

UpBEAT

Newsletter for Blackshaw Environmental Action Team (BEAT)

Jul - Aug 2012

Issue 20



From the editor

We did it! We managed to raise the remaining £1345 for the Chapel's insulation work.

Many thanks to everyone who attended our event at the New Delight Inn on 23rd June and to everyone who donated through LocalGiving.com.

Thanks to LEADER for their grant towards the work.

We now have enough funding to start the work which we expect to be completed during August 2012.



Many thanks to Community Foundation For Calderdale for the £900 grant to BEAT.

If you want to talk to us about any of these projects then please contact us.

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Village fete

Just a little reminder that the village fete is on Saturday 1st September.

BEAT will be available in the red tent, so please pay us a visit.

Community orchards

With the £9855 donated by the Big Lottery Fund we have now been able to do the fencing and install drainage for the community orchard at Frank and Maggs'. A nursery for the one hundred grafted fruit trees has also been created there.

BEAT is using local contractors to create local employment.

We will be doing some more tree

planting in the Autumn/Winter for the community orchards but need some newspapers and magazines for the mulching and to stop the weed growing around the trees.

We can no longer get these newspapers for free.

So if you have any newspapers or magazines you are willing to give to BEAT please contact us.

In a way this is still recycling – just in a different way.



Community wind turbine

The share offer for Pennine Community Power (PCP) was launched on 21st June in our local papers and at the New Delight Inn on 23rd June.



The share offer is an opportunity for members of the community to have ownership of the community wind turbine. The share offer runs to 31st July 2012 and the minimum investment is £250.

The prospectus for our share offer has been finalised and is available on the PCP website. We need to raise up to £28,000 through issuing of shares to enable the work to start.

If you want to invest in the community wind turbine and have a say on how the surplus is to be used in the community please complete the application in the

share offer document on www.powerinthecommunity.org.

Pennine Community Power is constituted with four directors: Mark Simmonds, Ashley Sharp (press secretary), Paul Willson (treasurer) and Finn Jensen (company secretary).

At our first Annual General Meeting the four existing directors will step down, other directors can be elected and co-option of directors is also possible. The PCP directors meet monthly for the time being on the third Monday of the month at 8PM.

The PCP has now got its own bank account with the Co-operative Bank and the £30,000 grant from Village SOS/Big Lottery Fund has been transferred into the account.

Our business plan has been finalised and is available on the PCP website www.powerinthecommunity.org where you will also find the Rules for PCP Society.

PCP is now on Facebook ([penninecommunitypower](https://www.facebook.com/penninecommunitypower)) and Twitter ([@penninepower](https://twitter.com/penninepower)).

Green Energy UK



BEAT has received £125 from Green Energy UK for the households that signed up to buying their 100% renewable electricity from Green Energy UK through BEAT.

Thanks to all the households that signed up. Others can of course join at any time and get a 10% discount if they sign up through BEAT.

Charlestown allotments

Congratulations to Charlestown allotments, who have managed to get some funding from Calderdale Council's Small Grants scheme. This will be used towards fencing and installing a water supply.



BEAT Social

Around 50 people attended the BEAT social at Newdy on Saturday 23rd June for free a buffet, including the deputy leader of Calderdale Council, Cllr Janet Batty.

The food was paid for by a grant from Community Foundation for Calderdale as part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Anniversary celebrations.



Photos: Craig Shaw www.bluplanetphoto.co.uk

Green news

On 24th May the government announced the outcome of their consultation on the Feed-in-Tariff (FIT) for photovoltaic (PV) solar panels). The FIT is payment for electricity generated.



For a PV system of 4kW or less – a typical size for households - the payment will drop from 21 pence per kWh to 16p/kWh from 1st August 2012 – a drop of 24%. The FIT for PV have so far been for 25 years but from August it will be reduced to 20 years.

The government will review the FIT for PV every three months –

so the next reduction might happen in November. Any reduction in FIT will be based on how many new PV installations have been grid connected.

Also from August the export tariff for installations exporting energy to the grid will be increased from 3.2p/kWh to 4.5kWh.

Larger PV systems for businesses, public buildings, etc will also face reductions in the Feed-in-Tariff from 1st August. However, the government is considering proposals that would allow community projects to pre-register at the current Feed-in-Tariff rate before undertaking work. A decision will be made before Parliament's summer recess.

If the government allows such a pre-registration for community PV projects that might be helpful to

our plans for a 9kW system at the Chapel in Blackshaw Head. Up to August a 9kW PV system will receive 16.8 pence per kWh. From August it will be reduced to 14.5p/kWh – unless a pre-register has taken place.

The government is paying a lower FIT if a building hosting the PV system does not meet a certain energy efficiency requirement. For any PV system the payment will be 7.1p/kWh from August 2012 if these energy efficiency requirements are not met.

The government claims that a typical, well-sited PV installation will give a return of 4.5-8% to its owner.

Changes to the payments for all the other renewable technologies – wind turbines, hydro, biomass, etc – will be announced in the summer.

Greening the Chapel

Bradford Environmental Action Trust (another BEAT) has helped us with an energy survey of the Chapel.

They are coming to visit Blackshaw Head on Wednesday 12th September to see the insulation work done at the Chapel, the site for our community wind turbine and hydro project, visit households that have installed renewable energy technologies and hear about our work.

In the evening of 12th September Bradford Environmental Action Trust will be speaking at a public meeting at the Chapel.

Ruth Hair from LEADER will also be speaking at this meeting.

Our next project with the Chapel is to install photovoltaic (PV) solar panels on the roof of the Chapel.

We hope to be able to raise the funds so the panels can be installed before the winter arrives.



BEAT meetings

On **Wednesday 13th June** we had Blackbark (www.blackbark.co.uk) coming to speak.



We also had Doreen Clare and Mike Warr speaking about their experiences with their air sourced heat pumps. Thanks to all of them for an interesting evening.

On **Wednesday 11th July** we have Treesponsibility speaking. Treesponsibility is a not-for-profit community group combining reforestation and ecological restoration with awareness-raising about climate change. They plant around 10,000 trees each year in the Upper Calder Valley.

Information will also be given by the directors of PCP on the share offer for the community wind turbine with the possibility of asking questions afterwards.

On **Saturday 1st September** we have the village fete. BEAT will be

in the red tent.

On **Wednesday 12th September** we have Bradford Environmental Action Trust (another BEAT!)



coming to speak along with Ruth Hair from LEADER. For more information about the two organisations see www.beat.org.uk and www.pennineprospects.co.uk.

On **Wednesday 10th October**

Andy Walker from SURE Insulation (www.SUREinsulation.co.uk) is coming to give a talk. SURE Insulation is a social enterprise doing internal wall insulation. They have also



produced a booklet on how you can do the insulation yourself. - The other half of the meeting will be an update on BEAT's projects and a BEAT AGM.

On **Saturday 13 October** we have our six-monthly village clean-up,

starting at 10.30AM at the Chapel where you will be giving litter pickers and plastic bags for the litter. Afterwards there is coffee, tea and cakes in the Chapel as a thank you for your help. Children are welcome if supervised.

On **Wednesday 14th November** we have Ian Scott, Ben Oubridge and Steve Welsh coming to speak. Ian will speak about community



recycling schemes. See www.crn.org.uk. Ben will speak about HebVeg and Steve will speak about his 5kW wind turbine and biomass heating system.

All BEAT's public meetings are held at the Blackshaw Head Methodist Church at 7.45pm. Tea and coffee will be served. If you are working you are welcome to make a donation of £1 for the hire of the room. If you bring a cake or sign up as a BEAT member (£1) you do not have to give a donation.

There is no public meeting in August.

BEAT AGM

The BEAT AGM is on 10th October.

Apart from a report from the BEAT committee there will be election of a new committee.

We are looking for a new chair of BEAT and for people who are interested in developing BEAT's nature conservation work.

- Should we have more bird and bat boxes installed around the parish?

- Should we plant more daffodils, fruit bushes or trees?

- Should we develop a community garden or produce walking, cycling and horse riding maps of the area?

- Should we have social

enterprises that grown biomass (wood) for heating purposes, produce local honey or grow vegetables to sell?

If anyone is interested in creating local employment BEAT would also be interested in talking to you.

If you are interested in joining the BEAT committee please contact BEAT - the details are shown below.

Contact BEAT; Ashley Sharp (secretary) tel: 07855 746295
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