

STEPS TOWARDS A LOW CARBON ECONOMY

The transition to a low carbon economy is a regional and global imperative. The Sustainable Development Fund is supporting innovation in alternative energy provision and is playing a critical role in promoting micro hydro and wood fuel as appropriate renewable technologies in our Protected Landscapes. Here are a selection of SDF Projects from across the region:

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR ALL

South Devon AONB

A series of public displays and technical workshops/advice surgeries for the general public and local businesses, encouraging attendees to increase the energy efficiency of their homes and businesses premises; and to install renewable energy technologies. The workshops took a series of previous basic seminars to the next level and supported each attendee in developing their own action plan to renewables and energy efficiency.

A wide range of renewable technologies were represented including solar hot water, photovoltaics, biomass/ woodfuel, ground source heat. The project was delivered in partnership with local renewable energy companies and advisory agencies. Promotional materials presented to participants have also been used to great effect to raise awareness of renewable technologies, their environmental and economic benefits, and to alleviate confusion about the role of each of the advisory agencies and local groups within the general public. The project directly involved over 250 people, 50 local businesses and a range of local community groups.

More info: pat@infoaction.org.uk

LOW CARBON ECONOMY



GORRAN ECO SCHOOLS PROJECT

LOW CARBON ECONOMY

Cornwall AONB

The SDF funded two sister projects for Gorran Primary School, which is in the South Coast central section of the Cornwall AONB, south of Mevagissey.

The first tranche of SDF funding of £1,372, enabled £3,205 to be spent on an air source heat pump for the schools outdoor swimming pool. The children can now have sustainable (and warm) swimming lessons every week, without going off site.

The second tranche of funding of £5,162.87, enabled the school to go even further with their green credentials and build a 15kw wind turbine and weather station in the schools grounds and set up a green project to finance future green projects at the schools. The SDF funding provided vital match to EDF Energy for the total project cost of £45,815.

The project will make Gorran School self-sufficient in energy and will be able to export some electricity back to the national grid. It also highlights that the AONB can support community scale wind turbines which have a sustainable emphasis in line with guidance in PPS22.

More info:

<http://www.gorran.cornwall.sch.uk/default.htm>

<http://www.cornwall->

aonb.gov.uk/latestnews.html#breezes



DARTMOOR CLIMATE CIRCLE SUPPORT

LOW CARBON ECONOMY

Dartmoor National Park

Dartmoor Climate Circle is a network of groups who:

“agree to work together to tackle climate change and promote sustainability in Dartmoor and surrounding areas.” and Pledge work urgently and with passion to take action and share experience in pursuit of this aim



This project enables Proper Job to provide administrative support and management, enabling the group to concentrate on action and to maximise resources used in the delivery of change, removing the need to set up their own constitution or to employ staff directly. The initial meeting of the 13+ groups identified 3 areas of potential collaboration:

Networking:

- Provide a central point for organising membership contact lists, meetings, information exchange and dissemination.
- We will use teleconferencing to avoid meetings as much as possible both within the individual members' organisations and within the circle.

Efficiencies

- Use the greater numbers of joint working to Populate a website, produce an e-zine, market the circle (to encourage more activities against climate change)
- Provide training to members
- Bulk buy
- Share information resources

Lobbying

- Target National, regional, local, parish, and community organisations with a shared voice
- Collaborate in community consultation to provide evidence of demand for changes in policy and practice
- As a first action, work jointly to make the whole of Dartmoor a plastic bag free area following the lead of Modbury.

More info: Nicky Scott - nicky.scott@devon.gov.uk

Dartmoor Circle, C/o Nicky Scott, Proper Job, Chagford, Crannafords Industrial Park, Chagford, TQ13 8DR

VILLAGE FOOTPRINT DAYS

LOW CARBON ECONOMY

Tamar Valley AONB

'village footprint days' were partnership environmental awareness events held on three different days at three different locations in the Tamar Valley. Local people were supplied with access to information in a 'fun manner' on recycling, conservation, sustainable construction techniques and energy efficiency.

There were a variety of interactive displays, activities and stalls: a number of organisations presented information including South West Water, Caradon District Council, Cornwall County Council, as well as smaller interest groups and local charities. Some 500 people attended the village footprint days, which are likely to become an annual community run event.

SDF grant: £1,000

Total project cost: £7,150



INSTALLING A SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SOURCE IN TODDINGTON'S NEW VILLAGE HALL

LOW CARBON ECONOMY

Cotswolds Conservation Board

This project has resulted from the recommendations contained in last year's SDF funded feasibility study into the use of sustainable energy in the new village hall; which identified a ground source heat pump as the best option for the new hall.

The first phase of the new build was the SDF aided installation of a ground source heat pump. This was completed in March 2008.

The aim of the project is to reduce the need for carbon based energy sources in the operation of the community building; and to provide an example to others of what is possible in such a building.

The heat pump supplies all the heating needs of the new hall including hot water. The heat source is an area of ground close to the hall and owned by the village hall charity, into which approximately 250 metres of heat recovery coils have been installed. A pump transfers heat to distribution tubes. The low running cost heat source will provide zoned under-floor heating providing a warm environment where needed. This will encourage use by all sections of the community.

The new hall is being built adjacent to the primary school. The feasibility study gave special consideration to links with the school and educational opportunities; and the staff and pupils took part in activities with the consultants. When the Hall is completed the school will be able to access the energy display information about energy capture and usage from the solar panels; which will provide a useful educational resource.

The findings of the feasibility study (a 2006/07 project) have been disseminated to members of the Members of the Gloucestershire Village Halls Forum by the Toddington Village Hall Committee and the consultants. On completion the Committee intend to host an open day for Gloucestershire and South Worcestershire village halls.

SDF Grant: £13,947

Phase I project total cost: £20,886

More info: dan.blake@btinternet.com

KINGCOMBE CENTRE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT

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Dorset AONB

Kingcombe Centre is an environmental education centre in rural Dorset. A major refurbishment of the accommodation block and training centre has included various renewable energy technologies – solar (water), woodfuel and passive solar – to heat a refurbished and extended accommodation block and training centre (extension using low energy building methods). All tradesmen employed were local, many accumulating an interest and knowledge in renewable energy through this project.

SDF grant: £7,000

Total project cost: £110,500

More info:

<http://www.kingcombecentre.org.uk>



Passive Solar © David Rees



Pellet heater © David Rees

For more information on the Sustainable Development Fund see:
www.southwestlandscapes.org.uk/sdf.asp

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