

UpBEAT

Newsletter for Blackshaw Environmental Action Team (BEAT)



From the editor

The community wind turbine is now up and running. To see how much electricity it has produced so far, and to get live readings of its output, go to www.powerinthecommunity.org.



Photo: Wind Turbine

On 23 September windbreak trees for one of the orchards were planted on Garry and Carol's land. Thanks to everyone who helped, to Christina from Treesponsibility for bringing the tools, to those who gave us newspapers and to Steve Hoyle for providing water bottles for all the volunteers.



Photo: Planting of Windbreak Trees

The insulation work at the Chapel has been completed. The work



Photo: New Chapel Window

has been inspected by Bradford Environmental Action Trust (another BEAT) on behalf of LEADER / Pennine Prospects who gave a grant towards the work. We are in discussion with the Chapel about the possibility of installing PV solar panels on the roof.

Fencing has now been completed for our two community orchards.

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BEAT has given 420 windbreak trees to a planned community orchard in Heptonstall on private land behind the school.

The six-monthly village clean-up took place on 13 October. Many thanks to everyone who took part, and particular thanks to Phil for organising it. Following the recent flooding in Blackshaw Head, the clean-up also removed some of the debris clogging the grilles of the road drains.

While it is impossible to say whether particular weather events like the flash flooding are related to climate change, climate change is certainly forecast to make them more common.

Community wind turbine

The foundation for the community wind turbine was completed in mid-August. The grid connection was upgraded on 25 September and the turbine was erected on 27 September. The turbine connected to the grid on 19 October and is now generating an income for the community. It has been hard work but worth it.

The first Annual General Meeting for all the shareholders was held on Saturday 3 November 2012 at 2pm at Blackshaw Head Chapel. We had our photograph taken at the wind turbine.

The AGM business had a report from the existing directors of PCP followed by election of a board of directors. Two new directors were elected as well as the four previous directors.

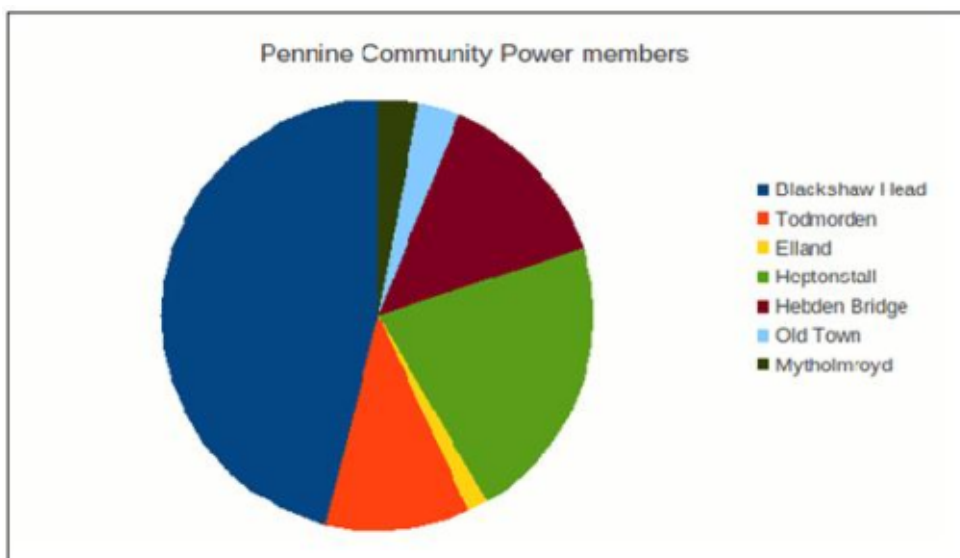
PCP has 65 shareholders from the areas shown in the chart below.



Photos: Installation of Community Wind Turbine

PCP conducted a survey on what motivated the shareholders to buy shares in the community wind turbine. The result is available at www.powerinthecommunity.org.

If you want regular updates from PCP – even if you are not a shareholder – you can sign up to the PCP blog, to PCP Facebook or Twitter via the PCP website www.powerinthecommunity.org.



Grant application

The Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) set aside £8 million to enable 50 to 100 community organisations to install subsidised renewable heating systems (biomass, solar panels,

heat pumps, etc). Pennine Community Power (PCP) applied and were successful in the first round.

Unfortunately, it was not practical for PCP to complete the extensive work required in the second round

within the very tight deadline, and it was decided not to proceed.

Village fete

The fete was once again a big success. Many thanks to the organising committee and to all the volunteers helping in one way or the other.

As usual BEAT had a stall in the red tent and we made some useful contacts during the afternoon.

We shared the tent with two police officers, who offered BEAT and BOGs free compost, plant pots,



Photo: The Red Tent



Photo: Display Board

etc, confiscated from cannabis growers.

We have already had the first delivery – minus cannabis plants – which we gave to Charlestown Allotment Group.

Charlestown allotments

Congratulations to Charlestown Allotments, who have received a grant from Community Foundation for Calderdale, towards setting up their new allotment site.



Photo: Charlestown Allotments

For more details please see www.charlestownallotments.co.uk.

Nature conservation

Now that the community wind turbine is up and running, the insulation at the Chapel completed and work on the community orchards almost finished for now, the BEAT committee would like to do more on nature conservation.

We plan to put up bird and bat boxes in Colden Clough and will put up a bird box with a webcam



at Colden School. You will be able to watch what is going on inside the bird box via the internet. If you want to help with this work please contact BEAT – contact details at the end of the newsletter.

If you cannot give practical help but would like to give financial help to BEAT's nature conservation work you can make a donation by going to www.localgiving.com. Type in 'HX77JB': BEAT's homepage will be the first on the list.

The first £10 of every donation we receive will be matched funded –



so if you donate £10 BEAT will receive £20 through the scheme! If you are a UK taxpayer, please Gift Aid your donation: BEAT will then receive a 25% top-up on the amount you donate, at no extra cost to you.

If you would like to donate more than £10, you can make several £10 donations and they will each be match funded.

Green news

Calderdale Council agreed on a strategy document called "Calderdale Energy Future".

Calderdale's Energy Future

A Summary



This outlines the aim to reduce Calderdale's greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2020 and by 80% by 2050, taking 2005 as the baseline.

To create some momentum towards this aim the Council invited applications from the private and public sector and

communities to sit on a panel that meets monthly to oversee this process. The panel has two members from Blackshaw Head: Steve Hoyle representing Blackshaw Parish Council and Finn Jensen representing BEAT. There have been two meetings.

The **Feed-in-Tariff (FIT)** for photovoltaic (PV) solar panels was reduced to 15.44 pence per kWh produced for new installations installed after 1 November 2012 if the household has an Energy Performance Certificate of level D or above. For households with an EPC level E or below the tariff will be 7.1 pence per kWh.

The government has also launched its consultation on the **Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI)**. DECC have recently published details of the next steps of the domestic RHI, currently planned for summer 2013.

Key points:

- Payments for 7 years (much shorter than FITs)

- Payments based on assumed energy generation (taking into account the circumstances of the property)
- Tariffs take into account the additional costs of installation and running the renewable system and non-financial barriers (such as disruption in the home). They also build in compensation on the additional upfront installation costs of 7.5% to cover the cost of financing
- As with FITs, eligibility will be subject to property meeting minimum energy efficiency standards (meaning a 'key interaction with the Green Deal')
- Owner-occupiers and private landlords will be eligible
- Will apply to any installations since 15 July 2009, including those who received the Renewable Heat Premium Payment
- Considering having bespoke tariffs for the registered social landlord and new build sectors.

Heat pumps

BEAT has been able to take advantage of a British Gas project to install air source heat pumps in suitable properties. DECC are subsidising these heat pumps to test different ways of managing future electricity demand to reduce carbon emissions from power generation. If you have one installed, British Gas will monitor its performance remotely.

The initial deadline for households to express interest was very short, and in the middle of August when many people were on holiday, but 16 households expressed an interest. British Gas has since

contacted BEAT again for help to sign up more households. So far 37 households in Blackshaw Head have requested a survey for a heat pump. There is still time to sign up if you are interested.

- The offer is only open to households that are not on mains gas and the heat pumps will have to be installed before Christmas.
- The average price is £5000, including installation, for a system that normally costs around £15,000.
- The performance of the heat pumps will be monitored via broadband. If you do not already have broadband, British Gas will install it for you.

If you are interested in an air source heat pump please contact finn.jensen@rocketmail.com or **01422 846863**. British Gas will then make a 2-3 hour-long survey of your house to see if it is suitable for a heat pump. If it is, they will give you a quote. The quote will include new radiators and pipes where necessary.

You need to express your interest ASAP to ensure installation can take place by mid-December.

Many thanks to Paul Willson for organising this opportunity. Without his involvement it would not have been possible.

BEAT events

On **12 September** Bradford Environmental Action Trust came



to speak after a visit with a group of staff from community centres. Clare made a wonderful dinner for the visitors. Thanks to them all.

On **10 October** Andy Walker from SURE Insulation



(www.SUREinsulation.co.uk) came to give a talk. SURE Insulation is a social enterprise doing internal wall insulation. This was followed by the BEAT AGM –see the report in this newsletter.

On **14 November** Ian Scott will be speaking about community recycling schemes – see

www.crn.org.uk for recycling projects in West Yorkshire.



Steve Welsh will be speaking about their biomass heating system and wind turbine and Ben from HebVeg speaking about their vegetable growing and box scheme in Hebden Bridge.

On **12 December** Jenny Shepherd will talk about her work with www.energyroyd.org.uk,



Finn Jensen will speak about solar panels and Peter Bradley about his wind turbine. We will also have something nice to eat with our tea and coffee in preparation for the festive season. If you fancy baking a cake please bring it to the meeting to share.

These meetings are at the **Chapel in Blackshaw Head** at 7.45 pm. Everyone is welcome. If you are working we'd welcome a donation of £1 for the hire of the room.

On **9 January** Geoff Tansey will be speaking about fair, healthy and sustainable food systems at 7.45pm at the **Social and Bowling Club in Heptonstall**.

Geoff Tansey
fair, healthy and sustainable food systems

The bar will be open. Geoff has written several books on the topic and has acted as a consultant for the UN and many other agencies. He is a trustee/director of the Food Ethics Council. For more information please see www.tansey.org.uk.



UpBEAT produced by;

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BEAT AGM

The Annual General Meeting was held on 10 October. Now that BEAT / PCP has completed the community wind turbine it was decided that BEAT should work on nature conservation. Helen Eccles is taking the lead on this.

It was also decided to try and have at least one public meeting in Heptonstall in 2013 to see if there

is interest in setting up an environmental group there, or if people want to get involved in BEAT.

The first such public meeting will be on Wednesday 9 January at 7.45pm at the Social and Bowling Club (next to the car park and the allotments). The bar will be open. Geoff Tansey will be speaking on fair, healthy and sustainable food systems (see BEAT events for

more details).

The AGM decided not to take any more trees from the Woodland Trust in order to focus on other projects.

The AGM elected the following BEAT committee members: Pete (chair), Ash (secretary), Finn (treasurer), Donna, Dale, Jan and Paul.

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