether many people who ask about wood fuel supply know about felling restrictions. Even when a Licence has been obtained, or a Management Plan, problems arise resulting from bird nesting seasons, or from EPS (European Protected Species) legislation.

Ideally, most harvesting work should be carried out when the woodland and its rides are reasonably dry -- i.e. later summertime, but pheasants are released from mid-July on kept estates; then there's access from the wood to the hard loading area -- if across arable, it usually is a very short window between harvest & ploughing for the new crop.

Of course tops from a fall of big timber can also be used, but these are usually fairly muddy leading to chipper-blade problems. The best aid to the reliable supply of wood fuel is a good system of forest tracks so that the wood can readily be got out -- and as thinnings are repeated about every 5 - 10 years, the track's capital expenditure is re-used time & again.

At "our" (i.e. Forestry's) end of the business in the lowlands, a steady, well-known price for the material at lorry loading point is the ideal, with everyone cutting to one or two main specifications. That is how the (much lamented, no longer there) St. Regis paper mill at Sudbrook nr Chepstow kept going. Also, it paid by weight, and within a fortnight.

Now the matter of wetness of timber raises its ugly head. The vendor of the wood, and the felling contractors wish to be paid for wood at maximum weight (obvious!) but the purchaser doesn't want wet wood. It is difficult to work out a satisfactory price differential and to apply it except where the purchaser has a big yard, chips the wood promptly (easier done when wet), stores it down to an acceptable chip moisture content & then sells at a suitable price, or uses it himself when suitably dry.

Then there's the matter of the actual fuel and its "boiler" (which is really its furnace). The efficient modern self-feed units clearly need a reliably regular feedstock -- chips of a certain profile, size and moisture content. This is the standard example of "have boiler, want fuel".

But what about the people who produce "Arb. chip" -- ie all the bits & pieces, often including green leaves & leyland cypress, which are the arisings from tree surgery work. This will all burn -- at a reduced efficiency -- but only where robust handling systems are installed.

At Oscott College (Chester Rd., Sutton Coldfield) they installed a not-too-big furnace which can take anything from fairly large round or split logs (as big old trees in the grounds have to be felled for safety reasons) right down to chip, which comes from the smaller ends of the above trees plus thinnings etc. from younger areas.



This chip is simply put into empty potato paper sacks (the College has its own catering department) and the bagsful of chip are thrown into the furnace. This is a good example of "have fuel, want heat".

Juliet Cater, Building Arts, Transition Town Leamington

The Stoneleigh Sustainable Centre project is now officially part of the RASE planning programme and has been presented to Martin Haslett of WDC planning Department as such.

Catherine Marks, WCC, Building Sustainable Neighbourhoods

BSN have been running a programme in Nuneaton and Bedworth with community organisations who own buildings on reducing their carbon footprint and we will be developing this further very shortly.

We have submitted a bid to AWM for the ERDF SUD funding that would provide additional capital grants to Commercial & Voluntary Sector organisations to make improvements to their buildings (along with other support) - we're waiting for news on that.

John Buckingham, Environment Agency

Whenever we look at carrying out flood mitigation works we consider dredging as an option (in some circumstances it may be appropriate but this tends to be in confined channels rather than channels with wide floodplains).

However, dredging is not always the answer. It may be appropriate in certain locations but it is not sustainable in the long term. Dredging would improve Land Drainage (lower flows) but in general has limited impact in relation to flood levels. Where we have wide floodplains dredging a metre out of the bed of a watercourse would have minimal impact in flood events, where the flows may be a metre or more deep over an area half a mile wide. The costs would be extremely high as all existing bridges and culverts would need to be altered (this may not be viable in many locations). There would also be a huge impact on the environment.

Roger Matthews, Transition Stratford

Garden Share scheme – aims to link up people who want to grow their own food but have no garden with those with spare space in their garden. Team of four organisers established who interview would-be gardeners and garden owners and broker matches. Launched February – 12 growers and 8 gardens to date: 1 agreement signed. Documents and processes can be copied by other places.

Allotments – working with Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council on ways to bring unused land into temporary use for food growing.



Sustainable energy for historic buildings workshop – to take place on 18th May in Stratford Town Hall. Jointly organised by Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council, Stratford Society and Transition Stratford. Speakers from Building Research Establishment, English Heritage, Marches Energy Agency and Stratford DC. Aim is to raise awareness of sustainable energy solutions for older and historic buildings.

Energy Champions scheme – consulting with Act on Energy and Transition Shipston on setting up network of trained volunteers who can carry out simple home energy checks and offer basic advice (with technical back up from Act on Energy). Pilot in spring?

Energy from food waste – group looking at feasibility of using anaerobic digestion fed by commercial food waste to generate energy.

Community-owned renewables conference – working on idea of conference to explore options for community-owned renewables in south Warwickshire (Stratford and Warwick districts).

Transition economy – restarting discussions about ideas for more sustainable economy: time banking, green business directory, "transition card" scheme.

Awareness raising – monthly newsletter since autumn. Website developed (but ...). Monthly film showing. Talks and exhibitions. Monthly street stall in central Stratford from April. Planning education update on climate change, peak oil and transition at end of May.

Act local – Think global - formal link established with Practical Action to showcase impact of climate change in developing countries and Practical Action's work in these areas.

Mark Levene, Kineton - Towards Transition

Kineton have looked at a trajectory towards a transition style 'energy descent' with emphasis on:

- a) a formula for wider communal involvement and ownership of project based on the Low Carbon West Oxford model run as an Industrial and Provident Society (i.e. in which participants are shareholders)
- b) the need for a feasibility study to determine the most efficient methods for improving Kineton energy efficiency while at the same developing new renewable projects.
- c) the need for a steering group running as a 3rd wing to Farmers Market and Getting Kineton Growing (GKG) as part of our transition brief.

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

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



5. Funding Opportunities

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6. Any other business

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7. Date and venue of next meetings

Friday June 4th 10 – Brandon Marsh Nature Reserve, Brandon, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust.

SM from NWBC, Atherstone, said they were willing to host a future meeting to coincide with an eco street visit when project completed.

