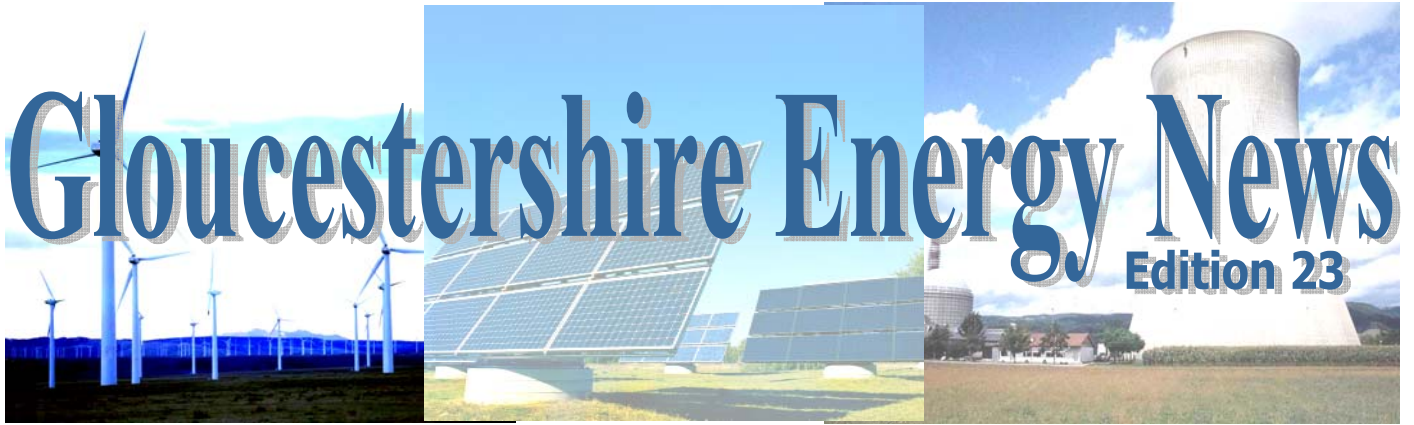


Gloucestershire Energy News

Edition 23



The Gloucestershire Energy Strategy—Refreshing!



Amazingly, it has been over 2 years since the Gloucestershire Sustainable Energy Strategy was adopted by the County Council and the other Gloucestershire First partners.

The whole energy scene has been fast moving over the period since then. The UK, along with much of the rest of the



world, has been experiencing severe economic downturn. There have been huge fluctuations in oil and petrol prices, an enormous increase in the emphasis on sustainabil-

ity, and a wider appreciation of the need to reduce the so called “greenhouse gas” emissions. There has also been a raft of new legislation affecting energy use and generation including, in 2008, the Energy Act, the Climate Change Act, and the Planning and Energy Act.

Gloucestershire County Council has launched its Climate Change Strategy, and the Local Area Agreement (which shows what the local authorities and linked partners spend government monies on, and sets a range of improvement targets) covers certain energy related issues more locally. The effects of these documents now need to be reflected in the refresh of the Gloucestershire Sustainable Energy Strategy, which is now underway.

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Campaign to help businesses save £1million a day

Source: The Carbon Trust

A new campaign has been launched by the Carbon Trust in order to mobilise UK business and help them in the recession by saving at least £1 million a day through cost effective action on climate change. The campaign is backed by business groups, leading companies, and Dragons’ Den entrepreneur Theo Paphitis, all urging business to immediately prioritise cutting carbon by saving energy to cut costs.

In its new ‘One Million A Day’ campaign, the Carbon Trust is urging businesses of all sizes to join up. SMEs are also being encouraged to take advantage of a £35 million Carbon Trust fund to upgrade or replace existing equipment to more energy efficient versions using unsecured, interest-free loans ranging from £5,000 up to £200,000.

The campaign’s target is to help save the UK economy £1 billion over the next three years and reduce the UK’s carbon emissions by at least 17m tonnes CO2 - the equivalent to annual emissions from heating nearly 5.5 million average UK homes.

The Carbon Trust says most businesses could save up to 20% on energy bills by taking low cost or no cost action on energy efficiency.

Three key areas for immediate action are:

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Energy Management - Last year UK businesses working with the Carbon Trust implemented energy saving

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South West businesses help build low carbon Britain

Source: BERR, COI

The UK green goods and services sector is the sixth biggest in the world according to new research by Innovas, and the South West contributes significantly to this statistic.

Sales of Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services in the South West region in 2007/08 were valued at £8.7billion. There are around 4,200 South West companies engaged in the sector, employing 74,000 people.

The South West accounts for 8% of the total UK market value of sectors, of which £2.1billion (24%) comes from the Environmental sector, the Renewable Energy sector makes up £2.1billion (24%) and the Emerging Low Carbon sector accounts for £4.25billion (52%).

Household rubbish to be analysed

Source: BBC News

Samples of waste are to be taken from a selection of rubbish bags and bins in the Cotswolds, as part of a study into what people throw away.



Crews making weekly household, garden and recycling collections will take samples from 100 properties.

The waste, which will be collected in bulk so it cannot be related to individual homes, will be taken to a central depot for sorting.

The district council said it would help develop future waste management.

County Councillor Stan Waddington said: "Some media reports have inaccurately described this practice as spying or snooping - this is complete nonsense. Our aim is to gather essential data, so we can tailor our services accordingly and give the best possible value to local taxpayers. This survey will prove very useful in finding out how much and what types of different materials are being thrown away."

The work will be carried out by a specialist contractor for Gloucestershire County Council. Crews will wear identity badges and carry an official letter of authorisation. After the survey has been completed, the materials will be recycled or sent for disposal in the normal way.

Zero Carbon Targets

Source: Camargue

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) has called for the Government to revise its targets for a 100% reduction in carbon emissions from new homes by 2016. In a submission made to the Government on 19 March, RICS advised that it was not realistic to achieve zero carbon immediately, and recommended that new homes should be built to achieve a technical and reliable target of a 70% reduction.

Save £1million a day

Continued from page 1

measures including metering and monitoring, staff awareness and setting board level policies to effectively identify opportunities and monitor results, that will save over £64 million a year

Improved Lighting - Installing controls, replacing and upgrading lamps to energy efficient versions and installing motion detectors are a few examples of action that will enable over £11 million worth of savings in one year

Efficient Heating - Upgrading inefficient boilers, installing controls, improving insulation and improving maintenance schedules will lead to savings of over £8.5 million a year.

As part of the campaign SMEs are also being encouraged to get involved and use its new online carbon saving advice, with practical action guides, web tools and videos and a range of sector-specific guides including offices; retail and distribution; hospitality; engineering and mining and quarrying.

The monthly loan repayments on unsecured interest-free Energy Efficiency Loans from the Carbon Trust could be covered by immediate savings on their energy bill, so it shouldn't hurt pockets now and will save businesses money in the long term. To check eligibility and for more information visit www.carbontrust.co.uk/loans or call the free dedicated Carbon Trust Advice Line on 0800 085 2005.

Innovative buses could mean the end of school rush congestion and pollution

Source: Networking

Children in the West Midlands can now use the internet on their journey into school thanks to a deployment of free mobile Wi-Fi by a forward-thinking regional transport operator.

Established in 2005 by a former teacher, The Green Bus provides an environmentally friendly bus service for 1,400 local children replacing an estimated two thousand car journeys.

The aim of this new development is to make the experience of travelling to school a positive and more attractive one for the new generation of tech-savvy school children. Ian Mack, Green Bus's managing director adds "With an increasing number of mobile phones and handhelds supporting Wi-Fi, our investment in Icomera's Moovbox enables students to check email, surf the web, and play peer-to-peer games on devices like the Sony PSP and Nintendo DS—all free of charge."

Cash backing for buses as funding competition kicks off

Source: Department of Transport, COI

Bus services across England are set to benefit from key improvements as a multi-million pound competition gets underway. Local authorities are now able to submit applications for a share of £25 million of Kickstart money.

The Kickstart initiative offers financial backing to help launch new or enhanced services, with the focus on getting more people out of their cars and travelling on buses, as well as improving accessibility. Kickstart is targeted at schemes which have the potential to become successful but which might be initially marginal in commercial terms and require some financial help to start them off, or which are currently marginal schemes that with some extra support could be made more successful.



Applications for the new round of funding will be accepted through to 3rd July 2009, with schemes which make use of the new bus powers in the Local Transport Act 2008 being a particular focus. The Department hopes to announce the successful schemes in the autumn. Local authorities are encouraged to submit bids in the application form provided to kickstart@dft.gsi.gov.uk. The form and full guidance may be found on the Department for Transport website at <http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/buses/busgrants/kickstart/>

Full details on the essential and desirable criteria for this competition can be found in the guidance, but broadly, Kickstart is aimed at schemes which represent good value for money, and which will contribute to the Department's overall objectives of increasing bus patronage, and in particular developing bus services as an alternative to car use, bringing with it a reduction in congestion and benefits to the environment. It is also about improving accessibility and social inclusion.

Deloitte launches green car scheme

Source: Accountancy Age

Getting a company car used to be a perk reserved for executives. Now Deloitte is changing that with the launch of a new program to make fuel-efficient cars available to all its 12,000 permanent employees in the UK. All of the cars have CO2 emission levels of 120g per kilometre or below.

The move is part of a campaign to reduce carbon emissions levels for both the firm and its employees.

Deloitte. Deloitte is the first firm to offer such a scheme for its employees. It will also benefit from new company car tax rules due to come into effect in April, which provide favourable treatment for low-emission vehicles.

Deloitte's other green initiatives including its Green IT program, includes reducing the number of printers, file servers and backup tapes. Deloitte also has adopted video conferencing and has provided employees carbon offset charge cards.

New green service enables consumers to fill thousands of empty lorries

Shocking statistics have revealed that a quarter of all lorries and vans travelling on British roads do so completely empty. That's over 112,000 lorries and 450,000 vans; pumping out a shocking and unnecessary 36 million tonnes of CO₂ a year.

A clever new web site - www.shiPLY.com enables astute consumers to save up to 75% off their bill by matching themselves up with hauliers already travelling along a similar route. Since June 2008, it has saved over 800,000 miles of un-necessary journeys.

With congestion on Britain's roads at bursting point and diesel costs this year reaching record highs, ultimately it's the environment and the British public that pay. Hauliers have suffered the most, with over 16% going bust and business volumes falling by 30% in the last year alone.

Some consumers are now listing goods they want to move on shiPLY.com. Feedback-rated hauliers looking to utilise their spare capacities are then placing competitive bids (like a reverse-auction) to carry out the jobs. By giving work to vehicles that would otherwise be empty, users of the site can expect significant savings and help minimise the number of wasted trips.