

KREN Update - Spring 2005

KREN Headlines

Welcome to the first quarterly issue of the Kent Renewable Energy Network (KREN) update. The open network, which was created in 2004 through consultation with public bodies and stakeholders, agreed to focus on increasing renewable energy generation in Kent and developed an action plan that has created the momentum for a number of achievements.

Since forming, organisations, groups and individuals have been supported in the delivery of renewable energy installations and projects have been developed to aid delivery of the action plan. Current work varies from assessing multiple technologies for entire communities to small installations for individual home owners.

New Renewable Energy Projects for Kent

- 1) Training is being provided to a number of local authority planning departments throughout spring 2005 to accompany the publication of Planning Policy Statement 22 (PPS22) on renewable energy and the recommended alterations to Regional Planning Guidance 9 (RPG9). The Kent Renewables project team (the delivery arm of KREN), supported by Kent County Council, is providing this training.
- 2) A two year Kent Renewables programme, which started in January 2005, will evaluate new and existing social housing stock for its potential for sustainable energy installations and will support identified projects to fruition.
- 3) A flagship scheme will support a number of charitable organisations install renewable energy technology by accessing Clearskies and Utility Green Trust funds.
- 4) The development of the renewable energy market and the encouragement of sustainable design in developments is being supported by a new EU funded Interreg project.

Key projects since the network's inception

- The South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) is exploring a range of renewable energy technologies for a new residential and commercial development between Queenborough & Rushenden on the Isle of Sheppey. The development agency is also looking to use wood heating for a new commercial development at Betteshanger.
- Thanet District Council has successfully installed 6 solar water heating installations on their social housing stock.



Solar water heating installation, Thanet District Council





Environment Award
for Kent Business

- Kent County Council is investigating the feasibility of using wood power to heat a range of new and existing properties in the Ashford area. The council is also supporting a number of projects to install renewable energy on its own properties.

- Creative Environmental Networks (CEN) is supporting innovative projects involving a range of technologies. Recent examples include installing a ground source heat pump to provide heating for Petham's new village community centre and a solar water heating system for a new sports centre in Appledore.

- Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council is part funding the installation of solar power on private dwellings in the borough.

Congratulations

Well done to Medway Housing Society (MHS), which has won the Kent Business Award. This was partly due to the organisation's innovative use of sustainable energy technology.

Future Events

The South East England Renewable Energy Conference will take place in Kent in November 2005. The network is keen to encourage broad participation at the event.

Would you like to join KREN?

The group is open to anyone committed to the renewable energy agenda in Kent. We are keen to encourage the participation of national companies, local developers, architects, contractors, public bodies and NGOs.

Members can benefit from:

- Email bulletins on KREN activities
- An opportunity to have your say on the development of policy
- Reduced conference fees

**Call the Kent Renewables team today on 0845 602 1834!
If you would like to know more about joining KREN,
call 01233 646 782.**



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