

Energy Roadshow Special Report

Welcome to the September newsletter

The ACT Carbon Cutters group held its inaugural Energy Roadshow on September 3rd in the Teign Valley Community Hall and it proved to be a major success.

With Peta on holiday, and with apologies for my lack of design skills, here is your newsletter in the form of an Energy Roadshow Special Report. I hope you enjoy reading about the event as much as we enjoyed putting it on. **Kate**



Energy stand proves popular

It was perhaps unsurprising given recent events, but the energy stand proved to be a real crowd puller. Jules presented a series of posters detailing the workings of the energy market, the energy cap, the cost of renewables and encouragement for local renewables. One final poster gave an overview of the use of renewables and other low carbon technologies in a well-insulated house.

Though there was interest in the background information, the questions that kept Jules busy ranged from visitors new to renewables asking about the basics of getting a system, to more established users wanting to know how to make better use of electricity generated from their systems, and how to extend them.

We clearly need to provide more practical information on installing a system and on how to get more benefit from an existing system.

Bring on the Blue Bucket!

Paul's Blue Bucket was a major talking point at the show. The blue water in the carbon budget bucket represents the accumulated carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions in the atmosphere, caused by human activity, since the start of the industrial revolution about 170 years ago. There is a direct relationship between the accumulated emissions and average temperature rise over that period of about 1.2°C. If we want to stay below a 1.5 degree increase then we cannot allow our emissions to top the rim of the bucket, a few centimetres above the current water level. That gives us, in global quantity, a remaining budget of about 300bn tonnes of CO₂ (300 GtCO₂). If we stay within that we have about a two-thirds (67%) chance of remaining below 1.5 degrees. We used a small jug of blue water to represent the current annual emissions of around 40 GtCO₂. Emissions are currently still rising but, if we kept them at that level, our budget would be exhausted before the end of the decade. We have to do all we can to drastically reduce that annual total and so stretch out the budget, with a planned date of 2050, by which time emissions must reach net zero.





Getting through the energy crisis

It was a busy day on the Saving Money and Energy stand, with a constant flow of interested people discussing the various ways we can get through the energy crisis. We brought along a lot of energy-saving exhibits, to help people really imagine the things they could do, but we also learnt a lot from the people who spoke to us. More than anything, though, we were aware that our Teign Valley community is relatively well-off, with fewer people feeling the fear so many are experiencing! So, one of our questions to ourselves is, where can we take our stand to reach a wider audience? Could we take a simplified version and fit in a corner of a food bank, or have a gazebo in Newton Abbot Market Square? We felt it would be good to take our information to people, rather than to expect them to come to us. Please feel free to share any ideas you may have.

Help on energy efficiency from ECOE

Exeter Community Energy (ECOE), a not-for-profit social enterprise, was on hand to explain how it promotes the use of community-owned renewable energy as a means of tackling climate change, empowering communities, addressing fuel poverty issues and boosting the local economy.

ECOE helps more than 500 households each month via its Healthy Homes for Wellbeing project. It offers advice on energy efficiency, guidance on home insulation, help with energy supplier and tariff switching and advice on discounts and grants available. There are more than 20 local energy advice drop-in clinics across the region as well as one-to-one home visits, and a 0800 number advice line.

ECOE is looking for two new volunteer Directors, plus a Finance Director, a Home Energy Advisor covering Teignbridge and a Debt Advisor. Training opportunities for volunteers are available via the Community Energy Champions project. Current vacancies can be found at ecoe.org.uk



Playing games with TECs

Teign Energy Community, TECs, is another local group, like ECOE, that was invited to join the roadshow. Their stand was busy the whole time with people talking mostly about renewable energy and energy saving. "We made some new contacts as well as seeing people we already know from other avenues," says Helen from TECs. "It was great to meet new faces, especially from the Teign Valley, and we even managed to pick up some new members along the way."

The TECs Energy/Carbon E-mC2 game went down well and engaged people with scenarios where they could look at the way they make decisions. How little we are aware of the carbon implications of the decisions we make came out strongly.



Carbon Cutters and carbon footprints

Peta's Carbon Cutters display focused on how you can reduce your carbon footprint and save money at the same time. There were plenty of practical, low cost ideas on offer and Peta also managed to sign up quite a few people who were interested in measuring their own carbon footprints.

Run your own show!

All the information from the ACT stands at the roadshow, including the display boards, is available for any community group across Teignbridge to borrow to hold their own energy roadshows. Please contact Peta for more details at peta@actionclimateteignbridge.org