



New Leaf Newsletter 4 Autumn 2011

Welcome to our quarterly New Leaf newsletter

Apart from a quick nod to ECOHere, this issue is really all about h.Energy... some of the new initiatives that are being showcased; the innovative sustainability work going on around the county; and the hard work of so many local people to make their own lives and the future of Herefordshire more sustainable. This newsletter goes out to hundreds of people around Herefordshire from the public, private and third sectors, as well as other interested individuals. We would love to hear your views on this newsletter, and if there is anything that you would like included in future issues, please let [Kate](#) or [Dave](#) know!

Herefordshire: leading the way on sustainability?

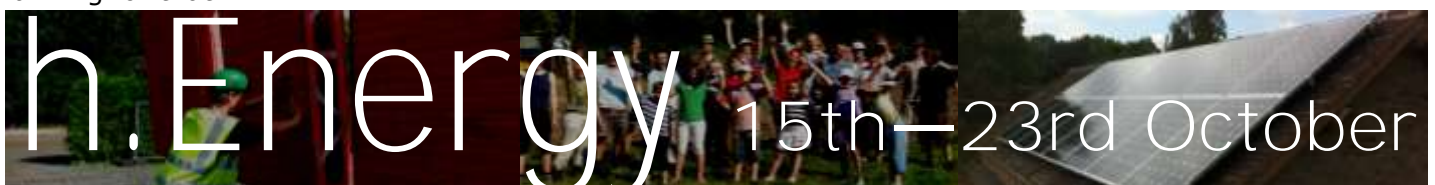
As plans are finalised for this year's h.Energy week, the county's households, schools, farms, businesses, GP surgeries, community groups and council departments are showing that Herefordshire has a lot to be proud about when it comes to sustainability. The aim of the week, which runs from 15th - 23rd October, is to demonstrate that doing things sustainably: supporting the local economy, producing renewable energy, insulating buildings, reducing waste, travelling more actively and promoting community action – is increasingly just the way we do things in Herefordshire.

The only other comparable initiative to h.Energy in the UK is the Wales Sustainability Week which takes place in May each year. Per head of population, Herefordshire's h.Energy has more than six times as many events as the Welsh week.

Event organisers include the Duchy of Cornwall, which is demonstrating its use of photovoltaics, ground source heat pumps and biomass boilers. David Curtis is the Land Steward of the Eastern District of the Duchy of Cornwall Estate and is responsible for Duchy property in eight counties. He rates Herefordshire in the top 10% in the UK for sustainability. "Hereford is full of positively minded organisations who take energy reduction very seriously," he says. "We have been able to demonstrate best practise from a number of renewable energy installations in Herefordshire."

Julian Morgan, Director of Renewable Energy Services for Countrywide Farmers plc, is opening his farm at Fromes Hill during the week, where his electric car will be on show alongside a range of domestic and commercial renewable energy installations. He believes that Herefordshire is 'leading the charge' for renewable energy on farms in the country. "Although wind energy has not taken off in a big way, solar energy and biomass boilers certainly have," he comments. "There are also four anaerobic digesters on farms in Herefordshire which run on farm and other waste with more in the pipeline."

Other events during the week profile the efforts of community-based projects. Pat Gordon is one of the people behind 'Growing Local is Going Local', a local food growing initiative which is opening up its vegetable gardens for the week. Pat says: "Hereford is an absolutely brilliant place. We have great growers, climate, and fertile soil. There's no reason we can't be a self-sufficient county, we should be aiming for that."





ECOHERE – to SUSTAINABLE THERE

Three Herefordshire parishes have recently signed up to this exciting project. Ecohere launched in April, is a unique partnership project that will work with rural communities on sustainability issues.

Leominster, Breinton and Bodenham are in the first tranche of rural communities in Herefordshire that will work with the Ecohere team to identify priorities for their own unique Sustainability Action Plans. These action plans will have carbon reduction at their core and may include anything from developing community allotments, car share schemes or energy efficiency surveys for housing, all of which have the added benefits of saving money and developing stronger, more resilient rural communities.

Rebecca Semple, Sustainable Community Development Officer **'It is a pleasure to work with such dedicated and committed communities. We look forward to developing these relationships over the coming months and helping them realise their potential to be truly sustainable'**.

Mary Burton, Ecohere Coordinator **said 'Never has sustainability work been so exciting. Herefordshire is brimming with voluntary groups, businesses, specialist advisors and a real enthusiasm for supporting communities and other organisations to reduce their carbon footprint'**.

If you think your community might like to get involved, contact Rebecca (rebeccas@comfirst.org.uk) (tel. 01432 262963) or Mary (mary@herefordshirenewleaf.org.uk) (tel. 07792 881060).

Ecohere was part funded by the European Union (EAFRD) and Defra through the VITAL Herefordshire LEADER programme and is supported by Herefordshire Council



Herefordshire's new 'Green Leader'

Rob Garner, associate of the Bulmer Foundation, chair of the Herefordshire Environment Partnership and member of New Leaf and ECO-Here has just won a prestigious 'Green Leader' award from Sustainability West Midlands.

The purpose of the competition is to identify the individuals who are playing a key role in leading us towards a more sustainable future. Previous Sustainability West Midlands Green Leaders include Richard Davies of Marches Energy Agency, **Gareth Williams of Herefordshire's Caplor Energy and Alys Fowler of the BBC's Gardeners World.**

Sustainability West Midlands are now looking to raise the profile of the winners as they strive towards a low carbon future.

Rob collected his 'Green Leader' award on Wednesday 5th October at a celebration event which included key speaker, Sara Parkin OBE, co-founder of Forum for the Future.

"As is often the case when such awards are granted, someone is singled out - but the award is really a reflection of the work of many people, including colleagues at the Bulmer Foundation, New Leaf and ECOHere," said Rob. "Our role is to help make Herefordshire more sustainable by working closely with the many people in the public, voluntary and business sectors who are showing great leadership, not least many unsung heroes in our local communities and Herefordshire Council who actively support our work. Our rural county has the potential to be leading the way on sustainable development. We have made some real progress in the past few years and the opportunity to work with other Green Leaders around the region, to share ideas and opportunities, will be welcome."



Did you know...

Herefordshire schools have taken on the challenge to cut their energy use...

As part of a project being run by Herefordshire Council in collaboration with the Carbon trust, 12 county schools are taking part in free workshops aimed at helping them reduce their energy usage.

Schools account for 34 per cent of the council's carbon emissions and the workshops are aimed at getting the schools to focus on the Carbon Trust's Collaborative Low Carbon School programme (CLCSS) which aims to help them reduce energy costs, protect them from rising energy prices and help support Herefordshire Council's target of reducing carbon emissions by 30 per cent over a five-year period ending in 2015.

Energy audits are also currently being carried out at the 12 schools taking part in the project and the results of these will be used to develop action plans for reducing energy usage such as switching off lights and computers when not in use.

Secondary schools taking part in the project are Aylestone Business and Enterprise College, Hereford's Bluecoat School and Fairfield High School. Primary schools taking part are Eardisley, Ewyas Harold, Garway, St James, Kimbolton, Ledbury, Madley, Orleton and Whitchurch.

h. Energy is the largest county wide sustainability showcase in the UK!

Herefordshire **has now made it into the top 10 Local Authority areas, from across the UK, in terms of energy generation capacity from Solar Photovoltaic (PV) systems. Please [click here](#) for The AEA Microgeneration Index top 10 - As you will see, the County of Herefordshire there at number 9...**

Cathedral School

16 tonnes CO₂ - eq.

It's estimated we saved this much CO₂ between March 2009 and March 2011 by recycling our trade waste with **Hereford Pedicabs Ltd.**

New Leaf
We're turning a...
Living lightly for a greener tomorrow

hereford pedicabs
fun green honest

Caplor Energy

www.herefordpedicabs.com

Estimation compiled by Hfd Pedicabs Ltd following the guidance of the Green Claims Code, further information available on request

Two of the counties leading environmentally focused businesses have joined forces to promote sustainability throughout Herefordshire.

Leading renewable energy installer Caplor Energy and Hereford's own pedal powered, zero emission taxi service, Hereford Pedicabs have entered into a partnership to work closely alongside each other to encourage a sustainable community and promote a greener lifestyle.

Hereford Pedicabs have just launched their second ever recycling competition as part of h. Energy week. The competition run by Hereford Pedicargo, a division of Pedicabs, is this year sponsored by Caplor Energy. The competition celebrates Pedicargos innovative pedal powered trade waste recycling programme, which services over 350 town centre businesses, with an award for the customer who has saved the most CO₂ over the last 2 years.

Savings are expected to collectively exceed 1,000 tonnes per year, benefiting the environment immensely. The champion will be announced at Hereford Courtyard on 17th October (guess who!).

Business Development Manager at Caplor Energy, Jamie Baldwin says: "It's great that two local companies are working together to promote sustainable solutions to energy and transport. We're delighted to partner up with Pedicabs in this way and to support their sustainability competition".

Pedicabs Director Will Vaughan says: "There is a lot of good environmental work being done that goes unnoticed in Hereford, this is our chance to say well done to our customers for making it their job to make a difference". For more information on the competition or the businesses visit www.caplor.co.uk/energy or www.herefordpedicabs.com

An opportunity to get involved...

Community share issue launched during h.Energy Week, on 17th October
The first share issue for a community owned renewable energy scheme in Herefordshire is being launched as part of Herefordshire's h.Energy Week on 17th October 2011.

Leominster Community Solar Co-op has been set up to install a large solar photovoltaic array on the roof of the Bridge Street Sports Centre in Leominster. The electricity will be used by the sports centre, or when not needed, fed into the national grid. The 49kW array will generate enough green electricity to save approximately 22 tonnes of carbon dioxide a year.

Andy Talbot of Halo Leisure, a local social enterprise that runs the sports centre says: "We're delighted by this opportunity to reduce our carbon footprint and electricity bills and provide our members and local people with a green and ethical investment opportunity."

150,000 needs to be raised in investment to fund the installation of the solar array. It will be one of the first schemes of its type in the UK to be wholly owned by the community.

The share issue, which should also be eligible for Enterprise Investment Scheme tax relief, will be open to all. Minimum investment is £250 with the limit being set at £20,000. If the scheme is oversubscribed priority will be given to those living closest to the sports centre.

Those who choose to invest will see returns on their investment averaging a predicted 6% per year over the 25 year life of the investment, with their original lump sum being paid back at the end of this period. According to Eithne George at Shareenergy, "Community ownership means that local people have the opportunity to financially benefit from renewable energy on their doorstep. Investing in this scheme will generally give people better returns than their savings accounts are offering and they know that without them, the project wouldn't happen".

The solar array will be installed by Hereford-based Southern Solar, who successfully completed the first 100% community owned solar array in Lewes, East Sussex.

Ben Whittle from Southern Solar, says "Living in Herefordshire, I have been very keen to get a community-owned renewables project off the ground for some time. Southern Solar are looking forward to seeing a public building benefitting from the tariff scheme which so many private businesses and homes are taking advantage of."

It is hoped this will be the first of many projects for the area and around the country, as the demand from community groups for solar projects is enormous, but it will depend on what the government does in the next review of the Feed in Tariff, which is scheduled for the end of this year. This project, however, will not be affected by any changes by this review, as it will be installed before changes are scheduled to be implemented.

For further information contact Eithne George (email: eithne@shareenergy.coop tel: 07912 100665)

And thank you...

New Leaf would like to say thank you to all of the households, organisations, schools, businesses, pubs, farms and communities around the county who have generously opened their doors to the public during h.Energy this year. Without your tireless energy, enthusiasm and ingenuity h.Energy could not happen.. We are very proud to be associated with such a compelling display of sustainable lifestyles and activity around the county, and excited to hope that it might be a suggestion of the shape of things to come in Herefordshire.

We would also like to thank our sponsors this year, Caplor Energy and Amey Herefordshire, for their generous support.

And if you haven't yet seen a copy of the h.Energy brochure for 2011, please [click here...](#) or go along to your local library and pick up a copy.. And book up to attend some of those inspiring events!

h.Energy
Sustainable Herefordshire Week
15th—23rd October 2011

**A week of free events
and activities for
everyone in Herefordshire**

Caplor Energy **Herefordshire Council** **BUMBLE FOUNDATION**
Helping the community using solar

New Leaf
The Leafy Alternative
www.herefordshirenewleaf.org.uk

To add your events to our website, [click here](#), then click on 'I'm turning a new leaf' then 'add content'