

Blane Valley Carbon Neutral Group
Group meeting Thursday 21st May 2009

News update

1 The group has been awarded a grant of £106K to provide an Energy Audit and Advice Project (EAAP) through the governments Climate Challenge Fund. This project will be delivered in partnership with Solas a local Dunbartonshire Company with over 20 years experience in this business. Solas are a social enterprise and charity. We will offer

- Free infra red image of each property in the villages (around 1200) showing areas of heat loss
- Free energy audit to anyone who will allow access
- Free energy advice
- Access to free insulation measures to as many residents as possible (there are some eligibility criteria), we anticipate being able to offer some free services to most people.
- Additional insulation measures
- Further more detailed work can be commissioned independently to improve sustainability

We expect that the project will start in early autumn 2009 and be complete by the end of 2010.

There will be some part time employment for local people who will be fully trained up to in auditing and advice (Adverts will be in the Blane)

This is an exciting project and we need your support to spread the word to encourage local people to take up the offer.

2 The group is discussing options for sustainability with Stirling Council and has submitted a letter as part of the consultation process for the local development plan. (Attached appendix 1)

We have also been looking for options for an allotment site should there be any local demand.

Are you interested in an allotment????

3 We have started a bulk purchase scheme to provide easy access to Ecover washing and laundry products these products are better for the environment. The products are sold at cost price and require the reuse of existing Ecover plastic containers. The materials are available from Mary Brailey 771 613 email mary.brailey@btinternet.com

4 The group has been looking towards our future activities and has had a couple of strategy review sessions. We agreed to look into 3 main areas of policy

- Energy
- Food
- Transport

We have divided up the policy areas and delegated responsibility to different members of the core group who will report back with proposals.
We will keep you updated on progress

5 We are trying to encourage less food miles and are trying to grow more vegetables locally and share growing experiences with each other. This meeting we are invited to view Alan Campbell's garden. If you would wish to join please email and advise. If you would wish to share your experience and or produce similarly lets us know

6 How about this for a monthly tip – can we remind you to make use of your solar clothes driers. (clothes lines). Instead of the energy hungry alternatives.

7 Do you know how we are organised?

We are an independent working group of Strathblane Community Development Trust

We have a core group of people who meet every 3rd Thursday of the month in each others homes, usually 6/7 of us. We have a wider group who receive emails. We are trying to provide the wider group with more information on our activities, hence this update. If you have any comments or questions regarding our activities please email them to us. If you would wish to join in, in any way or feedback please feel free to make contact.