

Monthly Energy Group minutes of meeting Feb 6th

1. Attendance, apologies (M Smith, Liz Turp, Ed Tidy, Adrienne Taylor, Francine Palant)
2. Minutes of last meeting; deferred
3. Matters arising ; deferred
4. Microgenerators report; Liz Turp and Ed Tidy have installed 12 solar pv panels using Northern Solar. Microgenerators are requested to send readings to Graham Arnold on the 1st of each month so detailed comparisons can be made for different setups.
5. Proposed Energy Symposium; John Garrett and Dinah Dossor are meeting regularly with Margaret Smith and Michelle Bastian of Transition Town Liverpool South to discuss the schedule and format; next meeting Friday Feb 11th at Margaret's house. Please contact one of us if you're interested in getting involved at the planning stage in this follow up to the successful Be the Change Symposium of last year. We aim to influence the local authority Energy Descent Action Plan which will be published this year. David Hunt of Eco Environments has expressed an interest in the Symposium and we hope other local providers will support us.
6. Facilitator training Feb 19th. In preparation for the Energy Symposium a free 2 day training in facilitation will be offered on Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th February at the Quaker Meeting House. MS JG and DD have signed up and further places are now available. For more information and to reserve a place, please contact Margaret Smith. There are likely to be room hire costs involved in this training and some attendees, e.g students will struggle to contribute so we ask all MEG members to please give a donation towards costs and those signed up have agreed to pay a higher proportion of costs.
7. EDAP discussion QMH Feb 9th 6.50 for soup, 7.15 for presentations. This presentation and discussion of what Energy Descent Action Plans are and what we should be aiming for locally has now been rescheduled for March 9th. The Feb 9th meeting will now show Chris Martensen's powerful film on economics and the environment with a facilitated discussion following. Same arrangements as usual- this is a free event with donations welcomed.
8. Communication incl. websites, other material; we are gathering much relevant press and other material (mainly kept by JG), and a huge number of website links which no one person has the time or stamina to check out. Thanks to Peter North and Michelle Bastian for keeping us linked in. We discussed ways of managing this information overload and came up with two ideas; a) different MEG members take on one or two ongoing sites each to monitor and report back b) to limit our links to tried and tested sites e.g Green Power Forum, Project DIRT, Good Energy, Centre for Alternative Technology (the list will grow won't it) . JG and DD will raise this discussion on Wednesday 9th.
9. Report on Book Group discussion of Transition Handbook- MS, Michelle Bastian, and DD met at Margaret's for a lengthy and productive discussion on the first TTLS Book Group Meeting. One issue of immediate relevance to MEG is the need to work within a small, village scale community organisation in which we know people, the area and its resources and problems- the whole of Liverpool seems too diverse and large for ongoing community action. Greenbank ward was seen as the right size and location for this group and federation is provided by among others the transition town Liverpool Core Group. Transition Streets as outline in the Handbook looked an attractive option too scaling activities down to even smaller units. TANN (the Avenues Neighbourhood Network) offers street level representatives and is already linked in with us through shared

membership and its website. JG has done work already on a survey of housing stock and heating/insulation factors in this ward and JG and DD have run successful events such as New Heat for Old Bricks with the EST. The list of organisations in this ward includes the churches (faiths for change), the Ba'hai centre, Sefton Park and Greenbank allotment societies, The Windmill, OOmoo café, local traders, TANN and local councillors as well as the many cognate organisations linked in via individual memberships and student organisations. We agreed to reflect on this and consider how to develop identity, communication, focus and action in Greenbank Ward without excluding those from other areas who want to be linked in through MEG meetings and e-mail list.

10. ECO Office update; JG Planning applications are still under consideration.

11. AOB. DD suggested we consider a campaign to raise awareness of the unnecessarily high heating levels in public buildings and shops and stores. Large commercial premises are Energy Rated A to G (like household appliances) and the rating prominently displayed, but this refers to the structure and fittings of the building not usage. Further consideration will be given to this idea.

The meeting closed at 8.30