

Notes from Transition Bath Energy Group Meeting - 30th June 2008

Present

Nigel Pooley, Doug King, Chris Borkett, Dick Daniel, Peter Capener, Hugh Prentice, Ian Gilchrist, Alick Bartholomew, Sally Archer, John Lancaster, Tom McCutcheon, Andrew Wyon, Simon Taylor

Apologies

David Martin

Summary

The meeting considered:

- the draft text for a Transition Bath energy in the home leaflet
- the opportunities for funding and disseminating the leaflet
- opportunities for renewable energy in Bath and the potential links with research into renewable energy in Bath, currently being undertaken by B&NES

Key follow up:

- comments to Doug by 7 July and leaflet passed to Paula for finalising 16 July
- develop plan for dissemination
- research with the aim of developing a community based project/initiative for each area of action covered in the energy leaflet

Next Meeting: Tues 5 August 7.30pm upstairs in the Ram

Detail

The meeting considered the draft text for a leaflet produced by Doug. The aim of the leaflet is to promote Transition Bath while providing accessible information to householders on what they can do to address energy issues in the home.

The target audience was felt to be people who were already aware of some of the issues but wanted to do something about them.

As a result the front page was felt to be too text heavy and could be reduced to a few simple statements with graphics, emphasising the urgency of action and that the ideas for action outlined in the leaflet were first steps only around energy in the home, other TB leaflets could take a similar approach to waste, transport, food etc.

It was suggested that other links to existing sources of further information could be provided against individual steps. More information about each step could be published on the web site.

Following feedback from group members the text will be passed on to Paula for further comment and putting into a 'TB house style'.

Because of the type of target audience the leaflet is intended for, it was felt that mass mailing or letterbox stuffing might not be productive and could be wasteful of leaflet.

Proactive opportunities for disseminating the leaflet included:

- Ongoing TB events and presentations to other Bath groups
- Linked articles in the Bath Chronicle
- Farmer's market stall (as part of wider TB presence?)
- Possibly in Libraries (where people would only take them if they were interested)
- Developing posters based on leaflet for putting up around town
- Schools were discussed (but felt needed to be part of other educationally based initiatives)
- Higher Education

- Via large employers
- Shows/festivals (as part of wider TB presence?)

Opportunities for funding the leaflet were discussed. If possible it was felt that the leaflet should be funded from TB own funds as it was a general leaflet and might suffer by association if it was sponsored by related companies.

The meeting also revisited issues raised at previous meeting around promoting renewables, in particular relating to:

- Setting up a local renewable energy company
- Establishing a Bath based bulk buy scheme for solar water heating systems
- Reviewing opportunities for hydro around bath and potential for heat extraction from hot springs

Linking back to the easy first steps outlined in the leaflet, it was felt to be a good idea if Transition Bath could develop a community based programme or project around each item.

In particular the meeting was made aware of some potentially important research being undertaken by ESD for B&NES, which is assessing the potential for renewable energy in Bath, across large scale commercial renewables, retrofit within existing buildings and installation within new buildings. Some early findings from this research may be available at the next energy group meeting.

Next steps

The next energy group meeting will be on 5th August at 7.30pm till 9.30pm in the upstairs room of the Ram in Widcombe.

The next meeting will clarify the next steps in producing and disseminating the leaflet as well as focussing on how to progress ideas around developing opportunities for renewable energy in Bath.

Actions

For next meeting

Everyone to provide comments to Doug on the draft leaflet text by 7th July

Doug to adapt text in light of comments and pass onto Paula by 16th July

Nigel to talk to TB steering group about possibilities for funding the leaflet

Nigel to talk to TB Raising Awareness group about links around disseminating the energy group leaflet

Chris to research options for renewable energy company set up, structure and models for share ownership

Doug/Sally to talk to B&NES (possibly energy manager, Peter Baker) to collect more technical information on the hot springs and its current use for energy

Sally to research in more detail the wind constraints maps and consider potential sites

Pete to talk to Regen SW/B&NES about potential wind energy projects in pipeline/been refused

Dick to review BWEA info on wind energy projects

Pete to talk further to Mark at GeoFutures about GIS mapping and solar potential

Pete to talk to solar water installers to gauge interest in establishing a bulk buy scheme in Bath (possibly building on existing discussion already occurring in Wellow around similar idea)

Pete to talk to energy suppliers regarding potential partnership offers

Dick to talk to Alexis Clarke about Hydro potential research

Nigel to review experience from other community initiatives

*Peter Capener
31st June 2008*

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