



*** A New Era for Sundance Renewables ***

We are very excited by the progress with our plans!

Biodiesel Plant at Tafarnaubach in Tredegar

We have made fantastic progress with our plans at Tredegar. The plant is now fully operational, with our Environment Agency Permit in place. We are building on existing collection rounds for used oil in the area and sourcing the larger quantities that we will need to run the much larger scale plant.



Good Fuel Co-op Directors at Tredegar

We are delighted to invite all our friends and supporters to a launch of the new plant on Monday 2nd March at 10 am.

We hope that you will have received an invitation already, but if not, please contact us for further information about the launch. We look forward to celebrating with you!

Roaring Dragons Award

Sundance Renewables has just been given an award through 'Roaring Dragons' in recognition of our contribution to the local economy, community and environment. The award is given to successful entrepreneurial Welsh companies, highlighting the importance of close links between a company and its community. Many thanks to Helen Nelson of Cynnal Cymru for nominating us.

News at Capel Hendre

Negotiations are ongoing to buy Excal House which we currently rent from our landlords next door. This will result in a secure future and the space to work in partnership with local organisations. We are looking forward to being able to offer space to like-minded groups and enterprises once the purchase is finalised.

Meanwhile we are continuing to progress slowly with our plant expansion. We have lately been prioritising the set-up of the new plant at Tredegar because once this is operational it will greatly enhance our work at Capel Hendre.

Community Recycling Points for Used Cooking Oil

Many thanks to those who responded to our appeal to set up local community collection points. We are always on the

lookout for more so please let us know if you would like to be part of this community initiative, helping local people to recycle their used cooking oil. The collection process is simple and clean!

Celebrating our success

Sundance director Jan Cliff reached the final three in the 'Swansea Bay Woman of the Year Award 2008' sponsored by John Collins & Partners LLP.

Of the fifteen finalists across the categories, Jan reached the final three contenders for the 'Technology Award' and we are very proud of her achievement.



Jan Cliff and Hazel Lockhart with presenter Sara Edwards

Hitting the headlines...

Sadly three of the five biodiesel producers in Wales have closed in the past six months. As the New Year dawned Sundance hit the media featuring on BBC news and The Politics Show alongside Liberal Democrat Shadow Minister for the Environment Mick Bates AM, to raise awareness of the plight of the biodiesel industry.

We drew attention to the failure of the UK Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation which has allowed large fossil fuel interests to control the biodiesel market at the expense of smaller producers - yet another classic example of the government messing up a situation again. They seem to have a knack to be the problem rather than the solution in many instances. The removal of any fuel duty on biodiesel would be a more effective way to help small producers to survive in a competitive fuel market - if only the Government was not in the hands of large corporate fuel conglomerates...

Staff News

We are delighted that Ed has now become a Director of Sundance. Ed has been involved with us for many years and has been working hard on our expansion operations both at Capel Hendre and Tredegar. We would also like to welcome Carolyn who has recently joined us as a research assistant.

At the Tredegar plant we have two workers assisting us there, both of whom were involved in the previous biodiesel operation. Bob, our multi-talented volunteer has moved to Tredegar as our resident factory watchman. Bob is a qualified chemical engineer and OFTEC technician and has been enjoying gaining experience in our worker co-operative.



Bob aka
Major Tom at Ground Control

Rachel has recently moved out of the area but will continue to have an input into our work from a distance.

Survey

We sent out a survey to our members in the New Year but not everyone received a copy - if you have not already done so, we would really appreciate our customers taking the time to complete the survey which is attached. If you are not receiving this newsletter by email, please do request a paper copy of the survey.

There is a prize of 25 litres of biodiesel to the entry drawn out of a hat on 2nd March - feel free to bring your surveys to the launch to enter into the draw!

Email Communications

We have realised that some emails we sent round to friends over the Christmas period did not make it to our whole list. We apologise for this and have rectified our emailing process.

Working together through the recession

It is often the case that in recessions co-operatives can rescue assets and facilities originally developed by over-ambitious private enterprises. Alex Lawrie, a co-operative development specialist with Somerset Co-operative Services working with the Good Fuel Co-operative wisely stated that as the speculative and greedy investors flee the biofuels sector, a more prudent, principled and accountable business model is taking its place...sounds good to us!

With little incentives for savers in this recession with record low interest rates - now is the time to invest in your own biodiesel filling station - why not join together with friends or suggest your workplace has one!



Bob - our local champion

**** As always - thanks to all our loyal friends - your continuing support is invaluable as Sundance moves into this exciting new era ****

**** 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 ****