

Sustainable Wallingford – LEAF Meeting Report

Overview

The meeting was organised to provide feedback to key stakeholders in the local community on the activities funded by the LEAF grant. Those invited and attended included:

- local householders who had received Energy Performance Certificates for their homes
- Town and District councillors
- owners or those responsible for community buildings assessed for solar photo-voltaic installations

Almost 50 of those invited attended the meeting



Content

Presentations provided were:

1. Energy Efficiency Survey Findings - Dr. Sue Roberts, Alison Smart and Frank Gordon

A very interesting presentation highlighting the key findings of the energy efficiency survey covering the energy efficiency ratings, the principal energy savings measures and the potential savings in terms of energy and financial. Householders had also provided input as to when such savings are likely to be implemented. This provides an early indication of the likely volume and value of potential savings for the Green Deal within the surveyed community.



2. Demonstration home findings and community renewable: wind - Richard Harding

An overview of the data logging process and plans to reduce the energy requirements of a detached 1960's house in Wallingford.

Additionally, Richard gave a brief summary of the feasibility report on the siting of a wind turbine at Cholsey.

3. Community renewables: solar – Paul Sims

A quick summary of the assessment methodology of community buildings in the Wallingford area for solar photo-voltaic installation plus the estimated costs and benefits of such implementations



4. Community enterprises in Oxfordshire – Barbara Hammond (Low Carbon Hub)

Barbara provided an overview of some of the other community initiatives that are underway in Oxfordshire, highlighting, in particular, the community interest groups that have invested in renewable energy. Almost a quarter of Oxfordshire's communities have sustainable groups which is seen as best practice in UK if not worldwide. It is hoped that the activities and learnings funded by the LEAF grant may be able to be applied to similar communities within the county.

Q&A Session

The following questions were raised

1. Can you relocate solar PV and retain the FIT as some community buildings may not remain in use for the long term?

If you relocate solar PV installation then you lose the FIT

2. What did the estimated cost of £2.5m for all the solar PV installations mean?

The installation costs reduce due to economies of scale for multiple installations but a range of expected costs were provided

3. Did you consider ground-based PV installation?

It was not considered as part of this proposal but could be considered and would require planning permission.

4. Are there grants available for community renewable installations?

Public grants cannot be combined with FIT

5. How was the DEA training that was undertaken by Alison and Sue?

It was a relatively quick process with qualifications and exams to complete and it did not require prior building expertise.

Note that a new diploma for eco-building is being launched for builders and members of the public who are renovating their homes. The pilot will be launched in September.

Breakout Session

The session gave the opportunity for all attendees to ask further questions of the presenters and to register interest in the community renewables initiative.

Stands had been erected to provide attendees with more information on solar PV, community enterprise options and Sustainable Wallingford. The solar PV detailed report was available plus a large aerial map of the Wallingford area to demonstrate the physical location of the community buildings.

Wrap-up

Sustainable Wallingford Chairman, John Griffin, summarised the considerable positive feedback that had been provided by the audience during the evening. District Councillor, Celia Collett thanked Sue Roberts and Alison Smart for successfully undertaking the LEAF grant activities.