

Transition Black Isle – Energy Subgroup Meeting

Thursday 18th June – 7.30pm

Venue: Julian Paren, Marowan, Munloch

Present: Anne Katherine Thomas, Martin Sherring, Ken Naismith, Julian Paren, Hugh Collins

- 1 Apologies – Mary Paren, John Wood.
- 2 Minutes of Last Meeting – no corrections.
- 3 Report on Changeworks (CW) – Anne:
 - The current contact Caroline is leaving and has not responded to emails or calls
 - CW suggested they might supply us detailed maps to plot which Black Isle houses we have visited with the home energy check questionnaires – but it seems now this not likely
 - CW might supply us with data from their survey, to help us target the most suitable properties; for example 60's houses or those with cavity walls
 - the questionnaires are very time consuming; may be best to leave them and make a repeat visit
 - grants rules are very complex – various categories: fuel poverty/over 65/those on benefits
- 4 Monitoring of Black Isle Energy Use – Martin
 - can we establish a baseline energy use to measure future reductions ?
 - Martin has energy survey software (REAP Petite), but is complex and time-consuming; we need something simpler – ACTION Martin
 - could we as a group monitor our energy bills ?
 - For climate change impact, we need to reduce energy use by 4% every year
 - what happened to the Ward Forum energy survey of halls and primary schools – ACTION: Ken
- 5 Community Energy Reduction – Martin
 - Martin emailed a list of energy reduction initiatives document to the mailing list
 - these type of initiatives might qualify for Climate Challenge funding
 - the inter-street competition looked interesting
 - 70% of Tulloch's new build houses are getting solar panels as standard
 - can we promote interest in Biomass boilers using the wood pellets from Invergordon ?
 - they have domestic type boilers as well as industrial
 - need room next to the house for a large hopper
 - minimum delivery is 1 tonne
 - consumption for a domestic house would likely be 3 tonnes or more per annum
 - invite to a stand at the Open House event
- 6 Community Windfarms
 - Fraser MacKenzie of Cromarty has looked into suitable sites
 - the top of the Black Isle ridge is unsuitable due to interference with Radar
 - sites a little lower than ridge should be suitable
- 7 Open House event
 - best date would be Sep 5th as Katie from RoWAN is unfunded after Sep 5th
 - contact CW to confirm their support for 5th Sep – ACTION: Anne

- check if this clashes with the Open Doors event – ACTION: Ken
- Should the name be “Green House” event as this is less confusing with Open Doors ?
- Involve local businesses : e.g. BALCAS, Highland Alternative Energy Ltd (Nairn), George Gaiser Electric Bikes, Bonk – wood stoves
- CW have agreed we can supply a flyer which they will send out with their mailshot

8 Biofuel – Anne:

- has contact numbers for Caithness collection scheme, and for local schools
- Farmer contacted via the Inverness Farmers Market (1st Sat of the Month) is using Rape seed oil as a diesel fuel; the residue of the crop is used for animal feed, so the negative impact on food production is offset by the animal feed element

9 AOCB

- some people are finding the volume of emails offputting – we need some guidelines for use of the mailing list
- the energy group have exchanged phone numbers, and Hugh has agreed to put his number on the website as a contact number

The next meeting will be Wednesday the 8th of July, 7.30pm, at Martin and Penny's house (directions below).

The following meeting will be Wednesday the 29th of July, 7.30pm at Julian and Mary's house.

Directions to Martin and Penny's house, Woodside :

from the

west: - come to Resolis Memorial Hall,

<http://www.spanglefish.com/googlemap.asp?siteid%16>

<<http://www.spanglefish.com/googlemap.asp?siteid%16&long=-4.21051025390625&latW.6549534624955&area=Resolis%20Memorial%20Hall>>

&long=-4.21051025390625&latW.6549534624955&area=Resolis%20Memorial%20Hall

and there's a track on the right two hundred yards or so further on towards

Cromarty. Turn down that, past 2 other houses on the left, and we're at the end of the track.