

GETTING TOGETHER

As we went to press, DA 21 members were fresh back from the Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) Annual Members' meeting. We learned some seriously scary things about climate change (see below).

Please note change of date of DA21's AGM. It will now be in the New Year, postponed from 14 October. Sorry for any inconvenience.

Our next few events are:

Sat Nov 4th – Weymouth & Portland

Visit to DA21 member's workshop (a.m.) and the National Sailing Academy (p.m.)

Sat Nov 11th – Weymouth

Weymouth CCSL event

Sat Nov 25th – Taunton

CCSL 1st annual conference (change of date from previous newsletter)

Sun Dec 3rd – Sixpenny Handley

Visit to ancient woodland

[CCSL = Community Choices for Sustainable Living, our community project with Somerset and Devon, funded by DEFRA's Environmental Action Fund.]

And you may be interested in

Fri and Sat 27 & 28 October – Kingston Maurward College nr. Dorchester – wood fuel event

Information and demonstrations on how you can heat your home or workplace with wood fuel. Organiser David Blake of Cranborne Chase AONB says "At this event you will be able to get free, unbiased advice from experts, see wood fuel in action and be guided on to other contacts for funding and further advice." Start: 10.00 am for 10.30. Speakers in the morning, then a reasonably priced lunch of local produce between 12 and 2 and a chance to view the demos and speak to the demonstrators. More detailed questions and answers after lunch and the day will end at about 3.30 pm. No charge but please email David if you plan to come: davidblake@cranbornechase.org.uk

Events in more detail

Sat November 4th, DIY workshop at 1 Stanier Road, Preston, Weymouth with Brenda and John Tomblin, on small wind turbines, **from 11 am to 12.30 pm**. Says John "We have a small (Rutland 503) wind turbine and solar PV panel fixed on our log

cabin in the garden. This hybrid system charges a 12 V battery, which runs lights for the log cabin. We plan also to look at examples of larger DIY wind turbines, such as the Hugh Piggot 2.1m rotor, 300W machine I part built in Herts."

Lunch at 1 pm at The National Sailing Academy, Osprey Quay, Portland (www.wpnsa.org.uk). **At 2 pm** John Tweed, Director, will brief us about the Sailing Academy, followed by a tour focussing on the renewable energy installations. (There is a large grid-linked solar PV roof, and the two recently installed Swift grid-linked wind turbines.) We hope to see also some of their marine conservation measures around the site.

Sat November 11th, the Weymouth CCSL group are running a "Save Energy, Save Waste" event at Littlemoor Church and Church Hall, Weymouth, **from 10 am to 4 pm**. They hope as many members as possible will be able to come. More details from Malcolm Beeson on beeson@berkeley99.freeseve.co.uk

Sat November 25th at the Genesis Centre, Taunton, Somerset, will be the first annual conference for all members of our CCSL Action Groups. This will be a joint conference with our partners in Devon and Somerset, so come along to meet like minded people from our neighbouring counties and share ideas in the field of sustainable living.

Sun December 3rd we visit Garston Wood from 11 am to 1 pm to see the practice of coppicing of this ancient woodland near Sixpenny Handley. This woodland is managed by the RSPB and we will see one of their regular working parties in action.

Please pop these dates in your diaries and don't forget that most of them need booking with the office. Contacts as above or john@dorsetagenda21.org.uk, 01305 213721.

DA21 OUTREACH WORK

We have taken our stall, with our leaflets, display boards, and a practical display mostly focussed on energy, both renewables and energy efficiency, to the following shows or events:

Mon 5 June Purbeck Environment Day at Wareham.
Sat 8 July Gillingham Festival
Sat 29 July Weymouth Green Fair at Nothe Gardens, Weymouth

Wed 16 August Gillingham and Shaftesbury Show at the showground near Shaftesbury.

Thurs 24 August Melplash Show at the Bridport showground.

Sat 26 Aug Stock Gaylard Oak Fair at Kings Stag near Sturminster Newton.

Sat and Sun September 16th and 17th Stapehill Abbey Food Festival, near Wimborne

There has been a tremendous amount of interest from the public, with large numbers of written requests for more information in our show contacts book. At Melplash, we had over 70 requests for information to respond to and people were queuing up to talk to us, even with four volunteers staffing the stall.

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW!

The news from CAT – a personal view on climate change, by Sally Cooke

The CAT members' conference is always a chance to be inspired by great work that people are doing all over the country. But I was again shaken by just how serious the climate change crisis is. The big issues for all of us are surely, what can we, individually and collectively, do to slow down climate change to a bearable level, i.e. what is possible? And what gives us the best chance of success ... where should we start?

A presentation by Derek Smith, a one-man campaign from Leatherhead, laid out the situation like this:

We need to limit climate change to 2 degrees. What are the consequences if we don't?

- With a 1-2 degree rise in temperature, hunger risk already increases significantly. 1.5 billion people at risk of water shortage. In Europe – more frequent forest fires, insect pests, many plants in difficulty. In Australia, coral all bleached.
- With a 2-3 degree rise, up to 5.5 billion will be at risk of hunger, 3.0 billion at risk of water shortage. In Europe, complete disappearance of alpine flora. Severe forest loss in China. Severe damage to Amazon rain forest, leading to collapse.
- 2 deg rise: 10% probability of very large catastrophe;
- 3 deg rise: 60 - 80% probability of very large catastrophe.

The future rise in temperature is likely to depend on the atmospheric concentration of CO₂ (and other greenhouse gases, which can apparently be converted to CO₂ equivalent). Atmospheric CO₂ has risen from 280 parts per million (ppm) before the Industrial Revolution to 380 ppm now.

In 2000, the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution recommended a target of limiting atmospheric CO₂ to 550 ppm. Latest reports however suggest that this level is unlikely to limit the global temperature rise to 2 degrees. In fact, 450 ppm of CO₂ would only give a 50% probability of limiting to 2 degrees; to have good probability of limiting to 2 degrees we need to go for 400 ppm.

The rate of increase is currently 2 ppm per year. That only gives us 10 years to stabilise CO₂ emissions. What are the chances of achieving this? ..

But at least we can take action immediately. At a personal level, see Keith's article on page 3 for ideas. Join one of John's CCSL Action Groups for mutual support and tips. And for collective action, get involved with the climate change campaign. See www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/climate/press_for_change/big_month/

The Big Ask climate campaign is calling for a legal framework for year-on-year cuts in carbon dioxide emissions. Friends of the Earth are asking people to lobby their MP to urge Ministers to include a Climate Change Bill in the next Queen's Speech. This needs to be done before 12 October.

DA21 has written on this subject to the Dorset Strategic Partnership and to the Dorset MPs.

GM crops consultation

A government consultation is currently under way about how GM crops could co-exist with conventional and organic crops. It deals with separation distances and allowable contamination levels, among other things. GM crops aroused enormous media and public interest during the government's major consultation in 2003 but this time there is relatively little news appearing about it. The main government (DEFRA) page on GM is at www.defra.gov.uk/environment/gm/crops/index.htm

The info on the consultation is at www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/gmnon/gmcoexist/index.htm

For a view as to why there is cause for concern, see www.gmfreeze.org or www.stopgmcontamination.org. Or for a local contact who can tell you what the concerns are and what is happening in Dorset, contact Jane O'Meara, janeomeara@btinternet.com If you were concerned about GM crops last time around, please do take a moment to email Jane, and respond to the consultation.

WORTH A MENTION

Bill Dunster, the architect of BedZed, is keynote speaker at a conference at the Eden

Project. Sustainable Building – the good, the bad and the reality. A joint event of our partners Devon Sustainable Building Initiative and others. Wed October 11th. Cost is £90.00 - details at www.architecture.com, follow the links to events and the online events calendar.

He is excellent to listen to. If you would like to be put in touch with other members who are interested in going, please let us know at the office.

Car Club As detailed in the last newsletter discussions with a number of agencies are still continuing on the creation of a car club in Dorchester. Working with DART (Dorset Area Rural Transport), we are hopeful that there is sufficient momentum to carry the idea to the next stage, which is likely to be a feasibility study and the creation of a steering group.

If you are interested in becoming a member of a car club in Dorchester, or getting more involved, or just for some further information please contact Paul McIntosh either through the office or at paul@dorsetagenda21.org.uk

Community Farm for Dorchester – information from our reader James

Armstrong: "A place for people to work together. And grow together. Also to grow organic vegetables. HIGH in flavour, fun, fellowship and satisfaction. We all pay an annual subscription, if you walk or cycle there the exercise comes free. To make it happen, for more details, register your interest james36armstrong@hotmail.com or telephone 01305 265510."

Save Money Days in East Dorset

A chance to find out more about saving energy, water and waste.

Thurs	23 Nov	West Moors Memorial Hall
Fri	24 Nov	Wimborne Allendale Centre
Sat	2 Dec	Corfe Mullen Village Hall

All 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. FREE !! For more information contact Gemma Coles, 01202 886201 or GColes@eastdorsetdc.gov.uk

Sherborne Wind Energy Venture

Next meeting **Thursday 26 October, 7.30** at Sherborne Baptist Church Hall (behind the church), North Road. Contact Mike Keatinge michaelkeatinge@supanet.com, 01935 389 377.

CCSL PROJECT NEWS

The four action groups continue to meet to share ideas for sustainable living, both for themselves and for their local communities. Some plan local events or to work in partnership with other local organisations. Brief details of the more recent meetings, actions planned and dates and venues for the next meetings are listed below:

Dorchester group met on Wed 19 July and combined with the Friends of the Earth briefing in September. There will be another meeting before Christmas. For details please ring the office.

Sherborne group met on Thu 8 June and, since most members were particularly interested in energy issues, decided to combine their September meeting with the Sherborne Renewable Energy Group. Future plans may include working with local council officers to establish an Environmental Forum in Sherborne, contact DA21 office for details.

Wareham group met on Wednesday 28 June and 6 September to discuss a range of issues about sustainable living. These covered composting, building, renewable energy and home insulation. Some members were keen to become involved in outreach work – schools, youth clubs and the summer shows DA 21 is attending, but full-time workers had limited time and so planned to bring sustainability issues into their work place. The next meeting is **Wednesday 8 November, 7 pm** at the Duke of Wellington Pub, East St. All welcome.

Weymouth group met on Thursdays 13 July and 29 August, mainly to plan the **Save Energy and Waste day, fixed for Saturday 11 November**, at Littlemoor, **from 10 am to 4 pm**, in the Church and Church Hall. Setting up will be from 7 pm on Friday 10th November and any help with this and on the Saturday will be very welcome. Local and county council officers will be involved in delivering the day and the group are designing and producing a poster and flyers. More details at the next meeting, which is: **Thursday 5 October, 7 pm** at 1 Stanier Road, Preston.

Renewable Energy Dorset (RED) group met in Dorchester on Thursday 29th June, when the group heard a presentation from Keith Wheaton-Green on Wind Turbines, large and small, and from Astrid Mick about the work of the campaigns sub-group. Michael Waxford demonstrated his recently purchased Future Energy residential wind turbine. On Thursday 20th July, Jane Altounyan gave a presentation about residential wind turbines and John Tomblin outlined the key ideas about biofuels for transport – liquid and gas. On Thursday 7th September, 7 pm, the group heard about hydro-power in the Stour Valley, as well as up-dates on the other technologies previously considered. **Next meeting is on Thursday 12 October, 7 pm in Committee Room 1 at county hall**, Dorchester, by kind permission of the County Council.

We plan to establish another six action groups, by March next year, with Bournemouth, Bridport and Wimborne being the front runners at present. Does anyone want to help establish an action group in their own town or village? If so,

please get in touch with John in the office to share ideas as to how to start a group. john@dorsetagenda21.org.uk or phone 01305 213721.

IN HOUSE NEWS

The office saga – finale ???!!!!

We are moving office in October!! Our new office is twice the size of our present one, is in Dorchester, and is located with Dorset Youth Association, another voluntary organisation with whom we've been working closely as part of the Dorset Change Up initiative. Talk about finding out who your friends are! Our phone number should remain the same; there may be a period when our email is out of action, so please bear with us if so.

Looking for admin help – with a difference

Once we are in the new office we will have space – yes, really – that's the difference! - for one or two people to help out more regularly with admin jobs like updating the membership, fixing meetings, dealing with correspondence and so on. We would like to find people we can work with regularly, who can get to know the ropes. If you have good computer skills, are passionate about sustainability, and can 'keep your head when all about you are losing theirs' – we'd love to hear from you! Please contact Sally at 01305 267758 or sally@dorsetagenda21.org.uk.

Barn dance

Since the last newsletter, a very successful Barn Dance has been held at Frampton Village Hall, with over 40 people attending and around £250 raised for DA 21 funds. Many thanks to organisers Mike Selley and Henry Lovegrove and to our beer sponsors Enact Energy Management.

DA21 and the national research project on strategic planning

Our consultant, Mark Bitel of Partners in Evaluation, has met the trustees and suggested some ways to help us focus DA21's activities. His ideas include helping us to adopt a common vision of the future (e.g. "By 2015, people living in Dorset and the organisations based there, will be living and working in a way that minimises their impact on the planet..." [there's much more]), topics for funding bids, and potential income-earning services to keep us solvent. Among other provocative questions, he has asked us to think again about ...

.... changing our name ?? !!

We do get feedback at the summer shows that "Dorset Agenda 21" is a bit off-putting (sounds like a secret society or MI5, some have said)! John has been trying out some possible new names on people at the shows

this summer, such as 'Dorset Eco Links' or 'Greening Dorset'. Trustees aim to pick one at their next meeting, on 15 October. To have your say, contact John for the full list and put in your 3p worth.

Trustees

At the AGM one third of the Board of Trustees will step down and we are keen to recruit some new trustees to strengthen the team. There will be an information event for anyone interested, probably in early January in Dorchester (*tbc*). We are looking for people who are committed to DA21's aims, enterprising, realistic, and who can bring wisdom and integrity to the organisation's decision-making. It helps if you are a team player and have good IT skills - we rely on email for our communications. Please contact Sally if you are interested.

New PowerPoint talk

Over the last few months a sub-group has been pulling together a selection of facts and graphics on the full range of sustainability topics, to create a basic talk that volunteers can take out into the community. No doubt any one person could do this in a matter of hours (actually I doubt it) but trying to agree a common DA21 position together has taxed our skills. The talk is still a 'work in progress', and no two presenters will probably use it in the same way. We're indebted to Colin Dewsnap and Mike Clark who have done most of the shaping and editing, and also to other contributors Keith Wheaton-Green, Paul McIntosh, Dave Bloomfield, John Tomblin and Sally Cooke.

If you are interested in becoming part of our team of speakers, please let us know at the office.

Getting Dorset's sustainability sector together

At the end of June DA21 launched its online directory of sustainability organisations in Dorset.

The finished product is the culmination of much hard work and is now available at www.dorsetagenda21.org.uk/sus_orgs/index.htm.

On the 27th of June some of the organisations on the directory came along for future collaboration to the Corn Exchange in Dorchester for talks from a number of the entries, and a demonstration of the web and discussion on the potential.



Concurrent with these activities a report has been published which examines and makes recommendations on how the sector could work better together, it is also available for download from the website.

The author, Paul McIntosh, would very much welcome comments on either the report or the web directory. Feel free to email him at paul@dorsetagenda21.org.uk. We have included Paul's recommendations in a bid to the Lottery BASIS fund for staff to carry this work forward over the next five years.

Help needed - and offered

The item in the last newsletter asking for more help produced some very kind offers, and we are particularly grateful to Amanda Brown for offering to help tackle the editing and layout of this newsletter for the first time (brave person, and clearly not easily daunted!) [*Oh how I wish I knew how to say no!*]

ARTICLES FROM MEMBERS

So you want to do your bit by saving energy in your own home? And also to safeguard its value for a future buyer, who will want to know how energy-efficient it is? Good, because from 1 June 2007, if you are selling a house, you will need to provide the buyer with an "Energy Performance Certificate" (EPC). This was to be part of a Home Information Pack (HIP), which the government said home vendors would be obliged to provide. Now the full HIP proposal has been withdrawn but you will still need an EPC. Our member Philip Jordan explains:-

Energy Assessment for Existing Housing

An Energy Performance Certificate is produced by using a method called the Reduced Standard Assessment Procedure or RdSAP. RdSAP is a government-authorised energy rating done by qualified assessors.

The EPC includes:

- An Energy Rating i.e. A, B, C, D, E etc rather like that already current for domestic white goods.
- An Environmental Impact Rating is produced giving the current calculated CO2 emissions.
- Typical fuel costs & carbon emissions are shown for the home in question.
- Suggested improvements are provided in 3 cost measure levels i.e. lower, higher & further:

Typical low cost measures include insulation, whilst higher cost measures include better boiler & control types.

Residential Wind Turbines (from John Tomblin)

Planning Policy Statement 22 (PPS22) says planning bodies should be proactive in supporting microgeneration - households generating some of their own electricity. The new Climate Change & Sustainable Energy Act will require local targets for microgeneration and reduce planning constraints. Thus the planning climate is right for households to take advantage of the many domestic scale wind turbines existing or shortly to appear on the market. These machines are all suitable for grid connecting - feeding the electricity you generate directly in to your house.

A year's electricity bills will tell you how much electricity you have used but the national household average is around 4000 - 5000 kWh per year and growing! With greater energy efficiency measures, we could all reduce our own figure. So stage 1 of any project is to reduce demand - then install your chosen wind turbine.

The key factor is the average annual wind speed at your site/home. Most urban sites have fairly low average wind speeds and plenty of turbulence from nearby houses, trees and other obstacles. Wind speed increases significantly with height, so mount your wind turbine as high as possible.

A good, established, turbine manufacturer should be able to provide figures for the power produced at different wind speeds - a "power curve". The only way to know your site's average annual wind speed is to monitor the site for at least a year with an on-site anemometer. Consultants will do this for you or you can hire the kit. If you consider one of the larger, more expensive models, then the extra cost may be worth it. You can buy an anemometer online for around £ 120.

Total capital costs range from under £ 2000 to £ 20,000. Payback times range from 5-8 years. Life span quoted is from 10 - 20 years, with minimal, annual, maintenance. The "fuel" - wind - is free. In the UK we have 40% of Europe's total wind energy, but it is largely untapped, with only 0.5% of our electricity generated by wind power. These new generation residential wind turbines have the potential to significantly increase this %, as well as saving you money, so do your research, do your sums and then seriously consider installing one - or even two!

For a copy of the DA 21 Briefing Sheet on this topic please contact John at 01305 213721 or john@dorsetagenda21.org.uk.

The numbers game (2)

We had some encouraging responses after our article pleading for clarity on the various figures flying around for carbon consumption. One of them drew our attention to an article published by our member Keith Wheaton-Green in the staff newsletter of South Somerset District

Council, which Keith has kindly agreed to let us re-print below.

Your personal Carbon Dioxide quota

by Keith Wheaton - Green

We have now reached a time in history when the thoughtless acts of the minority are jeopardising all our futures and our children's futures. I am talking about people who seek Mediterranean evenings with use of a patio warmer, people with a second home abroad who jet around several times a year or maybe even most weekends, people who drive huge Chelsea tractors when they are not involved in agriculture. Is that you? I have to admit - dear reader - that I am attempting to engender a sense of guilt.

But what would I do if I were wealthy enough to jet to Oz twice a year? I don't know. Thankfully for the purposes of this article, our relative poverty of income prevents the need for us to think about it. But my wife tells me that I have created more CO2 and hot air travelling to this and that conference or seminar since I have become involved in climate change issues than ever I did as a teacher. It's useful to be brought down to earth occasionally.

So what is a fair and reasonable personal CO2 quota? Without investigating, I thought that maybe one European flight a year, 8,000 miles a year car journeys, a house with central heating on 6 hours a day and a quarter share of 5,500 units of electricity a year. That's me, so surely that must be fair. The concept of a personal carbon emissions ration is increasingly discussed as a way of forcing some equity into individual's behaviour. A sort of climate change socialism. Aubrey Mayer's concept of "Contraction and Convergence" suggests we contract our CO2 emissions and allow people in less developed countries to increase theirs to a point when everyone across the globe is emitting a relatively low and sustainable amount. So what is this level?

Well, someone has worked out that based on the current world population, sustainable emissions are 2 tonnes per person per annum. To put this in perspective, the current UK annual average is 10 tonnes per person. Americans produce about 20 tonnes, probably because they feel comfortable with overindulgent goods like electric toilet seat warmers.

Going back to my personal emissions and using one of the many carbon calculators available on the internet, I discovered my total was 12.2 tonnes! My car journeys and a single trip to Egypt this year each account for 3.5 tonnes. So far during my life I have made seven return plane trips. This is less than most people I know; so I don't feel too guilty, but I was shocked to discover that a single holiday will be the carbon equivalent of a whole years driving. A quarter share of our electricity use came in at 0.658 tonnes

and the propane gas at 1.549 tonnes. Five return train trips to London produces 0.12 tonnes. My share of the essential public services provided for me is rated at 1 tonne and the most difficult to accurately quantify - my share of purchases of groceries and other goods - at 3 tonnes. How am I to get down to 2 tonnes?

Well the fuel for my car will have more biofuel in it each year thanks to the governments biofuels obligation on suppliers to reach 5% mixes in all fuels by 2010. I could do better than that by getting a car that takes a richer mix of biodiesel or ethanol and use the 85% mix that will be on offer at local petrol stations soon. I could drive to my holiday destination, perhaps taking a longer break.

I could install a rooftop wind turbine to cut my electricity import in half. Although, as our electricity is supplied by a green supplier that claims to source it all from wind, perhaps my emissions from electricity are already zero. I could switch our space and water heating from propane to solar for the summer and logs for the winter. That just leaves propane for cooking.

I can't do much about my carbon contribution from essential services but we could be choosier about what we buy. A switch to more locally sourced food would help and I will make an effort to grow a wider range of vegetables in our garden. The goods and services that I buy will increasingly be produced and transported using renewable energy due to government targets, taxes and legislation.

We don't need to make sacrifices or suffer lower living standards to move to a low carbon lifestyle. But I think its time there was some fairness, and time our government introduced measures to stop the excesses of the thoughtless.

We welcome submissions of news, views and items of interest. Deadline for the next edition: 1 November .

For further information about Dorset Agenda 21 or this news bulletin please contact Sally Cooke, P O Box 5789, Dorchester DT2 8ZR., sally@dorsetagenda21.org.uk , 01305 213721.
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New-look newsletter - this one is a joint effort from Sally and Amanda who are experimenting with working together and also with getting our computers to think in sync ... the computers haven't cracked this yet... or it may be us! Please let us know what you think.