

THIS QUARTER'S ACTION:

This quarter it's all about making your voice heard in time for the UN Climate Summit in Copenhagen, 7-18 December 2009:

- Sign up to the [10:10](http://www.10:10uk.org) campaign (see inside for details)
- Sign up to the [350](http://www.350.org) campaign (see inside for more)



Clothes Swap in St. Peter's Church Hall

Climate change and peak oil

As always, things are looking pretty bleak when it comes to climate change. It is likely that the Arctic ice-cap will melt during summer within the next 10 years.... It was only a few years ago that this was predicted to occur within the next 100 years! This doesn't mean that the scientists are wrong about climate change but rather they were not prepared for how quickly these changes would occur.

The weather forecast for Britain for the rest of the century doesn't look too bad. Hotter, drier summers and milder, wetter winters seem bearable but the knock-on effects will be more dramatic. In Britain, we are likely to experience more droughts and flash-floods.



Areas most at risk from sea flooding

A recent BBC news article highlighted the "[Flood Warning for Coastal Homes](#)" in which they state that much of the Welsh coast is at risk (see map below).

The social and economic effects of climate change could be disastrous.

Meanwhile, a [new study](#), from the [UK Energy Research Centre \(UKERC\)](#), bills itself as the first independent analysis of the risk of so-called "peak oil" and concludes that supplies are [likely to peak before 2030](#) – with a real chance they could peak by 2020.

If you are concerned then add your voice to the growing number of campaigns before the [UN Climate Change Summit in Copenhagen in December](#). And join Transition Llambled to help to ensure a brighter local future.

Clothes Swap

'Free, fun and environmentally friendly' was the theme of Transition Llambled's Clothes Swap held at St Peter's Church Hall, Lampeter, on Saturday 17th October. The intention was to recycle adults' and children's clothes that were in good condition but no longer needed. One of the organisers commented "We live in such a 'throwaway' society that it is a welcome change to give freely and take something useful in exchange. It is a bit like the old bartering system, but without the haggling!"

The Clothes Swap was very well-attended and people enjoyed socialising

over coffee and homemade cakes. It was such a success that another event is being planned - this time to swap household items such as kitchen utensils. If you would like to help, please contact events@transition-llambled.org.uk or ring 01570 423886

A big THANKS to the Events Group for another successful, well-organised event. Thanks also to everyone who came to support this event, we hope you enjoyed it and will come along to the next one — and spread the word.



“THE MORE PEOPLE WHO GET INVOLVED, THE MORE WE CAN GET DONE. THE MORE WE GET DONE, THE SMOOTHER THE TRANSITION TO COPING WITH OIL SHORTAGES AND THE PRESSURES OF CLIMATE CHANGE. “



Volunteers

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the Transition Llambled volunteers for their continued hard work and dedication. The Events Group organised another successful event this month (see Clothes Swap article). Other volunteers have been working hard to try to secure a lease on Victoria Hall so that we have a base for all Transition Llambled and other community activities. We have volunteers taking our Perceptions questionnaire to complete with householders within the Lampeter area. Others deal with the administration involved in keeping Transition Llambled going, e.g. taking minutes at meetings, database maintenance, responding to relevant government consultations and so on. Applications are being made for grants to help to continue and expand on the work done so far. So, while it's not always apparent that things are moving forward with Transition Llambled, there is a lot of activity behind the scenes that should soon become more visible.

However, we need more people to get involved. The more people who get involved, the more we can get done. The more we get done, the smoother will be the transition to coping with oil shortages and with the inevitable pressures of climate change. There are many areas where we could do with extra volunteers. We need people to help with research projects, e.g. “Can Lampeter Feed Itself?”, identifying sites in the area that might be suitable for community scale renewable energy projects and so on. Help is often needed with [planning and putting on](#) Transition events, manning our stall at non-Transition events, administration and

data entry. If anyone else is prepared to help out with the Perceptions questionnaire and upcoming eco-footprinting questionnaire surveys, then we and the other volunteers would be very grateful. We could do with working groups in areas such as health and education, transport, skill sharing, youth & community, or whatever you might think is needed to [strengthen](#) our community and [its](#) resilience to the challenges ahead of us. If the Victoria Hall project is successful we will need volunteers to help do the place up and to help with the day-to-day running of the place.

Perhaps you can only help occasionally, or you can [commit to giving](#) half an hour a week. Perhaps you'd like to set up your own working group but need to [link up with](#) other people who [might](#) be interested in joining you. Perhaps you have a relevant research project that you'd like to carry out, but [you need](#) access to certain resources. Whatever you can do to [help Transition Llambled](#) would not only be appreciated by those already involved, but will also help to secure a brighter, more resilient future for the Lampeter area, and, ideally, a future that you would like to see.

If you would like to get involved in any way, giving as much or as little of your time as you can, then please contact us.

Thanks again to everyone involved, Sarah and Dafydd (see back page for contact details).

Dafydd has left us to work at Organic Centre Wales. We'd like to wish him good luck in his new job and thanks for all his work here.

Membership

Welcome to our newest members who signed up at the clothes swap event. We now have over 320 people on our mailing list and about 60 members. Everyone is welcome to become a member – it's free and doesn't commit

you to anything, but it will enable you to vote at Transition Llambled AGMs and to borrow books & films from our library. Go to our website or phone or email us if you'd like to join.

350 in time for Copenhagen

If you want to add your voice to those who gathered at 5,200 events in 180 countries last week, go to www.350.org and sign this pledge:

"I am ready for an ambitious, fair, and binding global climate deal. I call on world leaders to pass climate policies grounded in the latest science and strong enough to get us back to 350*."

* 350 parts per million of CO₂ in the atmosphere



350 day of action, Borth, 24th Oct 09 - rising sea levels are a very real consequence of climate change!

Open Space Event

Transition Llambed is putting on an "Open Space" event (see p. 168 The Transition Handbook, Rob Hopkins) on Saturday 30th January at Cellan Millennium Hall, 2.00 - 5.30pm.

The "Open Space" format will provide a forum to generate questions for discussion on how we can continue to develop sustainable, equitable and healthy ways of living in the Lampeter area.



10:10 is an ambitious project to unite every sector of British society behind one simple idea: that by working together we can achieve a 10% cut in the UK's carbon emissions in 2010.

It's a campaign started by Franny Armstrong who made the film *The Age of Stupid*, and is supported by the Guardian newspaper and many other partner organisations. While politicians argue about targets for 2050 and 2020, scientists say world emissions must peak and begin to fall within the next few years. That means we need deep cuts in the developed world as quickly as possible. 10% is approximately the right amount for Britain to cut next year.

Most climate change targets are set far into the future so it's easy to ignore them – how often have you had weeks to complete a job or assignment and still found yourself working into the small hours to get it done before the deadline? If we use the same tactics with emissions cuts, leaving action till nearer 2050, it will be too late. However, with a bit of effort, a 10% cut in 1 year is a manageable target, and we need to start now to meet targets in time.

So far, over 38,500 people, over 1,300 businesses, nearly 400 schools and more than 600 other

organisations have signed up to the challenge. On 21st October the Lib Dems tabled a special Opposition Day debate in parliament – proposing to sign up Parliament, government and all of the public sector to 10:10. Unfortunately, there was a 71 majority opposing the motion, but that's not a bad figure out of 523 votes. They didn't rule it out – they said that they didn't know if it is possible, or how much it would cost. 10:10 campaigners are aiming to find out answers to these questions. However, in response to the 10:10 campaign, the government have promised an extra £20m to pay for more emissions reductions from their departments.

If individuals, businesses, schools and community groups set an example and show the government that the people support decarbonisation, they won't be able to go on saying that no-one will vote for them if they take strong measures to cut emissions - both nationally and internationally, at Copenhagen in December.

So, if you haven't signed up already then do it today at 1010uk.org. On their site there are 10 easy steps to follow to reduce your own emissions, and even if you've already done your 10% you can still add your name to the campaign and spread the word.

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Transition Llambed Forum:
forum.transition-llambed.org.uk
Facebook Group:
www.facebook.com/group.php?
gid=90515131784&ref=nf



We will keep you informed of our progress via different media including this quarterly newsletter, posters, flyers, an information folder in the library, our website, forum and Facebook and local press including The Lamp.

We have listed various ways you can contact us, on the left of this page.

Please send newsletter contributions by post or email to: sarah@transition-llambed.org.uk

www.transition-llambed.org.uk



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Visit to Llangeitho School

The highlight of November for Dafydd was a visit Llangeitho Primary School. ...

“I found myself in front of a group of 10 year old school children trying to explain how important oil is to everything we do. We kicked off with a wheelbarrow with a 20kg bag of animal feed in it. They all had a go wheeling it round the hall before we settled down to some sums. A loaded Ford Focus weighs as much as 75 of these bags and I showed them a 1 litre bottle before asking how far 10 miles is. I must confess that I myself continue to be surprised how far you can move a ton & a half with 1 litre of petrol.

Explaining why a quarter of all oil goes into producing was more tricky. But

with gentle encouragement and the help of a short DVD they asked questions which prompted a debate on how oil is needed for transport (easy), processing and marketing (more difficult) and fertilizer (tricky). The final session was an attempt to find something in the classroom that was not dependent on oil. We failed.

As with most children of that age, they are taught about the environment and the need to conserve energy. It was encouraging that the need to conserve energy and to reduce-reuse-recycle is well understood by children. The solution to peak oil is of course the same for global warming – less reliance on fossil fuels.”

Upcoming meetings/ dates to remember:

Coordinating Group meetings: 7pm, 7th Dec & 7th Jan, Menter Llambed Office, Station Terrace, Lampeter

Energy Group meeting: 7pm, 10th Dec, Talsarn Village Hall. Follow-up to a successful meeting exploring community-based renewable energy schemes.

Keep an eye on the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, 7th—18th Dec 2009, en.cop15.dk/