

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

1. Attendance: Graham Arnold, Dinah Dossor, John Garrett, Ed Tidy, Liz Turp, (Apologies: Margaret Smith)
2. Minutes of last meeting. Matters arising discussed:
 - a. List of useful websites – work in progress
 - b. Greenbank ward wide energy project (see February 6th minutes) – pending
 - c. Low Carbon Liverpool report “*Building the Low Carbon Economy on Merseyside: Future proofing the city for future climate and fuel price uncertainty*” - discussion deferred to next meeting.
 - d. Broxton Street passivhaus visit, reported by Liz and Ed and posted on TT blog. John was due to see Martin Gladwin, the Plus Dane housing manager on Friday, May 13th, with a view to discuss issues related to MVHR, air-tightness measures, LED lighting and high levels of wall insulation, all of which are planned for the Eco Office project.
 - e. Sustainability Education Group 13th April discussion led by Margaret. Dinah reported that there had been a lively discussion about the answers to the energy question, but it was generally agreed that renewables alone could not be the solution, and that the necessary reduction of energy use would mean much wider changes in social organisation. Dinah would ask Margaret for a synopsis of the discussion.
 - f. Future minutes. It was agreed to rotate minute taking within the group.
2. Microgenerator reports: Graham produced statistics and comparisons for the 4 PV installations within the group. The recent sunny spell had produced ‘best days’ of 24kwp (Graham), 16kwp (Dinah) and 15kwp (John). There were some unexpected differences in performance between systems that couldn’t be explained by kwp rating. Issues of shading by trees and chimneys were discussed.
3. The recent and projected steep increases in energy costs were discussed. A growing problem was the rise of fuel thefts, with thieves stealing (or cloning) other people’s number plates and then driving away without paying at service stations. Dinah has a supply of number plate securing bolts supplied by the police which were incapable of being unfastened. John would post details on the TANN website.
4. Other Transition Town and related news:
 - a. George Monbiot, the outspoken Guardian columnist and environment pundit, who queried much orthodox green thinking over nuclear power and renewable energy generation, would be speaking and inviting discussion at the Liverpool John Moores Arts and Design Academy in Duckinfield Street (next to the Metropolitan Cathedral) on Tuesday 10th May at 7.30pm.
 - b. Ed Gommon had organised a day’s workshop entitled *Empty Homes + Retrofit = Homes, Training, Jobs* starting at 12.30pm on 19th May, at The Megacentre, 241 Vauxhall Road. Speakers include Pete North, David Ireland (*Empty Homes Agency*), Charlie Baker (*Urbed*), Mark O’Reilly (*The Apollo Group*), Jon Morris (*Localise*), Matthew Rhodes (*Encraft*) and Aileen McDonnell (*B4Box*). A few tickets were still available via the Chamber of Commerce and Low Carbon Liverpool websites.
 - c. Next TT Core Group meeting on the evening of 19th May.
 - d. The next TT Book Club meeting on 6th June would be deferred.

- e. The National Transition Town conference would take place in Liverpool on July 8-11th. Volunteers were required to put up delegates.
 - f. Next Sustainability Education Group meeting was on 13th July at the Friends Meeting house. Other local groups (Southport, West Kirkby etc) would be making presentations.
 - g. Transition Towns Southport are planning to hold a Green Fair in Waterloo, and have invited the Liverpool group to join them. To be discussed at the next Core group.
 - h. Dinah had started to show people round her Victorian house to demonstrate the energy saving measures she'd brought in.
5. Next meeting of the Energy Group on June 5th at 7.30pm, at Dinah's house at 8 Sydenham Avenue.
 6. The meeting closed at 9.00