

Main Identity

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Hello Sustainable Crediton Supporters,

Welcome to the November 2011 Newsletter with a special welcome to all the new subscribers who have joined us through the PV scheme over the past few months. Sustainable Crediton is an organisation for all, no matter what your particular interests in sustainable living, and we hope everyone finds something of interest in the contents of this newsletter. However on Oct 31st some new and disturbing news about Photo Voltaic FIT's schemes has come out from the Govt which is documented below by the Energy Group and which we recommend everyone reads if they are considering installing PV at their property.

To move on to more cheerful matters our organisation will be 5 yrs old next February. We have come a long way in that time and in the next few weeks will be hosting a seminar on Sustainability in conjunction with Crediton Town Council and also giving Sustainability seminars to councillors and executive members of MDDC.

We haven't forgotten how to have fun though, and we are currently in the throes of organising our 5th birthday party which we plan to be even more enjoyable and entertaining than our last big birthday bash in 2009. We would like to invite everyone, new supporters and long term friends to join us in having fun at the party. Lets remember that creating a sustainable and resilient community is as much about enjoying ourselves as it is about tackling the serious issues of our times.

Paula Mossman
 Editor

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1. Calendar of Events

Nov/Dec 2011

Wed 2 Nov 7.30pm Economics Group Meeting, Cheriton Fitzpaine contact Charles Mossman c.mossman@tiscali.co.uk

Thurs 3 Nov 7.30pm Food & Farming Group Meeting, Crediton details contact Linda Lever lindaandcolinl@phonecoop.coop

Sat 6 Nov WEN Samhain themed evening - details contact Kate Povey kate@littlemlett.co.uk, 01363 860208

Wed 9 Nov 7.30pm Core Group Meeting, Kate Povey's house, Black Dog - details Gerald Conyngham gerald@eclipse.co.uk

Fri 11 Nov 2-4pm Spinning Circle Demo of Wool Combing Arts Centre Crediton £2.50 inc refreshments All welcome

Sat 12 Nov 9.30-4pm Sus Cred information stall at 'From Little Acorns' Intergenerational Seminar Boniface Centre contact Dee Ross (see below)

Sat 12 Nov 10-2.30pm Clothes Swap or 'Swishing' day Lansdown School, Crediton open to all details contact

Sat 19 Nov 11am-2pm Seed Sharing Day Town Hall, High St Crediton - contact Dee Ross on deeross@silversmith.eclipse.co.uk or 01363 775146.

Fri 2, Thurs 8, Fri 9th Dec Sustainability Seminars with MDDC Phoenix House Tiverton contact Gerald Conyngham gerald@eclipse.co.uk

Fri 2- Sun 4th Dec Sustainable Crediton Xmas Tree - Theme 'Power from Wind and Water' Holy X Church Crediton

Fri 9 Dec 2-4pm Spinning Circle: demo of spinning fine lace weight yarns Arts Centre Crediton £2.50 inc refreshments All welcome

Mon 5 Dec 7:30 pm Energy/PV Group Meeting at Lamb Inn, Sandford details Linda 01363777624 or lindaandcolinl@phonecoop

Wed 14 Dec 7.30pm Core Group Meeting at John Downes house with mulled wine and nibbles details Gerald Conyngham gerald@eclipse.co.uk

2012

Fri 13 Jan 2-4pm Spinning Circle £2.50 inc refreshments Arts Centre Crediton All Welcome contact Sue Reece suereece@metronet.co.uk

Tues 17 Jan 7- 9.30pm Joint Sustainability Seminar with Crediton Town Council. Details below or contact Gerald Conyngham 01363 773000

Sat 25 Feb 7-11.30pm Sustainable Crediton 5th Birthday Party Sandford Village Hall Details below

Sat 10 Mar 10-3pm Clothes Swap Boniface Centre, Crediton - details to follow

2. Sustainable Crediton will be 5 years old in February 2012.

Incredible but true and to celebrate we are having a PARTY!! to which everyone receiving this newsletter is very welcome to come along with family and friends.

It will take place on **Sat 25th February at Sandford Village Hall** from approx 7pm to 11.30 pm . Plans are in the early stages but there will be a licensed bar, a bring and share local/Fairtrade/homemade food supper, some entertainment and activities for the children, a bring and swap household goods corner, entertainment for the adults throughout the evening and, to close the event, dancing to the Swamp Gods.

Tickets will be limited to 100 people (the Hall capacity for this type of event) and will be on sale from the middle of January at the Green House in Town Square Crediton price £2.50 each (to help cover hall hire and entertainment expenses). Should there be any tickets left unsold they will be available on the door price £3.50 each.

So please put the date in your diary NOW and plan to be at what promises to be the best local party of 2012!!

3. Joining Forces With the Town Council: Working together to create a sustainable and resilient future for Crediton

Sustainable Crediton and Crediton Town Council are joining forces to present this interactive seminar to take place on 17th Jan 2012 from 7 to 9.30pm at the Boniface Centre

We are excited about this opportunity to work with the Town Council and to invite other organisations and members of the public in Crediton to be included so that we can work together to secure a prosperous and stable future for our community in the face of all the economic and environmental challenges we are now facing.

Further details will be announced nearer to the time but if you are involved with, or know of, any organisation in the Crediton area that might like to be involved please contact Gerald Conyngham gerald@eclipse.co.uk 01363 773000

4. News From The Action Groups

4.1 Energy Group News

Solar PV Project Update as at 31st October 2011

Government Consultation on FIT

The government has confirmed today that it is planning to reduce solar incentives by more than 50 per cent, cutting the feed-in tariffs available to domestic and small-scale business installations, from 43.3p per kWh to just 21p per kWh. The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) today launched [a consultation](#) on the proposed changes, confirming it wants the reduced tariffs to come into force as early as 12 December 2011.

Under the proposals the new tariffs would apply to all new solar PV installations with an eligibility date on or after 12 December 2011. Such installations would then receive the current tariff of 43.3p before moving to the lower tariff of 21p on 1 April 2012, assuming the government does not make further changes following the closure of the consultation on 23 December. If brought into effect they would cut rates of return for solar installations from current levels of about 12 per cent to just 4.5 per cent to five per cent.

Industry experts have warned the deep cuts would lead to a severe contraction in demand, and an end to free solar financing schemes and social housing projects. Leading solar firms are predicting significant job losses if the proposed changes come into effect and are promising to mount a high profile campaign against the scale of the cuts and the rapid pace at which they are expected to come into effect. There are also rumours that some solar firms could pursue legal action against the government over the rapid timeline for the consultation and the manner in which the proposed cuts could come into effect before the consultation exercise is officially completed in late December.

The consultation also proposed a new energy efficiency requirement that would mean any household or business applying for feed-in tariff incentives from April next year would have to meet minimum energy efficiency standards. The consultation suggests these standards could include ensuring the building has an Energy Performance Certificate level of C or above, or requiring people to take up Green Deal measures before they can install solar panels. DECC said that as a transitional arrangement installations with eligibility dates between 1 April 2012 and 31 March 2013 would have 12 months from entering the feed-in tariff scheme to comply with the energy efficiency requirement.

However, the government said that as part of the review it would "consider whether more could be done to enable genuine community projects to be able to fully benefit from FITs and whether, for example, a definition of community scheme is required and, if so, how this should be defined".

Solarsense's Position

Solarsense is working very hard right now, to organise a work plan for installations already in their system, and for any sales taken that will ensure that as many installations are completed by the deadline as possible. It is however, inevitable that they will need to offer some of their customers their deposit back, in order that they can try to find a company who can guarantee an installation date by the 12th December 2011. Solarsense are obviously dealing with many hundreds of calls from worried customers right now and they will be contacting EVERYONE in their installation programme, as well as all sales made in the last fortnight to give them the advice.

Please note that Solarsense need to evaluate the information they have just been given by DECC before they can formulate a plan of work to cope with the new dates. They cannot give us more information until they have completed this assessment which they hope to have done by early PM 31st October. For installations already completed and registered there is NO CHANGE and you will continue to get the 'old' FIT rate agreed with your energy supplier.

For any NEW SALES ENQUIRIES, Solarsense are sorry to say that they cannot accept any further sales enquiries based on the higher rates (e.g. 43.3p/kWh). They will however be accepting sales enquiries on the basis of the new FIT rates, which they feel will still make excellent economic sense - more on this to follow later when we have had a chance to look at the figures.

Sustainable Creditor's Position

We are shocked by the speed and severity of the changes in the FIT. We had warned last month that changes were afoot, but we could not predict that such drastic changes would be implemented by the 12th December. We will be working with Solarsense to maximise the number of installations made in our scheme by the 12 December. 65 orders have been placed and 32 installations have been completed already. A further 23 installations are scheduled for before the 12th December, with a further 10 installations currently scheduled for after the deadline. We will do our best to see if Solarsense can improve on their installation schedule to include more orders within the deadline. We will ensure that Solarsense contacts all effected customers to explain what they intend to do. Solarsense have stated that where they cannot guarantee to install before the deadline, then deposits will be returned so that people can attempt to find another installer who can meet the deadline. Sustainable Creditor will do its best to work with Solarsense to get at least 51 installations in place during the first year of the agreement. Sustainable Creditor Energy Group will be completing the Government's consultation. We will be meeting shortly to draft our response. We also urge effected Sustainable Creditor supporters to complete the consultation as well as writing or emailing our MP Mel Stride. There is a template letter/email downloadable from our website here <http://www.sustainablecreditor.org.uk/Pages/Energy/Template%20Letter%20to%20MP%20re%20FITs%20Changes.pdf>

4.2 Food Group News

Seed Share - Saturday 19th November Old Town Hall, Crediton High Street 11am to 2pm

- Get some vegetable and flower seeds to start you off for the 2012 growing season. Don't worry if you don't have any to bring - you can do that next year.
- If you've saved seeds, bring some to share. Please label packets with the type, variety and date collected if possible.
- Enjoy coffee/tea and home made cake and/or delicious soup and roll lunch.
- Exchange gardening tips.
- We'll also have some plants, gardening magazines and books, composting and seed saving advice, etc
- New gardeners very welcome - perhaps we can start a support group.

This is a free event but we always welcome donations!

October Community Market-

Once again the Town Square was bright with about twenty stalls and multicoloured gazebos for our fourth community market of the year. New stalls this time were Clairwen with lots of garlic, Gill with honey and wool from local jacobs sheep, knitting from the group which meets on Friday mornings at the Buller and some ingenious jewellery made from knitted wire.

The sunshine helped create a lovely relaxed atmosphere and there was a steady stream of customers, many of whom took away apples and pears in exchange for a small donation.

Next year there will be markets on the second Saturday of May, June, July, September and October. Watch out for the dates in 2012 newsletters

Seasonal Suppers -

Our October supper was very much enjoyed by all - fantastic three course meal for just £7.50 thanks to our organisers and cooks Carol, Ruth and Sue. We are considering altering the format for next year though - plans in the next newsletter.

Linda Lever
lindaandcolinl@phoncoop.coop
 01363 777624

4.3 Waste Action Group News

As many of you will know we carried out an incredibly well supported waste household plastics collection trial in September. We have now collated all the information we learned from the event and our report, put together by Anne Tucker who organised it, follows. Many people have been asking us when we will be doing it again. Reading the report below will, we hope, answer many of your questions.

If, having read the report, you would like to help with future collections or any of the other activities carried out by the Waste Action Group, please contact Paula Mossman paula.mossman@lineone.net or Anne Tucker catucker@btinternet.com. Without your support the amount we can do is limited. The more people who help out the more good work like this that can be achieved.

Report on the Plastics Recycling Trial carried out by Sus Cred Volunteers in Morrisons Car Park on Sats 3rd and 17th Sept.

Aims:

- To promote recycling
- To encourage more people to recycle plastic
- To inform/educate more people about the local recycling centres – Punchbowl (Credton) and Ashleigh (Tiverton) and that they accept plastics
- To ascertain level of support of recycling plastic
- To see how much plastic is collected
- To answer or field queries

WHAT? A collection of household waste plastic was held on 2 Saturdays – 3rd and 17th September 2011 between 10am and 1 pm. Only plastic accepted at the DCC recycling centres was collected. All plastic had to be clean and bottle tops removed or loosened. All plastic milk bottles collected were separated out and went into the MDDC kerbside recycling.

WHO? The Waste Action Group from Sustainable Credton organised the whole event, which was financed from a grant provided by the former Mid Devon Community Recycling.

HOW? The waste plastic was checked over and sorted into large dumpy bags. A survey was carried out to collate some data on plastic recycling.

RESULTS 35 dumpy bags were collected on the 3rd and 40 bags on the 17th – amounting to over 1 tonne of plastic in total.

We carried out a survey of the people who came along with Plastic to recycle

SURVEY RESULTS

- On 3rd Sep 219 people were questioned – estimated total no of people attending = 400
- On 17th Sep 206 people were questioned – estimated total no of people attending = 350
- Hence an estimated total of 750 people turned up, with around 200 people visiting on both dates so there were around 550 unique visits. Most people represented at least one household, some more. With around 3500 households in Credton this represents more than 15% of households visiting – in just 6 hours!
- On the 17th the survey was slightly modified to ensure no one was questioned twice.

We asked:

- Do you normally recycle your plastic? : 68% said "no", 32% said "yes" i.e. 2/3 would not normally recycle plastic.
- If yes, where is it recycled? : As might be expected the majority (60%) go to the Punchbowl, 17% go to Ashleigh and the rest (25%) elsewhere with London, Plymouth, Cornwall, Bournemouth and Exeter being cited (when visiting family/friends). Several took plastic to other towns where they know it is recycled.
- Do you know the Punchbowl will accept plastics?: 40% said "yes" but the majority (60%) said "no". However a number of people said "yes" but did not recycle their plastic – see below.

REASONS WHY PEOPLE DO NOT CURRENTLY RECYCLE PLASTIC at a DCC site

- Attitude of staff at the Punchbowl – unpleasant, not helpful, rude, plastic that should have been accepted has been refused
- Too far to drive, No transport, Only if going – don't make a special trip, Never go that way

COMMENTS

- Many people commented that plastic makes up the bulk of their current landfill – recycling the plastic reduced the amount by 2/3 or more.
- The amount of plastic collected was "unbelievable", "overwhelming".
- A large number of people asked if the recycling could be done on a regular basis.
- Many thanks were received by people who were appreciative that they could recycle what normally went to landfill.
- A large majority of people were very co-operative in bringing clean plastics as requested.
- It is evident that supermarkets are the source of the majority of the waste plastic we collected.

All the leaflets with details of the DCC recycling centres and a printout of the plastics collected were given out.

CONCLUSIONS

- The trial demonstrates a high degree of willingness to recycle.
- There is a general lack of awareness about the DCC centres recycling plastics.
- Many people are reticent or unable to travel to the Punchbowl.
- A town location to collect plastic recycling is more accessible to more people than the DCC recycling centres.
- If plastic recycling could be available in the town it would encourage more people to do it.
- It is clear that a future recycling scheme of plastics will be supported and welcomed by the people of Crediton.
- After the trial, a number of Morrisons' customers have asked if there will be another recycling event.

WHAT NEXT?

- Work with DCC to improve the awareness of the facility and approachability of the staff at the Punchbowl.
- Present results to MDDC to discuss a way forward.
- Future plastic collections – how can Morrisons help – what support can they provide? Can we organise a group of volunteers to supervise further collections?
- Discussion with Morrisons – how can they reduce packaging?
- Provide an education leaflet on reducing waste.
- From a practical point of view any future collections may have to be on a weekday as recycling staff do not normally work on Saturdays.
- Educational video on plastic recycling.

5. Campaigns of the Month

5.1. An urgent request from the Economics Group - Ask David Cameron to choose the people, not the banks

Millions of people around the world are standing up to say the financial system is broken, that it needs reform. This is the first step. **A Robin Hood Tax** would be the most popular tax in history. This tax would charge the big banks a tiny percentage of each speculative transaction they make, millions of them every day, which could be used to help the developing world or the poorest people at home. It would raise billions of pounds annually.

David Cameron will be attending a G20 summit at Cannes this week, he must act for those hit hardest by the financial crisis. Act to protect essential public services in the UK, to tackle poverty at home and overseas, and to address climate change.

So please, tell David Cameron to help make history at the G20. Tell him to ignore the banking lobby and take a stand that will be admired worldwide.

Tell him to vote for Robin Hood

5.2. Plantations are not Forests

This month's second campaign is from Rainforest Rescue and is called Plantations are not Forests. Annually, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), a specialised agency of the United Nations that is responsible for forestry, examines the tree population and the extent of deforestation worldwide. The FAO's definition of forests include plantations such as palm oil monocultures. This campaign is urging the FAO to change its definition of forests. The current definition of forest has negative repercussions at the local and global level in that it legitimises the expansion of industrial monoculture tree plantations, whose social, economic, environmental and cultural impacts have been widely documented and denounced. <https://www.rainforest-rescue.org/mailalert/781/plantations-are-not-forests>

6. Intergenerational Event - 'From Little Acorns Grow - Sat 12th Nov 2011 9.30am to 4pm

This event is being organised at the Boniface Centre by the Senior Council of Devon and is designed to include people from all ages and generations. It will be a mixture of talks and seminars with a light lunch included. Sustainable Crediton will be having an information stand. If you would like further details or to attend please contact Dee Ross deeross@silversmith.eclipse.co.uk 01363 775146

7. Avaaz hits 10 million people

Are you an Avaaz supporter? avaaz@avaaz.org It is the biggest movement in global history to bring ordinary people together to stand up for justice: climate justice, resource depletion justice, humanitarian justice. It costs nothing to receive their emails and respond to their campaigns but a few seconds of your time. It is really beginning to make politicians and big business worldwide stand up and listen to the views of ordinary folk like us: people who are not necessarily political activists but who really care about the future of our world. As an example, in the past few months pressure from Avaaz has turned the tide on the UK Gov't's plan to sell off our publicly owned woodlands and forests and has shamed all the worlds tinned tuna manufacturers into adopting sustainable fishing methods - not bad for an internet based organisation!

Avaaz has now hit 10 million supporters. If you are not one of them read what they have to say about this milestone below. Then why not join in too? avaaz@avaaz.org

*"Just a few hours ago, our community reached **10 million people!**"*

10 million of us. From every nation, every walk of life. Hopeful, and serious about creating the world we all dream of. Campaign after campaign, we're winning. Not just the little fights, the big ones, the ones they said couldn't be won. And we're just getting started.

There's never been a community like this before – and we're accelerating – growing by 4 million in the last 9 months! If we stick together, anything's possible. The world may be awash with fear and fatalism, but people

*power is on the march everywhere, and together we're renewing and sustaining the most powerful force for change ever known...**Hope.** avaaz@avaaz.org*

*With enormous gratitude for every person in this extraordinary community,
Ricken, Alice, Luis, Ben, Ari, Saravanan, Wissam, Diego, Mia and the entire Avaaz team."*

8. Late Addition - Free Foam Chips

A large quantity of foam chips from large cushions - suitable for packing/stuffing/insulation etc Free to anyone who can make use of them.

Contact Anne on 01363 772823