

Monthly Energy Group minutes of meeting 7.30pm April 10th 2011 (8 Sydenham Avenue, L17)

1. Attendance: Graham Arnold, Laurie Brady, Dinah Dossor, John Garrett, Ed Tidy, Liz Turp, apologies (Margaret Smith, Adrienne Taylor, Francine Palant)
2. Minutes of last meeting (verbal report only - no minutes). Matters arising discussed:
 - a. No progress on list of useful websites
 - b. Albert Dock Pumphouse building overheating – staff had complained of the inability to control the (over)heating. It was suggested that the problems were due to the 1980s heating systems, with no zoning, lack of control valves etc. There was a suggestion we write to the building managers about this.
 - c. No progress on suggested Greenbank ward wide energy project (see February 6th minutes)
3. Reports on events in the last month.
 - a. Low Carbon Liverpool launch took place on 19th February. It was agreed that members of the Energy Group would read the report "*Building the Low Carbon Economy on Merseyside: Future proofing the city for future climate and fuel price uncertainty*" produced mainly by Pete North on behalf of the constituent organisations, the University of Liverpool, Liverpool Vision, Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, and Groundwork Merseyside, before responding.
 - b. Barnsley Wood Burning systems – Dinah and John had attended a daytrip on March 2nd to Barnsley, whose council has adopted a policy of replacing existing oil, gas and coal boilers with biomass in council owned buildings (wood pellets and/or chips derived from council tree thinnings). They saw systems in place for high rise flats, offices and a building maintenance depot.
 - c. Tim Moore (Council cabinet member for the Environment and Climate Change) visited The Avenues Neighbourhood Network (TANN) community meeting on March 21st, which Dinah and John had both attended. Dinah reported positively on Tim's positive attitude and had produced a synopsis for the Transition Town website.
 - d. Laurie reported further on the training in green technologies by the Community College referred to by Tim Moore. The college had set up a workshop for green technologies within their Vauxhall Road facility.
 - e. Planning permission had been granted on March 17th to the Ullet Road Eco-Office proposal, subject to a large number of conditions related to the materials to be used in this Conservation Area eco-refurbishment. Purchase was completed on March 21st.
4. Microgenerators reports: Graham asked microgenerators for their readings, and would produce statistics for the next meeting. He explained how to input the kwp into the SMA Sunny Beam and obtain efficiency readings. The website *degree days* gives a comparison of weather year by year. See <http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/cut-carbon-reduce-costs/calculate/energy-metering-monitoring/pages/degree-days.aspx>
5. Sustainability Education Group: Margaret was leading a discussion on the subject 'Can we live on renewable energy?' at the Friends Meeting House on Wednesday, 13th April, 6.50pm food, 7.15pm meeting.
6. Broxton Street Passivhaus Retrofit. Liz and Ed went to the open day organised by Plus Dane on their recent eco-renovation of 2 Broxton Street, a 3 bedroom terraced house in Wavertree. 400mm of internally applied insulation on external walls, plus triple glazed

windows, LED lighting, air-tightness measures (reducing air change to 2.75m²/hour) and a large Mechanical Ventilation and Heat Recovery (MVHR) system installed in a new south facing conservatory. Grant funding of some £110,000 for the energy saving measures was provided by the Sustainable Energy Academy. It is one of 3 Passivhausen in the UK, out of 20,000 in the world as a whole. The tenants only had to put on the heating three times over the winter. The Plus Dane Housing Manager Martin Gladwin would be approached to see whether further visits could be arranged. Liz and Ed would produce a synopsis of the project (appendix A).

7. Sefton schools. Laurie had met the Sefton Council Energy manager and his team, who were particularly keen to retrofit schools, partly for financial reasons with energy becoming the largest buildings expense, and were currently undertaking a major energy monitoring exercise. He queried the value of the Display Energy Certificate put up in public buildings.
8. Building design. A long discussion took place on building design and whether introducing energy saving measures could lead to unbearable heat, especially on sunny days, as Liz was experiencing at her work in the relatively modern Knowsley Health Centre, with a high use of heat-generating computers and other appliances. Laurie stressed the need to retain 'coolth' in a building by putting in high thermal mass, taking out false ceilings, promoting the stack effect to circulate heat away by using staircases and using marble flooring.
9. Solar campus in Wallasey. In the 60th anniversary year of this ground-breaking Merseyside building design, by Emslie Morgan of the (then) Wallasey Borough Council Architects department, Graham described why the school had suffered overheating and maintenance problems, partly down to the mainly manual routines of opening vents in the south facing solar wall not being followed, partly its use as a special needs school and partly the introduction of (heat-generating) PCs.
10. New Royal hospital development. Laurie reported on work on a replacement CHP system done in conjunction with LJMU, and briefly covered some other LJMU projects, such as the pioneering use of microwaves in creating biofuel.
11. Proposed Energy Symposium; Next meeting planned for 5pm on 19th April at Dinah's house.
12. Next meeting of the Monthly TT Energy Group (this one!) on May 8th at 7.30pm, also at Dinah's house at 8 Sydenham Avenue.
13. The meeting closed at 9.00