



East Suffolk Greenprint Forum

Monday 1 September Event Record

Two of our Community Environmental Action Fund Communities kindly gave up an evening to share their learning and thoughts on community allotments and community energy. The speakers were Anne Thomas from Cookpole Energy Action and Geoff Fordham and Keith Dickerson from Power4KcC.

14 people were present, including the speakers. This represented four communities.

The format of the evening was a tour of the Walpole Allotments and then talks and discussion in the Pavilion.



Key points noted:

- 1) Small, visible, non-controversial, quick wins first can help increase people's trust and willingness to engage.
- 2) Quick wins include: events which engage large parts of the community such as Walpole Winter Craft Fayre, energy audits of people's homes identifying savings for them, and PV on community buildings or on land where no building is suitable.



in partnership



3) To move beyond these quick wins (to allotments, wind turbines, large scale solar etc.) you need a core group with:

- Vision
- Project management skills
- Income generation/fund raising skills
- Motivational/action generation skills
- Knowledge or access to it
- Tenacity – ability to roll with the fast and frequent punches and keep going no matter how much red tape and delays there are or life circumstances getting in the way.

4) To form an inclusive cooperative for a small scale project shares of £20 + seems to work when paying for small scale renewables. Alternatively a Community Lottery £12 a year raised the funds for a 4kW array in Waldringfield.

5) The support that could come from Suffolk would be in:

- Linking projects together and providing the knowledge share function to reduce burden on pioneer communities.
- Providing an administrative support to communities to provide consistency and cover a very time consuming part of being a volunteer.
- Providing a community energy efficiency and renewables audit service to identify the most beneficial locations.

Community tools available to borrow:

- Power4KcC – A thermal Imaging Camera. Use in the winter months.
- WALGA - Community Fruit Preserving Equipment

Community tools being considered for purchase and loaning within a local area.

- A Community Chipper
- Electric Bikes



Useful websites mentioned:

- <http://power4kcc.org/> Under development but eventually will put all LEAF documents on there.
- <http://islandsgoinggreen.org/> 92% of electricity is generated by the three renewable sources of sun, wind and water.

Present

Andrew Cassy, Anne Thomas, Betsy Reid, Colin Reid, Deborah Wargate, Geoff Fordham, John Taylor, Keith Dickerson, Luke Bennett, Phil Gore plus three members of Walpole Allotments.