

**Report from South Gloucestershire Environment Forum
Meeting
11th June 2008**

**Greening your community building – 100%
funding for renewable energy projects**

Welcome and Introductions

Cllr Sue Hope welcomed over 80 people to the meeting and introduced the theme of the evening - community energy projects and the potential funding for the installation of renewable energy technologies.

Funding for community renewable energy projects

Pete West from Severn Wye Energy Agency (SWEA) introduced the new Community Sustainable Energy Programme (CSEP) and the Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP) – both of which offer funding for community renewable energy projects.

A community organisation can apply for both types of grant which provides successful applicants with 100% funding for a community renewable energy project.

Community Sustainable Energy Programme (CSEP)

Capital grants

CSEP is a national programme, funded by the Big Lottery, which will provide £8 million to community based organisations for the installation of renewable energy technologies such as solar panels and wind turbines and energy efficiency measures such as loft and cavity wall installation (providing these measures are in addition to the installation of a renewable technology).

Community organisations are defined as those that are not-for-profit and include community groups, village halls, charities, parish councils, schools and church/faith organisations.

Organisations can apply for up to £50,000 or 50% of the project cost (whichever is lower) for installing renewable technologies and energy efficiency measures.

To be eligible for a grant, you must use one of the certified renewable energy installers as listed on the CSEP website (www.communitysustainable.org.uk). All of the companies present at the forum meeting are certified installers.

Capital grants for the installation of renewable technologies are awarded on a competitive basis at quarterly selection panel meetings.

Capital Grant Funding Rounds

| Funding Round | Application deadline | Selection panel meeting |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Friday 16 May 2008 | w/c 23 June 2008 |
| 2 | Friday 15 August 2008 | w/c 22 September 2008 |
| 3 | Friday 7 November 2008 | w/c 8 December 2008 |
| 4 | Friday 30 January 2009 | w/c 9 March 2009 |
| 5 | <i>Friday 1 May 2009</i> | <i>w/c 8 June 2009</i> |
| 6 | <i>Friday 7 August 2009</i> | <i>w/c 14 September 2009</i> |
| 7 | <i>Friday 30 October 2009</i> | <i>w/c 7 December 2009</i> |
| 8 | <i>Friday 29 January 2010</i> | <i>w/c 1 March 2010</i> |
| 9 | <i>Friday 7 May 2010</i> | <i>w/c 7 June 2010</i> |
| 10 | <i>Friday 30 July 2010</i> | <i>w/c 6 September 2010</i> |
| 11 | <i>Friday 29 October 2010</i> | <i>w/c 29 November 2010</i> |

N.B. The first four application deadlines have been set; the dates shown in italics are to be confirmed at a later date.

Project development grants

CSEP will also provide £1 million for project development grants to help community organisations establish whether a renewable energy project is suitable and will work for their building.

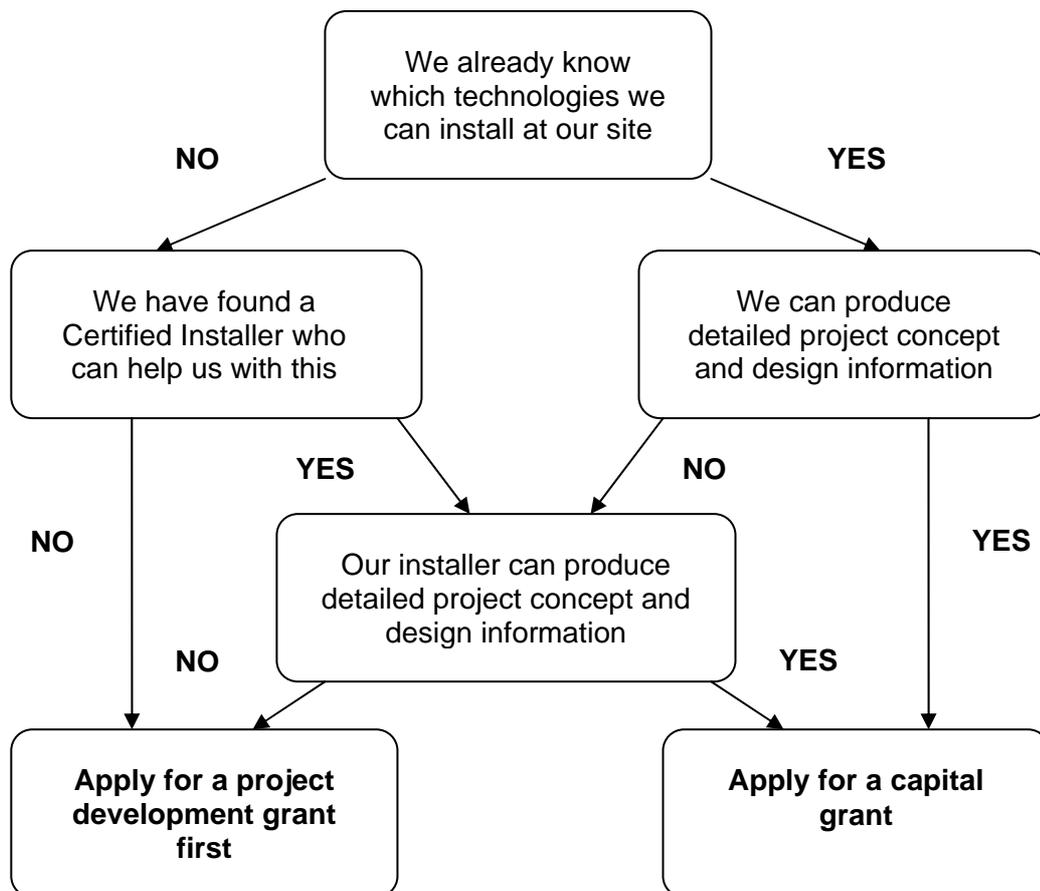
If you are already clear which renewable energy technology is most suitable for your building we recommend that you contact some renewable energy installers for a quote and apply for a capital grant. However if you are not sure which technology is most suitable you may like to apply for a project development grant to help you to decide what is most suitable.

A project development grant can fund a study to establish the technical and financial viability of a renewable energy project and also look into issues such as planning permission.

Studies funded by a project development grant must be carried out by one of the registered consultant on the CSEP website (www.communitysustainable.org.uk). Both Severn Wye Energy Agency (SWEA) and the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) are approved to carry out these studies. To view a list of all commissioned consultants, go to http://www.communitysustainable.org.uk/filelibrary/Register_of_Consultants_v4.xls

Funds are available to cover up to £5,000 or 75% of the study cost, whichever is lower. Project development grants will be awarded on a first-come first-serve basis until all funds are spent.

The following flowchart aims to help you to decide whether to apply for a project development grant.



For more detailed information on both the capital grants and project development grants go to www.communitysustainable.org.uk . An application form for both grants and guidance on how to apply is also available on this website.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme – Phase 2

In addition to the Big Lottery grants, community organisations can also apply for further funding under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP) Phase 2. The LCBP is a national programme which can provide £50,000 or 50% of the project costs (whichever is lower) to install renewable technologies in a community building, school, charitable bodies or faith organisation.

For further details about this grant and an application form with guidance for making an application, go to www.lowcarbonbuildingsphase2.org.uk

Community Action for Energy (CAfE)

Louise Rutterford, project worker for Community Action for Energy (CAfE) at the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) explained what advice and support is available to community groups and schools to assist them with their energy projects.

CAfE provides free advice, education, training, support and resources to community groups to help them develop their own energy projects, including installing renewable energy in their buildings.

For those groups that are in the initial stages of considering renewable energy for their building and who need further technical and practical advice then the CAfE advisors can provide this support via the telephone and by email. The advisors will discuss which options are available and ways to proceed with the project.

Community groups who would like to proceed with a feasibility study to assess the suitability of renewable technology for their building can also get support and advice from the CAfE team. Advisors can help groups to write a successful application for a project development grant.

The CAfE website contains useful information for community groups, including case studies of other community energy projects. The website also hosts a funding database which provides a summary of funding sources including a brief description, eligibility criteria, eligible expenditure, grant limits, timeframes and further contact details. It also contains a useful funding information sheet with a step-by-step guide to successfully applying for funding.

Go to www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/cafe for further information or contact Louise Rutterford on 0117 934 1421 or louise.rutterford@cse.org.uk for advice.

Presentations from local renewable energy installers

Six local renewable energy installers gave short presentations on the various technologies they install and showcased some of the successful community projects they have worked on. All six installers are accredited under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP) to carry out renewable energy installations in community buildings.

This was followed by a renewable energy market place where attendees could discuss their plans and any questions they had with renewable energy installers,

Below is a list of the installers with their contacts details.

| Company name | Website | Contact Person | Telephone | Renewable technologies | Framework supplier partner(s) |
|-----------------------|--|---------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Aeolus Power Ltd | www.aeoluspower.co.uk | Christine Griffiths | 01454 633323 | Wind turbines | British Gas and Low Carbon Partnership |
| Apollo Renewables Ltd | www.apollorenewables.co.uk | Paul Reed | 01672 511037 | Photovoltaic (PV) wind turbines | The Low Carbon Partnership |

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|-----------------|------------------------------|---|--|
| Dulas Ltd | www.dulasltd.co.uk | Ian Draisey | 01654 705000 | Solar PV Solar water heating Wind | The Low Carbon Partnership (Framework Supplier member) |
| Ecovision Systems | www.ecovisionsystems.co.uk | Alistair Murray | 01453 861354 | Ground source heat pumps Solar water heating | Dimplex UK Ltd |
| Imagination Solar | www.imaginationsolar.com | Jon Walker | 0117 9426668 | Solar water heating | |
| Solarsense UK Ltd | www.solarsense-uk.com | Kerry Burns | 01275 394139 | Solar PV | Solarcentury |
| Solar Microgeneration Ltd (SML) | www.solarmicrogeneration.co.uk | Martin Allman | 01295 201201 07900 577731 | Solar water heating Solar PV | Solar Microcgeneration Ltd (SML) |

Next Steps

The following summarises what your next steps should be if you are interested in taking forward a community energy project. The first step for all groups should be to get the buy in from your organisations management committee.

How to move forward;

- If you are interested in a sustainable energy project but unsure of where to start
 - Contact CAfE (www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/cafe or 0117 9341421)
- If you have agreed you want to develop a renewable energy project but are unsure which technology is most suitable –
 - Draft an application for a Project Development Grant (café advisors can provide advice)
 - Get quote(s) from registered consultants (http://www.communitysustainable.org.uk/filelibrary/Register_of_Consultants_v4.xls)
 - Apply for a Project Development Grant (apply online or download the application form from <http://www.communitysustainable.org.uk/csep/>)
- If you know which technology you want to install
 - Get quotes from certified installers (see earlier table or go to <http://www.greenbooklive.com/search/search.jsp?partid=10013> and http://www.lowcarbonbuildingsphase2.org.uk/filelibrary/LCBP2_Framework_Suppliers_v2.0.pdf) checking that they can access both the CSEP and LCBP grant programmes.
 - Apply for a Capital Grant (on line or download application at <http://www.communitysustainable.org.uk/csep/>)



Protecting and enhancing the environment for future generations

We would like to keep a record of progress on community energy projects. If you are considering renewable energy for your building please contact South Gloucestershire Council's Sustainability Team to advise them of the project and what stage you are at in the process.

Contact the Sustainability Team: sustainability@southglos.gov.uk / 01454 863820.

Attendees

Pete Adamson, Mangotfield School
Stuart Anderson, Marshfield School
Sam Astill, Kingswood Foundation
Cllr Steve Aston, Cromhall Parish Council
Ian Baker, Thornbury Community Composting
Cllr David Bell, Filton Ward
Mike Blessing, Almondsbury Sports & Social Club
Cllr Tim Bowles, Winterbourne Parish Council
Tom Clothier, Zion United Church
Paul Cook, Filton Community Association
Denise Cooke, Marshfield School
Alderman Colin Cradock, Methodist Church
Kim Davenport-Reid, Woodwise Project
Sharon Dewfall, Barley Close Primary School
Richard Dunning, Pucklechurch Environment Group
Cllr Benj Emerson, Thornbury Town Council
Anne Fisher, Doynton Parish Council & Village Hall
Mark Freeman, St Michaels Primary School
Andrew Furlong, Cadbury Heath Social Memorial Club
Cllr Howard Gawler, Rangeworthy Village Hall
Mike Goodman, Wimterbourne Down Village Church Hall
Andy Grant, Castle School Thornbury
Jane Girling, Doynton Village Hall
Lucy Hamid, Patchway Town Council
Andrew Harvey, Woodwise Project
G.M Higgins, Downend Folk House Association
Cllr Dave Hockey, Frampton Cotterell Ward
Cllr Pat Hockey, Frampton Cotterell Ward
Sam Harding, Almondsbury Sports & Social Club
Richard Hellier, United Oldland Methodist Church
Peter Holmes, St Anne's Church Hall
Cllr Sue Hope, Chair of Environment Forum
Sarah Hyde, Holy Family School
Cllr Trevor Jones, Stoke Gifford Ward
Maureen Lambert, Friends of Cock Rd Ridge
Cllr Valerie Lee, Siston Ward
Cllr David Lee, Westerleigh Parish Council
Monica Lumsden, South Glos Council
Ruth Mallett, United Oldland Methodist Church
Chris Pring, Longwell Green Primary
Russ Smith, St Chad's Church
Christine Smith, Mangotfield School
Nina Stevenson, Downend School
Janet Turner, Cadbury Heath Social Memorial
Colin Walsh, St James's CoE Church
Sharon Williams, Cadbury Heath Primary School
John Wilson, Thornbury Community Composting
Kate Wiltshire, Wessex Homes Improvement Loans
Cllr Les Whittock, Pucklechurch P.C
Ann Wilkins, Alveston Jubilee Hall
Tina Symons, Pucklechurch Community Association
William Flook, Access-Ability
John Wells, Tormartin Parish Council
Cllr Stan Sims,
Jackie Sims
Cllr Peter Tyzack, Piling & Severn Beach Ward
Miriam Tate, Brimsham Green School
David Maggs, CCISR
Louise Rutterford, Centre for Sustainable Energy
Pete West, Severn Wye Energy Agency
Emma Baldwin, South Glos Council
Jane Thompson, South Glos Council
Jessica Whiting, South Glos Council
Juliet McKay, Patchway Community College
Mike Openshaw, Friends of Cock Rd Ridge
Geoff Payne, Christchurch Downend
Kay Pettifer, Marshfield School
Cllr Elaine Martin, Patchway Town Council