

Croeso! Welcome!

to our first newsletter which is our opportunity to let you know what we've been doing in the past two years, since setting up as a not-for-profit community enterprise worker co-operative.

Our aim is to actively support and facilitate locally based renewable energy projects. We carry out installations of renewable energy technologies, including solar thermal, solar photovoltaics and small wind turbines. We advise on the whole range of renewables and run workshops and educational activities.

Since our incorporation in April 2002, we have undertaken a considerable amount of work and engaged in many activities aimed at making use of renewable energy, which will help to reduce global warming and pollution, offering a better environment for our children and for us all, as well as providing energy security for the future and more local jobs.



Used vegetable oil collection

It has been a noticeable achievement over the past year to have begun our programme of installation work. More recently, this activity has replaced feasibility studies as our main source of income. It is very satisfying to see actual installations happening.



Solar collector for Heartwood Co-operative

We have been working closely with the New Ventures Panel and Sustainability Working Group of Co-operatives UK as there is considerable potential for the co-operative development of renewable energy and we particularly enjoy working with our colleagues in the co-operative sector.

Our thanks to the many funding organizations who have contributed to our activities, including – in no particular order... Communities Enterprise, Foothold; Enfys; Environment Wales; Spinout Wales; Co-operative Action; Co-

operative Community Dividend; Communités First; KEF Scholarships; Go Wales; Quest Fund; WDA and Assembly Investment Grant

Studies

We have undertaken many studies including a biogas assessment which identified two suitable sites in Carmarthenshire; a biomass CHP study and environmental impact assessment taken to planning for a secondary school and housing estate scheme in Tregaron that will help stimulate the local woodfuel supply infrastructure; a feasibility study and project implementation taken to planning for a biomass district heating scheme on a family housing development of bungalows for the elderly in Brynamman; a study of the potential supply and demand for biomass diversification in Pembrokeshire centred on the possible demand for woodfuel at the Bluestone project.

Other studies have included a biofuel study for the possibility of heating a field study centre and primate sanctuary; electricity supply to a rural valley from biomass CHP; a mini district heating scheme using biomass; renewable energy options for a new building; sustainable building design for a new visitor centre and renewable energy options for an organic farm and housing co-operative.

Installations



Daewonno Activity Centre

We have installed several solar hot water systems, a PV lighting system for Llansawel youth shelter, a hybrid wind & PV system for Daewonno outdoor activity centre, a wind & PV system to charge batteries for a wheelchair, and several biomass installations.

Sundance is a consultant and installer for wind, solar and biomass systems under the Clear-Skies programme and an installer for PV systems for the DTI Solar Grant. We are also a registered consultant for the Carbon Trust's Action Energy Programme.

Educational Stuff

We have held a workshop on solar energy on behalf of Energy 21; our own Windpower Workshops; a Sustainability Roadshow on windpower with the Swansea Environment Centre and various events, presentations and seminars.

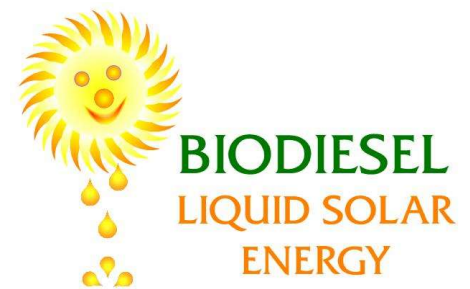


Bicycle-powered electricity !

We shall be developing more training programmes and educational activities and hope to be able to attract more members to assist with our work.

Biodiesel

We have been developing a small scale production facility for biodiesel based on our community collection of waste vegetable oil. This will be the first community enterprise of its kind in the UK and there will be a preview on June 5th 2004 -World Environment Day.



We have produced a 'How To' guide to setting up a similar scheme should you fancy trying this yourselves. This is available on our website.

Visit us at the Dragonfire event in Llanberis from 10th to 18th July.

www.dragonfire.org.uk