

Sheffield Community Renewables

February Newsletter

Welcome to the first bi-monthly newsletter of 2009.

Grant Award Success for SCR!

We have had an exciting start to the year! SCR has been awarded nearly £50k over two years from Sheffield First Partnership's Area Based Grant to help meet Sheffield's plans to become a low carbon city. The funds will help us deliver renewable energy schemes in Sheffield by giving local people the opportunity to make an ethical investment in these projects. To do this we will become a not-for-profit social enterprise, known as an Industrial and Provident Society, which will raise money for projects through share offerings. The grant funds will also allow us to pay for professional assistance on our plans for renewable energy projects, which will be ready for development in the near future.

Technical News

The technical team is busy writing up the results of last year's weir survey and feeding into the new business plan. This work informs our on-going discussions with site owners, Sheffield Council and the Environment agency. The team's priority for 2009 is to co-ordinate development of our first major energy project. In this regard, we continue to explore our short list of hydro sites and hope to have further announcements soon. We are also planning to embark on a couple of new research projects to strengthen our knowledge base and identify opportunities for the future.

Workshop Day

Sunday, February 22nd (sorry for short notice) at South Yorkshire Energy Centre, which is attached to Heeley City Farm. 2pm in the Training Room to work on the website, blog, etc. 3pm in the main room where we will be building a model Archimedes screw!! Hope to be in a nearby pub by 6.30pm latest.

Spring General Meeting

Our next General Meeting will be held in April. All members and supporters are warmly invited and encouraged to attend. The date and venue will be confirmed shortly. We will be presenting our new business plan, starting the build up to our first share offer later on in the year and launching a major drive on outreach and communications.

Recruiting Volunteers

Buoyed by our funding success, we are keen to make the most of 2009. Crucially we need more volunteers to help turn plans into action. There are all sorts of ways to get involved - from an hour or so a month through to a day or more per week. We could really use enthusiastic and reliable pairs of hands to help with co-ordination, administration and communications. We would also like to hear from people with key skills and relevant experience (e.g. legal, business development, financial, and IT). We will be launching a targeted recruitment drive over the next couple of months, but if you are already keen to get involved then please don't hesitate to get in touch (contact: [RobJPilling at gmail.com](mailto:RobJPilling@gmail.com))

Website (www.sheffieldcommunityrenewables.org.uk)

We are currently updating the website and also having discussions about our name and a logo. Watch this space!

Recommended Reading

Sustainable Energy - without the hot air comes highly recommended by one of our members. ISBN: 978-0-9544529-3-3. Also freely available online at: www.withouthotair.com

Local News & Events

Green New Deal Conference to be hosted by Sheffield Campaign Against Climate Change (SCACC). Saturday, February 28th at St. Mary's Community Centre, Bramall Lane: 9am - 5.30pm. The conference will look at tackling climate change, the recession and expensive energy by local investment in green jobs and renewable energy. There will be workshops, some prominent speakers and exhibitions. See www.sheffieldgreennewdeal.org.uk to register and for more details.

SCACC is also supporting a planning application for a large windfarm at Sheephouse Heights (between Stocksbridge and Penistone). Contact [chris1broome at yahoo.co.uk](mailto:chris1broome@yahoo.co.uk) to get involved.

Sheffield CRAG (Carbon Reduction Action Group): The next Sheffield CRAG night will be held at The Meersbrook Bowling Club (180 Shirebrook Road, S8) on Thursday 5th March 7.30 to 9.30pm. This is an open evening, ideal for anybody interested in finding out more about the CRAG and what we are up to. Please contact Rick Morgan for more information (email: [rick_a_morgan at yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rick_a_morgan@yahoo.co.uk)).

Campaign to Protect Rural England has a new project - Mapping Local Food Webs - which is part of 'Making Local Food Work' programme. Sheffield has been identified as one of the locations for the first phase of the project. For more info go to www.makinglocalfoodwork.co.uk. To get involved contact Lizzie Fellows at [elizabethf at cpre.org.uk](mailto:elizabethf@cpre.org.uk) or on 07843 626258.

Climate Change - a public forum. A facilitated group exploration of Climate Change. Thursday, March 12th, 7pm - 9.30pm, Victoria Hall, Chapel Walk, Sheffield S1 2JB. Organised by Sheffield Open Forums - tel. 0114 272 4290, email: [processworksheffield at blueyonder,co.uk](mailto:processworksheffield@blueyonder.co.uk)