

News Autumn 2006



Creative Environmental Networks

Issue 6



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Editorial

The photograph on this edition's front page neatly sums up what we at CEN are striving to do: to make a difference so that future generations can enjoy the environment as all of us do now and have done in the past.

The way we go about this not inconsiderable task is to develop, set-up, run and promote projects that deliver results. Partnership development is of course key to success, and we continue to work with both existing and new partners to facilitate action on the ground. New partners featured in this edition include the Norwich and Peterborough Building Society, the London Climate Change Agency and Mondial Assistance.

Recognition of effort and accomplishments is important to motivate and encourage continued success and the 2006 Ashden Awards for Sustainable Energy does just that. One of the winners this year was Eastchurch School on the Isle of Sheppey who, with our help, have installed solar technology onto their buildings. The school is now using this to support and add value to their daily curriculum, and are even working with us to install a wind turbine on site!

We are pleased to be reporting on the huge success of our EnergySmart Boiler Scheme in this issue. Open to installers across the UK, we have sold over 40,000 high efficiency boilers since the scheme began. Thanks to our partnerships with Plumbing Trade Supplies and various manufacturers, we are now selling more than ever each month.

Also in this issue is news of one of London's first pellet boilers which has been installed in St Peter's Church in Lewisham. We supported St Peter's from start to finish and were able to lever in funding from EDF Energy and Clearskies to help with the cost of the work.

All in all, the last few months have been an exciting time for us and, as ever, much of our work would not have been possible without our partners' support so thanks to all of you.



Dominic Gooding, Chief Executive

KENT SCHOOL IS UK WINNER OF WORLD'S LEADING GREEN ENERGY AWARD

CEN recently attended the 2006 Ashden Awards for Sustainable Energy to witness the acceptance of an award by Eastchurch Primary School. The school won the award for their innovative use of solar photovoltaics- an installation which was supported and facilitated by CEN's renewable energy team.

The Ashden Awards reward outstanding and innovative projects which tackle climate change and improve quality of life by providing renewable energy and energy efficiency at a local level.

Eastchurch Primary School on the Isle of Sheppey met this challenge by having a photovoltaic solar panel installed through CEN's installer network with



Eastchurch primary school's E-Team- ready to monitor the energy use of their new solar PV panel

the help of grant funding secured by our team. The school integrated the technology into their daily curriculum, forming the E-Team to monitor energy use at the school and daily generation from the panel. The school have developed a greater understanding of the value of energy and continually look at ways to be more energy efficient.

We have now produced a case study to encourage

other schools to make use of the grant funding opportunities currently available.

The school is continuing to work with us to look at ways of using the £10,000 cash reward to further the cause for more sustainable energy technology. Current options include a wind turbine, subject to a community consultation.

For more information on installing renewable energy measures on community buildings, call Neil Turner on: 020 8683 6625.

40,000 BOILERS SOLD THROUGH THE ENERGYSMART SCHEME



Initially set up to service both our local authority private sector housing grant schemes and our domestic installation schemes, this project has recently emerged as one of the largest and most successful discounted high efficiency boiler schemes in the UK. Since its inception eight years ago, the EnergySmart boiler scheme has seen well over 40,000 energy efficient boilers purchased, at specially negotiated prices, by over 3,000 installers nationally. 3,000 of these boilers were bought this October alone.

One of the key factors in the scheme's success has been its ability to move with the times and to hold its own in an ever changing market. With the introduction of the new 'Part L' Building Regulations in April 2004 and the subsequent effect on the availability of Energy Efficiency Commitment (EEC) Funding, we began to negotiate discounts with manufacturers and merchants purely based on the buying power of our organisation's core installations programmes, rather than remaining reliant on EEC funding. This has allowed us to operate a 'what you see is what you pay' pricing structure, which is preferable for many installers, as it has eradicated the extra paperwork needed in order to claim 'cash back' once an installation has taken place.

Another factor in the success of the EnergySmart Boiler Scheme has been the introduction of our online

'call-off' service, which has significantly reduced the scheme's administrative procedures for both installer and CEN alike. Installers can also use the website to register for the scheme, in addition to obtaining the latest product and pricing information.

Following an extensive tender process last summer we have been developing relationships with the new sole merchant - Plumbing Trade Supplies, as well as four additional boiler manufacturers who are new to the scheme. As well as energy efficient boilers we are now also able to offer other products, ranging from energy efficient system and condensate pumps to heating controls, water treatment products and even discounted solar water heating systems.

To find out more about the EnergySmart boiler scheme please visit our website at: www.energy-smart.org.uk or contact Ned Gaine on 020 8683 6619 or ned@cen.org.uk.

IS THIS THE GREENEST CHURCH IN BRITAIN?

One of London's first pellet boilers has been installed in a large Victorian church as part of a major refurbishment.



A happy day for Rev Corinne Tournay and all at St. Peter's church following the installation of their biomass boiler

St Peter's Church in Lewisham is keen to make sure the Church of England's Environmental Policy is action and not just words.

The pellet boiler isn't the building's only source of renewable energy either – an array of electricity producing solar panels has now been added to the lofty south-facing roof to make this a truly 'green' building.

Aware of the enormous environmental benefits of biomass, Rev Corinne Tournay, vicar at St Peter's, pushed hard to ensure the refurbishment included a wood fuelled heating system, and contacted us to help facilitate the installation. The 80kW wood pellet boiler delivers heat to the church through an under floor heating system and is expected to save nearly 90 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions annually. We assisted in securing money from EDF Energy and Clear Skies, which helped to fund the installation.

The church was previously heated by electricity which was expensive and ineffective. Running on pellets is set to cut the fuel bills in half and ensure greater long-term stability.

For many years, biomass heating has grown exponentially in rural areas where space is less critical. What St Peter's have done so admirably is shown that biomass can work in a tight, urban environment - and work well.

For more information about biomass heating call Tom Vosper on 020 8683 6661.

PETERBOROUGH SCHOOL GOES SOLAR

In April, switched-on children at Norwood Community Primary in Peterborough unveiled their new solar photovoltaics (PV) system. We worked with the school to obtain grant funding from Scottish Power's Green Trust Fund and the Government's Photovoltaics Major Demonstration Programme, along with a donation from the local Norwich and Peterborough Building Society, for the 1kWp installation. It will generate approximately 750 kWh of electricity per year, resulting in a 325kg reduction in carbon dioxide emissions over a year. The project as a whole will result

in a much larger reduction in emissions through the implementation of energy efficiency measures.



Children pass their energy quiz and are awarded educational solar toys in addition to their new solar panel

Head Teacher Viv Evans said "The seven to 11-year-olds did a project recently which required them to think about how their lifestyles shape their carbon footprint. The children wanted to save energy as well as the environment and this project ties in well with our new solar array. Pupils can now watch various amounts of energy being produced, depending on the sunlight, and they are fascinated at to the idea of harnessing the sun's power."

The school has an environmental group, formed of pupils, staff and parents, which sets the school's environmental policy. This solar PV installation is one of many projects it has undertaken including tree planting and transport projects.

To find out more about solar PV installations, please contact Joseph Williams on 020 8683 6805

NEW PROJECT LAUNCH SEES SOARING INTEREST IN RENEWABLE ENERGY

The heat of this summer created the perfect environment for the launch of the 'Kent Renewable Energy Villages' project, an innovation replication project funded by the Energy Saving Trust.

The project is designed to promote home energy saving and renewable energy solutions to residents in

areas where homes are most likely to be off the main gas network.

Householders from the project's five target areas came to the launch events held in Frinsted village in Maidstone, Chilham village in Ashford, and Bewl water near Tunbridge Wells. More than 1000 residents from these areas enquired about the scheme within the first two months of promotional activity.



Keen to save energy, local villagers pledge their support at the Maidstone launch event

At present, central heating oil prices are rising even faster than gas prices, meaning that a typical house will pay as much as £100-£200 more for heating if it is oil heated rather than gas heated. Homes in the villages of Kent are ideal for modern renewable technologies. Solar panels, wind turbines, high-efficiency wood-fuelled boilers, and ground source heat pumps can all provide energy at better value when displacing heating fuels that are more expensive than gas. They also have the advantage of contributing far less to climate change than conventional alternatives.

Any residents who would like to be involved in the project, but could not make it to the project's launch locations, will still have the opportunity this autumn to attend evening seminars where experts will be on hand to answer questions about renewable energy technologies, or to attend an installation open day- a chance to see renewable energy technology in action at local properties that have already had an installation.

The first event of the season has already taken place: the 'How Green is Our Valley' event in Elham invited householders to attend an informal discussion about environmental issues in the local pub. Over 40 people flocked to the venue to join the debate and to hear from one of the CEN team who was there to give advice and information. The event was so well received that we have been invited back to do a follow up event with the attendees later this year.

To be updated on recent news, including dates and locations of the open days and evening presentations, please visit the website at: <http://www.kentenergycentre.org.uk/villages> where more information can be found about the Kent Renewable Energy Villages project. Householders can join the mailing list for updates, and see how the project is progressing in their local area.

Residents without access to the internet can telephone the Kent Energy Centre on 0800 358 6669 and:

- Receive information about insulation measures and renewable energy technology for the home
- Join the mailing list – to be kept informed of upcoming events and activities in the local area

For more information about the project please contact David Shewan on 020 8683 6649 or david@cen.org.uk

ELECTED MEMBERS SEE THE LIGHT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY

Kent County Council (KCC) Climate Change Select Committee, formed of KCC elected members, invited CEN to assist them in a minibus tour of renewable energy technology installations in Kent.

Kent has among the best potential for wood-fuel heating of any county, some of the greatest wind speeds of any county in the South East, untapped economic hydro potential, and is one of the sunniest counties in Britain. This potential is being realised through the hard work of the Kent Renewable Energy Network, a partnership of organisations and public bodies in the South East.

The KCC Councillors were taken to see a ground source heat pump at the newly built Petham Village Hall, a project that we supported. Those on the tour were greatly impressed by the superb thermal comfort experienced in the building and the low visual impact of the technology.



The group being shown insulated district heating network piping that will be used for transporting hot water from the biomass boiler to buildings, before it is installed underground.

The next stop was a demonstration of a domestic 6kW wind turbine and photovoltaic array near the village of Stelling Minnis and this was followed by a lunchtime visit to Wildwood Animal Park. Here, the group were able to see fully installed photovoltaic arrays, a small wind turbine, a solar thermal system and two wood-fuel stoves in operation.

The Councillors were also able to see an installer in action, putting up an off-grid wind turbine and photovoltaic panel to run a water pumping system for an aviary.

Finally, it was off to Swale to see a new woodchip-fired biomass boiler and heating network. It is CEN's hope that the Councillors will now use their findings, to inform recommendations, to increase support for renewable energy.

If you would like more information on incorporating renewable energy technologies into Kent, please contact Peter Robinson on 0208 683 6681 or peter@cen.org.uk.

OUR AUTUMN PROGRAMME OF TRAINING AND SEMINARS

Building on the success of its spring and summer programme of events, we have developed an Autumn programme which will be of interest to local authorities, social housing providers, developers and architects.

Complying with the Merton Rule

So far 80 councils have developed target-led renewables policies in line with the 'Merton Rule' (requiring new developments to incorporate 10% onsite renewables was an approach pioneered by the London Borough of Merton). This is one area in which local councils can truly be said to be progressing the national agenda. CEN has worked extensively to assist the innovators to develop and implement these policies whilst supporting the developers needing to comply. This popular training session will familiarise participants with the relevant technologies and enable them to assess site suitability and calculate carbon offset.

Event: Meeting Renewable Energy Policies (seminar and workshop)

Dates: 15th November

Time: 9:15-12:45

Venue: Construction Resources, London,

Cost: £145

Retrofitting Existing Stock

As the 40% House report emphasised, two-thirds of dwellings expected to be standing in 2050 have already been built. This means that the housing stock that you may currently be managing will be subject to increasing scrutiny as the Government gears up to meet its target of reducing carbon emissions by 60% by 2050. This event will look at how to integrate renewables into stock, including a workshop assessing a number of typical social housing building types.

Event: Integrating Renewable Energy into Buildings (seminar and workshop)

Dates: 30th November 2006

Time: 9:15am - 1.30pm

Venue: Construction Resources, London

Cost: £100 per delegate (this event has been subsidised by the Energy Saving Trust)



Site visit to the Centrale shopping centre during the 'Where the Wind Blows' seminar held in September

In addition to these forthcoming planned events, we can organise in-house training sessions tailored to your needs. Examples of recently completed training sessions include:

Housing Management, Customer Services and Maintenance

This provides an introduction to climate change before looking at the policy context driving reduced energy use and the efficient use of heating and electricity. The session then looks at the socio-economics of fuel poverty and how fuel poor, vulnerable and minority groups can be identified and targeted successfully. Finally, options for tackling fuel poverty, including the implementation of referral and information systems, are presented.

Renewable Energy and Planning Policy

This session looks specifically at how renewable energy technology can be integrated into new developments. The session is split into 3 parts: The first provides a summary of national and local planning policy including building regulations, the EU Directive on the energy performance of buildings and 10% renewable requirements; The second covers energy efficiency and key renewable energy technologies (solar thermal, solar PV, biomass, wind, ground source heating and cooling, combined heat and power); The final part of the training is delivered in a workshop format which looks at how policy requirements can be met cost effectively. This provides practical experience in identifying suitable technologies, calculating indicative

sizes, carbon savings and estimating costs.

Our training sessions are designed to be flexible and can be delivered in varying configurations to suit your requirements (e.g. delivered as part of a monthly meeting or as part of a wider event).

If you would like to discuss this training or investigate new options, please do not hesitate to contact Catherine McNab on 0208 683 6653 (Catherine@cen.org.uk).

FIRST STEPS - CEN'S TRAVEL PLANNING SERVICE

Mondial Assistance, Croydon's ENVIBE Business Forum, and CEN's own employees have now all been involved in the pilot of CEN's new Transport Service.

The service, funded by the European Commission and Transport for London, is based on a sophisticated database which produces personalised Travel Information Packs (TRIPS) tailored according to individual's answers to a set of questions.

The packs aim to encourage employees out of their cars by informing them of alternative options, with details such as the local bus timetable and the nearest bus stop or the best bike route.



CEN promoting the ASTUTE project at the ENVIBE Business Forum for sustainable transport, Croydon

The service is designed for businesses to help them implement workplace travel plans and can be tailored to include specific information from company

incentives for efficient transport choices to the positioning of the company bike racks.

Employees from Mondial Assistance, an insurance firm based in Croydon, all received TRIPS during the last quarter. During September, the Transport Team took part in an ENVIBE Business Forum celebrating sustainable transport. The participants to the event arrived by TRAM, heard presentations from a number of other partners and all completed their own TRIP questionnaires.

The Team are now refining the database following the pilot and are incorporating additional information from Seltrans (the South-East London Transport Strategy) ready for the next stage in the project: a survey of 3000 people based in 126 businesses in Bromley on behalf of the Glades Shopping Centre.

Please contact Taina Peltonen on 0208 683 6804, taina@cen.org.uk for more information on the transport project.

A NEW APPROACH TO TACKLING FUEL POVERTY

We have recently launched a new Home Visiting Project in London as part of a year-long programme tackling fuel poverty. The project has been designed to holistically address fuel poverty, taking into account issues such as financial exclusion alongside traditional energy efficiency measures.

Specific zones within London are being selected based on the nature of the housing and the

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socio-demographics of the residents. Once a zone has been identified, local residents will receive a letter from the partner local authority informing them of the initiative. This letter is then followed up by a visit by one of our two Home Visitors, new members of the CEN team.

During the home visits, our Home Visitors provide general energy advice and offer a package of assistance, which includes specific energy efficiency measures as well as complementary assistance, such as benefit entitlement checks, security measures and fire safety equipment.

All of these are offered free of charge to residents fulfilling the local grant eligibility criteria and all advice and services are impartial. Other services may be offered as appropriate for the target group and any available funding for installations from Warmfront and utility companies is levered in.

The Home Visitors have already been out in Wandsworth for three weeks in the sun, wind and rain during which time they completed over 100 home visits and conducted numerous advice sessions on doorsteps. As a result of these visits, we have referred individuals to 59 energy grant schemes and have also helped 38 apply for services including the Priority Service Register and benefit health checks.

For more information on the scheme, please contact Roland Taylor on 020 8683 6608 or roland@cen.org.uk

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