

Community Environmental Action

Community Case Studies



Cookpole Energy Action

CEAF Start Date: September 2012 **CEAF End Date:** September 2013

CEAF funding awarded: £1,000 to cover displays boards, insurance and events

Number in community group: 5

Type of support provided: Financial

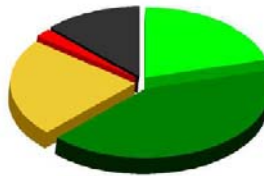
Primary focus of group: An established group installing community renewable energy systems and establishing a sustainable community allotment and orchard.

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2.1 People in Cookpole do care about climate change

Climate change is the most important issue facing the world and we must do all we can to stop or slow it



21% Strongly agree
42% Agree
23% Neutral
2% Disagree
13% unanswred

- 63% of respondents consider climate change to be the single most important issue facing the world.
- Only 4% of respondents answered that climate change is not real, or is not due to human actions.

Key achievements to date

1. Prior to CEAF funding (2010) the group carried out their own community carbon survey
2. Developed strong links with Parish Council
3. Got planning permission for a community turbine
4. Took part in the Greener Homes DIY scheme
5. Identified land suitable for allotments
6. Helped inspire other communities

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Other funds/support gained

- £1000 from Colin Hart's Locality Budget towards Groundworks at the allotment site.
- £4,000 from Heveningham Hall Country Fair Trust, £1,000 from the Co-operative Community Fund towards PV panels on the Pavilion.

Funds/support sought

- Mik Bedson and the Local Foods Suffolk fund for posts (Dan had suggested this)
- Awards for all for water pump

Carbon Reduction

- 48 questionnaires were completed between November 2009 and the date of this report. This represents 33% of the 147 dwellings in the community.
- 63% of respondents consider climate change to be the single most important issue facing the world.
- 81% of respondents have changed their behaviour to regularly take individual action specifically to reduce the "carbon footprint" of their household.
- Improved insulation - loft, roof, cavity wall insulation, double-glazed windows and doors. Modern central heating controls which would help run heating systems more efficiently.
- 49% of the properties in the survey sample were 100 years old or older. They also have a number of listed buildings. Which means specialist help is needed and financial support (cost was cited as a barrier)
- 15% of households have already invested in alternative "green" heat generation technology - ground source, solar thermal, or bio-fuel.

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Key Lessons Learnt

Positives

- Greener home DIY project helped the group engage villagers.
- Through events and survey good connections have been established with local farmers and most villagers.
- Knowledge within community group has enabled them

Learning points

- As onshore wind turbines can still be controversial it can be helpful to start with other engagement initiatives first. In addition the high capital costs mean groups have to explore all options for raising capital which can be a long process.
- It takes time for a community to develop actions and other agencies are not always able to move at the speed the community would ideally like .

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Next Steps

1) Follow up insurance for the community group's actions.

2) Continue to review options for raising capital for wind turbine project.

3) Continue development of allotments and community orchard



“Dan (the CEAF advisor) has been a regular feature in our plans, a friendly face”

Simon Weeks, Cookpole Energy Action

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