



IF YOU DO NOTHING ELSE THIS QUARTER:

Check out Independent Service Engineering – a company who are building domestic appliances that are made to last and to be easily repaired. This will reduce resource-use and waste as well as creating employment opportunities for local independent repairers (www.iseappliances.co.uk, 0845 2261268).

FEED IN TARIFFS

There will be grants available to aid setting up community renewable projects. Contact us if you'd like to know more or would like help with setting up a meeting to explore the possibilities in your community.

Feed In Tariffs-what are they and how much could you earn?

On 1st Feb the government announced its final changes to the consultation on Feed In Tariffs (FITs). This article aims to give a summary of what they are and how much they could save/earn for you. The government consultation document can be found at: www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/elec_financial/elec_financial.aspx

FITs are a financial incentive to encourage renewable energy installations, up to 5 MW, but rates are, generally, better for installations of less than 100kW. The average household in the UK uses about 4500 kWh (kilowatt hours) of electricity per year which could easily be supplied by a 6 kW wind turbine if wind speeds are sufficient.

The government has set minimum FIT rates which are guaranteed for 20 years. So, if you were to install, for example, a 6kW wind turbine between April 2010 and March 2012, all electricity generated would guarantee you an income of 26.7p per kWh for the next 20 years (this value is index-linked for inflation). In addition to this every kWh of electricity that you don't use at home can be exported to the grid, which will bring in a further 3p per kWh. If you wait until April 2012 the rate will drop to 25.5p per kWh, in line with technologies getting cheaper and becoming more easily available, and are expected to drop annually thereafter.

So how much would it cost to install a 6kW wind turbine and how soon would you get your investment back? Difficult to answer precisely, as prices will vary according to

manufacturer, installer and location, while income will be dependent on wind speed and efficiency of the turbine. As an example, the Solar Energy Alliance give a price of £28,000 to install a 6kW turbine, which, at an average wind speed of 5 miles per second, will produce 7,000 kWh per year. This would give you £1,869 per annum. If you used 5,000 kWh yourself you could sell back 2000 for a further £60 p.a. You would also be saving yourself about £450 per year in electricity bills, so that's a total of £2,379 p.a. Therefore, it would take you about 12 years to pay yourself back.

FITs vary for electricity generated from solar photovoltaic panels, wind turbines and hydroelectricity installations, being highest for solar PV panels to reflect the initial costs of installation.

Set-up costs are likely to be too much for many individuals but some communities are getting together to install community-based renewable energy systems. These will provide an income for further community improvements/investments as well as a reduced carbon footprint and increased energy security. Grants are being made available to aid setting up community renewable projects. The Cwmclydach Low Carbon Community intend to install two micro hydro turbines which will generate an income of £40,000 per annum. The Cwm Arian Renewable Energy project (Pembrokeshire) will install two 1.2 MW wind turbines for an annual income of up to £300,000.

Q: How many climate sceptics does it take to change a lightbulb?

*A: None.....
Eventually the lightbulbs will right themselves!*

Volunteers: We have a number of events and workshops coming up over the next few months (see P.3). If you would be willing to help out with designing and/or distributing posters and flyers, helping with refreshments, setting up venues or manning our stall for any of the events please contact us – any help is always appreciated and very much needed!

If anyone is interested in forming a writer's group contact Avril on 01570 421476. For both experienced and inexperienced to share ideas and skills.

TAN 6 - easing red-tape for the smaller farmer?

In 1871 the population of Ceredigion was 73,400. As a result of rural depopulation by 1951 this figure had fallen to 53,300. From that time on the population has gradually risen again (largely as a result of inward migration) but it was only in the 2001 census that the population passed through the 1871 figure. As a result, in terms of numbers, the population now is not dissimilar to that of 140 years ago.

So what has changed in the meantime?

140 years ago the population of Ceredigion would have very largely met its needs from its own resources. As a result Ceredigion would have been comparatively unaffected by what happened elsewhere. It would have been resilient to change. But if you woke up tomorrow and tried to meet your needs from a 30 mile radius and if everyone else did too then we would very soon discover how much will need to change for us to recreate that resilience.

Most of this is to do with how we now arrange things. The meat from our farms goes off to the supermarkets as do the limited range of other crops which we grow. Meanwhile we all depend on those supermarkets to bring in the things we want. As the true costs of this arrangement become increasingly apparent this will have to change. However as long as the bottom line holds up those who perpetuate this system will continue to do so.

That doesn't mean that there isn't room for another system based on smaller scale production and local

markets to develop in parallel and point the way to change.

For it to work, however, smaller farmers need the freedom to diversify. New businesses need to emerge from the countryside to meet the needs of the towns. Additionally, new farmers are needed who are not locked into the present way of working and who will naturally look to local markets.

Until now, Welsh Assembly Government policy has been very restrictive of this preferring instead to limit diversification and to restrict the creation of new dwellings in the countryside.

But change is at hand. Technical Advice Note (TAN) 6 may sound like a tractor manual from soviet era Russia but, in fact, it is the document which controls these vital issues and it is presently undergoing a major revision. While we will have to wait to see the specifics it is clear from the consultation exercise that there is a determination to free up the small farmer and to allow (at least in theory) people to move onto the land and meet their own needs from it. Those taking up that challenge will be expected to live "low impact lifestyles" and will naturally look to local markets through which to sell their surplus produce.

Now if we could just get rid of the red tape surrounding local markets and get back to a person, a table and a product we would be a long way towards the future and a lot closer to the past.

Upcoming Transition Llambled Events

Sat 13 March 10-2: Seedy Saturday (seed swap event in conjunction with the Permaculture group): Organic Fresh Foods, Lampeter Industrial Estate

Mon 22 March 10-3.30: * Stress Management & Relaxation workshop: Family Centre, Lampeter

Sun 28 March 10-4: * Smallholding visit– see how a successful organic smallholding run on permaculture principles can work, ask questions & get advice: Temple Bar, Lampeter

Mon 15 March 7pm: Coordinating Group meeting (all welcome): Menter Llambled office, Station Terrace, Lampeter

Sat 27 March 10-3: Energy Advice Surgery – free advice on ways to save money and save energy: Black Lion function room, Lampeter

Sat 10 & Sun 11 April 10-4: * Hurdle & gate-making: Denmark Farm

Sat 17 April 10-3: Energy Advice Surgery: venue to be confirmed

Mon 19 April 10-3.30: * Listening to Ourselves and Each Other workshop: Family Centre, Lampeter

Thurs 29 April 7.30pm: Transition Llambled AGM: Victoria Hall, Lampeter

Mon 17 May 10-3.30: * Finding and Maintaining Motivation for Positive Change workshop: Family Centre, Lampeter

Mon 16 June 10-3.30: * Group Facilitation Skills workshop: Family Centre, Lampeter (ideally you will have attended the other workshops or have prior experience of working with groups before coming to this workshop)

All events/workshops are free and open to everyone, but donations are requested to cover costs.

Please visit our web forum for details of coordinating group and sub-group meetings and minutes, and keep an eye on our website for other events.

*** Booking required as places are limited. Please get in touch to find out more details about these events.**

Opportunities at Denmark Farm

Please contact Denmark Farm (info@shared-earth-trust.org.uk or 01570 493358) or visit their website (www.shared-earth-trust.org.uk) for further information, to book onto courses and to find out costs

Fri 5 March: Basket making; **Fri 19 March:** Mosaic making; **Tues 13 April:** Spring Food Preparation (grains) and energetics; **Tues 27 April:** Roots n Shoots - Spring Medicinal Herbs

There will also be a 2 day Introduction to Permaculture Course and a 1 or 2 day Installation of Solar Panels and in April/May the professional training programme begins.

Sat 10 & Sun 11 April: Green Fair (all welcome)

TRANSITION LLAMBED

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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

2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity

Biodiversity is the variety of life on earth. It provides us with oxygen, cycles nutrients and waste for us and provides us with food, clothing and medicine as well as beauty and enjoyment and we are part of it. However, habitat destruction, pollution, climate change, population growth and overuse of resources all mean we are losing biodiversity at an unprecedented rate.

At the first Convention on Biodiversity (Rio Earth Summit, 1992) many governments set targets to halt this trend by 2010. Well, we're here, its 2010, and these targets have not been met.

There has been some success in Wales with the conservation of threatened species and habitats (e.g. sand lizards, otters, lesser horseshoe bats) but, sadly, there have been more losses. Find out how you can help at: www.biodiversityislife.net



Otters – a rare conservation success story. Numbers have increased in Wales due to better water quality in our rivers.

Afonydd Cymru, Environment Agency Wales and the Wild Trout Trust are collaborating in the organisation of **training events for River Trust volunteers** in Wales. There will be a session at the Talbot Hotel, Tregaron on 27 March. By the end of the training session, volunteers will be able to undertake surveys unsupervised to identify factors affecting fisheries in their own areas. The training events are free and we hope that individuals will attend who are interested in doing something practical to protect and improve the quality, ecology and fisheries of their local rivers. **If you would like to attend please contact:** Helen Johnston helen@pembst.org Direct Line 01437 783070



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Cronfa Amaethyddol Ewrop ar gyfer Datblygu Gwledig: Ewrop yn Buddsoddi mewn Ardaloedd Gwledig
The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe Investing in Rural Areas



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government