



## Sundance Renewables

Sundance Renewables (Sustainable Energy Co-operative) Ltd, Excal House, Capel Hendre Industrial Estate, Ammanford, Carmarthenshire, SA18 3SJ. Company Registration No. 4420315.

## Newsletter No 8 Spring 2008

Adnewyddadwyon Sundance (Cydweithfa Ynni Cynaliadwy) Cyfyngedig, Excal House, Ystad Diwydiannol Capel Hendre, Rhydaman, Sir Gaerfyrddin., Rhif Cofrestredig y Cwmni 4420315.

### \* Social Enterprise of the Year at Carmarthenshire Business Awards \*



Sundance Renewables won the Carmarthenshire Business Award for Social Enterprise of the Year 2008 at a ceremony at the Stradey Park Hotel, Llanelli. Thanks to organisers Antur Teifi and sponsors Hidden Dragon and also grateful thanks to Arena Network for inviting us to be their dinner guest.

### Progress with installation of new plant

Work is continuing steadily on our new plant – thanks to Paddy and Ed's sweat and tears! It's been quite awesome seeing the plant rise out of the oily mess.



Meanwhile production carries on in a desperate attempt to try to keep up with demand. Things have been going a lot smoother since Dave aka 'International Rescue' has joined us as our maintenance magician – a huge welcome to Dave.



We have submitted our application for a variation on our existing permit to the Environment Agency and if it all goes to plan we should be up and running the new plant in the summer. We are planning a festive launch to which all of our Friends will be invited.

Grateful thanks to those who responded to our appeal for loans – you know who you are and we think you're so wonderful. Since we have reached the end of the grant funding we are relying on our working capital to help finance the completion works – it's certainly a challenge....

### Biofools

Intense lobbying and media coverage of the effect of increasing palm oil production being blamed on the demand

for biodiesel overlooks the fact that only 3% of palm oil production goes directly into biofuel – the majority- over 97%, goes into the food and cosmetics industries.

The vast majority of trees are felled for the meat industry, tobacco processing and for timber, but biofuels have become an easy target for people who believe that we cannot be weaned off fossil fuels – we must kick the fossil fuel habit and local production of sustainable biodiesel is a good practical solution for greener vehicles.

The biodiesel industry in the UK is currently under extreme financial pressure from unethically subsidised US B99 exports plus the grossly inflated prices being made by the UK UCO (used cooking oil) collecting and processing industries, on top of the price hike on new oil which has affected all of our valued suppliers of UCO.



As a social enterprise we would like to continue with our free collection service of UCO but we sympathise with our suppliers who have seen the price of new oil double in the last 6 months - blatant

profiteering on the part of oil suppliers and collectors who tie their customers into buying oil from them.

Many people have been misled or misinformed about biofuels lately.... worldwide there is plenty of land that is suitable for producing crops and the new market for biofuel crops can ensure that farmers get a fair price for what they grow.

If we ate all the food we produced there would be less of a problem, as WRAP recently revealed that we throw away around 20 million tonnes of food every year in the UK!

Obviously, there are good and bad ways of producing biofuels. Cutting down forests and destroying habitats in order to produce food, cosmetics, meat, tobacco or biofuels is unacceptable. Currently under 1% of palm oil imported into the EU is used in biofuel production.

We have seen our costs of production rise significantly as we sacrificed our methanol recovery system to make way for the new plant and have found UCO supplies dwindle whilst we have been hit by disposal costs of the plastics and cardboard that we try to recycle.

The price of UCO biodiesel should be governed by the price of mineral diesel – “stinky”

as we call it! Although the price of stinky has gone through the roof we have increased our price by a lesser amount and for the first time ever we are approx 20p cheaper – which may account for the phenomenal demand which we constantly fail to meet – so sincere apologies to all our disappointed members who arrive to find that we've sold out of biodiesel – again!

### Sundance & Sustainability

Sundance has recently carried out the Synnwyr Busnes - Business Sense 'Sustainability Health-check' to appraise how well we embed sustainability into our co-operative and to identify any improvements that we can make as we expand our biodiesel business.



The report which can be downloaded from our website concludes that “customer and stakeholder ‘feel good’ responses are on the increase and together these factors represent an exciting time of business expansion with a

heart-felt commitment to sustainability in the widest sense.” We are really pleased with the results of the report which recognise our commitment to thinking and acting sustainably in every aspect of our work.

Nia Griffiths MP and Huw Irranca-Davies MP recently visited to show their support and we were pleased to welcome them to Sundance.



### Members' Space

Viv's free range duck and chicken eggs are for sale @ 80p dozen – Viv is one of our original members and has been running on biodiesel for nearly 4 years.

Finally we will be having an information stall at the Swansea Show in May and at the Transition Town event in Aberystwyth in May – hope to see you there!

**Thanks once again to all our loyal friends and supporters - may the sunshine be with you this spring.**

**\*\* If you have received this newsletter by post it means we haven't been able to email it to you. It would really help us if you can email us your up to date email address - Many thanks \*\***