

# UpBEAT

Newsletter from Blackshaw Environmental Action Team (BEAT)

## **From the editors:**

**Happy New Year to everyone. Hope you had a good break and got your batteries recharged so we can jointly meet the challenges of the coming year: address rising food and energy costs, making our community more sustainable and resilient.**

**BEAT has a busy year ahead. We will be planting over 1,000 trees as wind breaks for our two community orchards and the community allotments in February, March and April with Treesponsibility.**



**The Woodland Trust has agreed to donate us another 420 trees to this project on top of the 420 trees already delivered and some of these will be fruit trees and fruit bushes. We hope you will be able to help us with the tree planting.**

**Thanks to Finn, Andrew, Jan, Donna, Debbie and Maggie for starting the planting in November.**

**Weather permitting we will have a community tree planting day on 12th February. Lunch and refreshments will be served. Please bring proper footwear as the ground will be wet plus rain coats. Tools and training will be provided. So if you have never planted a tree you can will learn it in a few minutes.**

**We have also arranged a grafting course on Saturday 25th February with Mark Simmonds from Calderdale Local Orchard Group (CLOG) so we can prepare the fruit trees for our orchards. The grafted trees will be kept in a protected nursery for two years – to get them established and for the windbreaks to grow in the meantime. The grafting course will be held in the Chapel from 10AM.**

**A vegetarian soup will be served for lunch. The lunch and the course is free thanks to a grant from the Big Tree Plant but please book in advance by contacting Finn on 01422 846863 or email [finn.jensen@rocketmail.com](mailto:finn.jensen@rocketmail.com). Max 12 people can participate in the course and it is first come first served – except we will only take one person from each household if the course is over-booked.**



UpBEAT no 17, January-February 2012

**BEAT will continue having public meetings on the second Wednesday of the month – except in August, produce UpBEAT every two months and arrange a village clean-up in April and October. In this issue of UpBEAT you will also see what else BEAT will be doing in the coming year. BEAT has a working group that coordinates BEAT's work. The group meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 8pm. The group is open to anyone who wants to help. *The BEAT team***

**Buy your green electricity through BEAT and get 10% discount!**

**BEAT has teamed up with Green Energy UK to give you the opportunity to support 100% green electricity from renewable sources. If you sign up through BEAT you will get a 10% discount on your electricity bills. It only takes a couple of minutes to sign up. We can either email you this web-link (please contact Finn by email) or you can contact Green Energy UK on 0800 954 0675 and speak to Liz Bell but remember to tell her that you want to sign up through BEAT. We only need *five* more households to sign up for BEAT to receive 5% off all the bills paid to Green Energy UK. For every household and business that signs up we are one step closer to producing less greenhouse gases.**

## **Contact BEAT:**

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Designed & formatted by Angie Guy

## Village SOS

**BEAT got through the first round of the 'Village SOS' application process and has been invited to submit a business plan by 2nd February 2012 for the second and final round. BEAT applied for £30,000 of which up to £25,000 can be used for capital costs and the rest for development costs.**

**BEAT has decided to apply for £25,000 towards the community wind turbine and £5,000 towards development costs. We are working hard to make a good business plan. We have received quotes for the wind turbine of £47,226 including installation.**

**This includes various extras, such as members of the public being able to see on your computer how much electricity the wind turbine produces at any given moment. If we cannot afford these extras we will do with the basic version, which costs £40,603 including installation.**

**Even if BEAT received £25,000 from Village SOS for the turbine we would therefore still have to raise between £15,600 and £22,300.**

**This money will be raised through fundraising, issuing shares to the community and donations.**

**If BEAT is successful with the application to Village SOS we may be selected to appear on a BBC programme showing how our Pennine Community Power enterprise progresses over the first year.**

**On [www.villagesos.org.uk](http://www.villagesos.org.uk) BEAT has a home page. You click on 'Communities' and type in 'Blackshaw Head' where it says 'Find areas in the Village SOS community'. Click on 'Go' and a web link saying 'Blackshaw Head, Calderdale' will then appear. If you click on this you will be taken straight to BEAT's home page.**

**If you sign up as a member on the BEAT home page at the Village SOS website you can participate in the discussions and will receive news from BEAT. You can do that by clicking on the pink box in the top right corner where it says "Sign up and support your community". We will encourage you to sign up as a member.**

## Greening the Chapel

We had applied to the Sita Trust for £27,391 for the 'Greening of the Chapel' project - our local church and community centre - but unfortunately were not successful. The grant application was for insulating walls and installing double glazed windows in two of the rooms and for PV solar panels on the roof.

However, we have not given up and will look for other grant opportunities. We had Bradford Environmental Action Trust visiting the Chapel on 17th November to do an audit in the hope that this will release a £2,000 grant from LEADER. Keeping our fingers crossed. This will be for the insulation of the two downstairs rooms. Other grant applications will be made for the PV solar panels.



### LocalGiving.com

**Thanks to everyone who donated to BEAT. An impressive £680 was raised for BEAT. If you missed the opportunity to donate you can still do so by going to <http://localgiving.com/charity/beat>. Remember to tick the Gift Aid box as it will give an extra 25% to BEAT. From March 1st 2012 there will be a new opportunity to have your donations to BEAT doubled. We need the money for the fencing of our community orchards and allotments, for our Greening the Chapel project, for printing our newsletter UpBEAT and to set up our community enterprise called Pennine Community Power. So we hope you will be able to support us financially. If you cannot use the web link you can give the money to BEAT's treasurer, Finn Jensen, who will then send money to LocalGiving.com. In fact, if you want your money doubled you can give it to Finn at any time from now on and he will put it through LocalGiving to BEAT on 1st March. The last time there was an opportunity to have donations doubled it only lasted one week! We therefore only raised £15 during that week. However, if we build up a little fund between now and 1st March we can have it all doubled and hopefully also Gift Aided.**



## Details on Our Community Wind Turbine



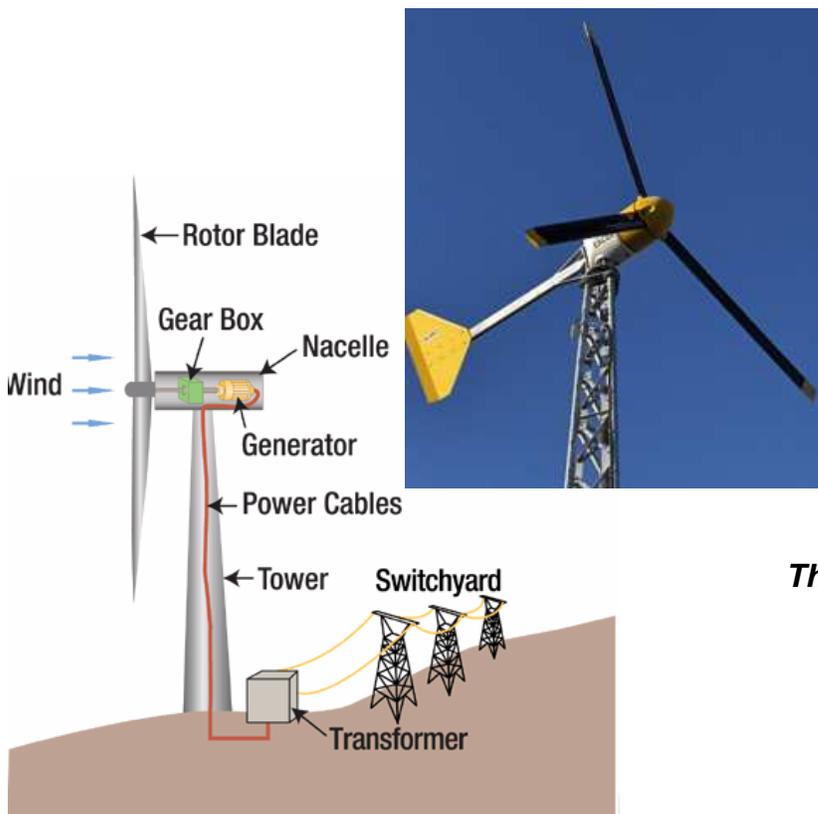
**Subject to further consultation and planning permission the community wind turbine will be a Bergey Excel 10kW Micro Wind Generator and it will be on a 12 metre lattice tower. It will be delivered by a company called SIAC ([www.siacwindenergy.com](http://www.siacwindenergy.com)). The turbine will be placed on land belonging to Warcock Hill Farm about 75 meters from Lower Moss Hall Lane towards the top of the hill.**

**We will be setting up an Industrial and Provident Society (IPS) called Pennine Community Power, which will be the legal owner of the wind turbine. The landowner will be able to use the electricity generated and Pennine Community Power will receive the Feed-in-Tariff (FiT).**

**The wind turbine is expected to generate around £7000 in FiT per year, which – after running costs are paid – is to be reinvested into the community. The turbine has been selected because it is less noise than any other similar turbine. It will have a 12 meter lattice tower in metallic colour so it will be less visible, see below.**

**The Bergey turbines have been in production for over 30 years and have built up millions of operational hours at thousands of sites world-wide over this time. The 10kW turbine has a reputation as a tried and tested turbine which utilizes a simple but tough design to give a long time life expectancy which requires minimal maintenance. There is no scheduled maintenance as there are no wearing parts to lubricate or replace, instead the manufacturer does require an “inspection” every two years. This is a simple visual check of all the components to check the electrical connections, condition of the blades, tightness of the nuts and bolts, etc and should cost in the region of £200.**

**The turbine comes with a ten year warranty and has an expected lifespan of 50 years. With an average wind speed of 5.77 m/s at its location it is expected to have an average daily yield of 55.8 kWh. The inverter comes with a 5 years warranty and an additional 10 year warranty can be bought. Inverters typically last 10-15 years. In order to qualify**



**for a grant from Village SOS we will have to submit a planning application for the wind turbine in January 2012 which will cost BEAT £995 including VAT.**

## BEAT meetings

On 14th December we had Richard Armitage from Calderdale Council and Anne Handley - who is a local energy assessor - speaking on how to insulate hard-to-treat houses like the ones we have in Blackshaw Head and Charlestown. They also explained the government's Green Deal. Many thanks to Anne and Richard for an interesting meeting.

On 11th January Ash gave update on the various BEAT projects. Paul Willson and Steve Redmond explained how they have already installed various types of renewable energy technologies. Many thanks to all of them. The meeting agreed to arrange a village clean-up in April – see below – and agreed changes to BEAT's constitution to be formalised at an extraordinary meeting on 26th January at 8 PM at the New Delight Pub.

On 8th February  
The leader of  
Calderdale Council,  
Cllr Janet Battye,  
will come and speak  
about the council's  
'green agenda'.  
You will have an  
opportunity to ask  
her questions.



On 14th March Matt Taylor from Forest and Land will be speaking and answering questions. Local residents will also do brief talks about their renewable energy systems.

On 11th April our local Member of Parliament, Craig Whittaker, will be speaking about the government's 'green agenda' – unless he has to attend an emergency session in Parliament. You will have an opportunity to ask him questions. On 21st April we have our six-monthly village clean-up, meeting at the Chapel at 10.30AM for litter pickers and bags. Please bring your own garden gloves. After an hour or two we will be coming back to the Chapel for coffee, tea and cakes. Thanks to Phil Knowles for organising the village clean-up.

All BEAT meetings are held in the Chapel right in the centre of Blackshaw Head village on the second Wednesday of the month – starting at 7.45pm. Tea and coffee is served. There is disabled access to the meeting room. Bus E arrives from Hebden Bridge and Community Transport 1 bus arrives from Todmorden to Blackshaw Head at 7.30pm. As BEAT is paying £15 for the use of the meeting room we would be grateful for a £1 donation from people who are working.

## Green News

Following our article on PV solar panels in the last issue of UpBEAT you may have heard that the government's 50% reduction of the Feed-in-Tariff for PV was declared unlawful by the High Court as the reduction took effect 11 days before the consultation period ended. The government is now appealing this decision. However, if you are installing a 4kW or less PV system before 31st March 2012 you are guaranteed to be paid at least 21 pence per kWh if the government wins the appeal and 43 pence per kWh if the government loses the appeal.

Also in December all the countries (including the US, China and India) assembled in South Africa for the UN climate conference agreed to establish a road map for the creation of new international treaty on reduction of greenhouse gases taking effect from 2020. Many scientists say that this delay could result in temperature rises of 3-4 degrees Celsius above per-industrial level where a 2 degree increase is considered the maximum safe limit if we want to avoid permanent and unstoppable temperature rises that could eventually eliminate all life on Earth.



Photograph: Stephane De Sakutin/AFP/Getty Images