



Havant Friends of the Earth

Spring 2010

News and Views from Havant FOE

Going solar just got easier



Are the climate cynics winning the day?

Recent survey evidence suggests that public opinion on man-made climate change is becoming more cynical. Reasons include email revelations, exaggerated glacier claims and the coldest winter for years. The University of East Anglia has ordered an enquiry into email hacking and there are calls for resignations.

But behind the headlines has anything changed?

Most climate scientist agree the world is getting warmer and that the increased parts per million of greenhouse gases are responsible. Doing nothing is not an option. The so-called 'climategate' may have changed public opinion but this can just as well change back as the doubters are challenged. Rapid climate change is here now and the only real question is how much change, when it will happen and what will it do to our planet?

Climate Question Time

Switch off the TV and experience some real debate right here in Havant among the main parties' parliamentary candidates

**16th April
The Spring
East Street
Havant
Starts at 7.30pm
All Welcome**

Sponsored by Havant FOE

In February the Government announced details of a new "feed-in tariff"(FIT) scheme to encourage small-scale, green electricity generation. It follows years of campaigning by FOE and the renewable energy lobby.

The new subsidies for using wind turbines and solar panels begin in April.

For £15000, typically less than an up market kitchen, you could get up to a 8% tax free return over 25 years. With electricity prices set to go up constantly, a payback inside 10 years looks like a good bet.

The Government reckons small-scale generation will produce about 2 per cent of Britain's electricity needs eventually. Green energy campaigners were hoping for 6%. But raising the FITS could help boost installations by 2020.

A new Photo Voltaic (PV) system for a typical semi, would cost £15,000, generate 2.5KWh, and, currently, pull in payments of 41.3p per kilowatt hour. This could earn a tax free £900 in the first year as well as save £140 on energy bills.

The actual benefit will depend on consumption, the amount exported back to the grid and using A-rated white goods. Combined with the government's offer on renewable heat

generation, often provided by ground heat pumps, the future for renewable energy is improving all the time. Smart meter technology, due to be rolled out everywhere over the next 10 years, brings domestic energy management a major step forward. Installations will have to be new to qualify for the revised scheme. To work efficiently they must be unobstructed and face south.

Planning permission is generally not needed for PV except in AONB and conservation areas. Your energy company pays you for the electricity generated. Even if you move, a PV system should be a selling point. Eco upgrades will be funded by a new Pay As You Save (PAYS).

The best, free advice is available from the Energy Savings Trust. New capital funding facilities will also be announced tying the debt to the house rather than the owners.

Keep nuclear waste in Sellafield say Hants FOE

Hampshire FOE and local residents have teamed up to fight plans to process radioactive waste from Sellafield nuclear plant. FOE say that the low level waste should stay in Cumbria and not be sent 350 miles south by road. Allowing these shipments could encourage further consignments from other parts of the world to the Spanish-owned plant. Each truckload would consist of 40 barrels of radioactive waste such as contaminated lubricants, hydraulic and engine oils. The Fawley plant is the only one in the UK authorised to

deal with this type of waste. But FOE insists that the waste should be treated on site. The authorities claim there is no risk to public health at any stage of the disposal process and that radiation is no more than found everyday. The major environment risk comes from spillages in which the material could find its way into a water course.



flask used for moving by road nuclear waste around the country



We like our local shops because they're easy to get to, offer choice and a friendly service. So say the majority of over 300 local shoppers who completed a survey devised by local FOE members and Emsworth Business Association. The survey, made shortly before the opening of the Tesco Extra in Havant, shows that a significant number of people walk into town or come by bike. The town's **Say NO to Plastic Bags** campaign, launched 2 years ago with support from Havant FOE, was judged to be another

Locals love their shops in

Emsworth

success. While there was plenty to praise there was also room for improvement in parking, opening hours, choice of shops and facilities for younger people.

Meanwhile, comments from some Tesco Extra customers in the press suggest the town's new store is more a "Tesco just a bit extra" rather than the full Monty they've provided for Chichester and Portsmouth shoppers. Over 20 shops in the town remain empty.

Transition Havant



Pioneered in Ireland by Environmentalist, Rob Hopkins, in 2005 Transition Towns have spread throughout the country and beyond. Their cornerstone is that fossil fuels have passed their peak and it's down to communities to adapt to the new reality. With groups up and running in various parts of Hampshire and also in Chichester, another has been launched covering the centre of Havant.

FOE members were among the 23 or so local people invited to discuss the project at the Arts Centre recently. As with other groups, the emphasis is on action involving local food growing, seed markets, alternative energy and transport that embody elements of permaculture, fair trade, recycling, low carbon living generally and, above all, greater self-sufficiency.

Further information from jacquie.penrose@yahoo.co.uk

County Council still to decide on 1010

A motion urging Hampshire County Council to sign up for reducing its carbon footprint by 10% this year has hit stalemate. A council panel voted for deferral but there was hope that a meeting in February of the full council would agree to join the campaign. Now that will have to wait for the next full council meeting. Fifty-seven English councils have already agreed including Havant, West Sussex and Wiltshire.

Rivers on The Edge



Fears are growing that more water is being abstracted from Hampshire's rivers than can be naturally replaced. It means diverse ecosystems such as plants, bugs, aquatic creatures, voles, otters and some birds simply don't have enough to survive on. Hampshire with its great chalk downs acting as a vast water sponge, is more fortunate than some other areas of the country. With 80,000 new homes (at least) planned for South Hants our resources are set to be even more stressed.

The WWF has launched a campaign aimed at protecting rivers against more damage from over abstraction and pollution. Climate change with drier summers, wetter winters and more extreme weather events makes the future even more challenging.

The three key messages of the WWF's campaigns are:

- 1) Develop water efficient housing by making every home water neutral**
- 2) Provide strong incentive to promote water efficiency through universal metering, installation of low flow technology and better demand management**
- 3) End damaging abstraction through variable pricing and strict controls and efficient distribution**



New reservoir Inquiry

Plans for a new storage reservoir in Havant Thicket are now set for a Public Inquiry. The government says it wants to be convinced the £50m project is needed.

An evening of greening

The delightful Georgian village of Alresford was the venue for an entertaining evening of learning to be greener. About 30 locals (and Ray Cobbett) turned up for a workshop on low carbon living, led by the Climate Outreach Information Network(COIN).

The event was hosted by Greening Alresford, one of a number of greening groups, launched throughout the county. Members choose from a list of pledges such as using less water, fitting low energy light bulbs or driving less. They tally up the carbon savings they make and publish them.

Our leader, a former FOE campaigner, asked how many of us did not accept man-made global warming and only one hand went up. A good start. He said global warming had been known for 100 years but was only when the Mauna Loa observatory in Hawaii opened in the fifties that we began to understand what the relationship was between human activity and world temperature. Over 10,000 scientists from every leading academy agreed with the conclusions published by the UN in 2007.

We were set various tasks on how we felt about the scale of the problem, whether it could be solved and what would a low carbon community be like to live in? A check on our carbon footprints showed it was lower than average, not the biggest surprise of the evening. But one that gave us a warm glow as we went home.

Tar Sands-a dirty business

Tar sands is a bitumen - a viscous petroleum deposit- found in places like Canada in sand and clay. As peak oil passes these deposits have become a new source of carbon based fuel attracting heavy investment from BP (among others). The extraction process requires enormous steam injection that produces up to 4 times more CO₂ than a conventional barrel of oil. It may also cost more energy to win than it contributes. What makes Tar Sand attractive to Big Oil is the vast

deposits equal to all known crude oil reserves.

The damage to the environment is massive.

Air sampling shows significant increases in hydrogen sulfides (smells of rotten eggs).

Hundreds of square kilometres of land, some of it Indian ancestral land, is stripped off and laid bare. Millions of cubic litres of water, taken from local rivers, are required to convert to steam injection. In Canada the processing of tar sand is the biggest source of greenhouse gases emissions in the country. Greenpeace have a full scale campaign running against oil from tar sands.

For more info: www.greenpeace.org

£1/4 million schools grow-your-own project for Portsmouth FOE



It's not often that anything can truly be described as ground-breaking. But Portsmouth FOE's garden project is a perfect description for two schemes that set new horizons for environmental teaching in schools. The first, 'can do composting,' involves a part-time worker going into local schools to talk about recycling and composting using the waste they produce in school as the prime example.

The second, "Grow to Eat Well in Portsmouth Schools" is a 3-year £ 254,000 project funded 80% by the Lottery and 20% by various match funders including Portsmouth City Council. The project will employ two full-time project workers and an administrator. An Arram Mega truck electric van is being purchased to move people and material around the 15 participating schools. It is hoped that each school will have its own club to drive local activities.

Gardens will be managed according to RHS guidelines with each garden producing 10 vegetables and 5 herbs for sale or exchange with the local community. Natural compost, produced on site, will be used as fertiliser. Youngsters will be encouraged to sign on for NPTC Level 1 course in Horticulture.

The programme is seen as highly effective in re-connecting children with how food is produced, encouraging self-sufficiency in organic food production and understanding how to work with nature.



An Arram Electric-Powered mega truck will be used in the Portsmouth FOE Schools Garden Project.

Are Electric Cars Green?

The jury is decidedly out.

FOR:

- Low emissions
- Quiet drive
- Renewable energy
- Easy to use

AGAINST

- Expensive to buy
- Big batteries
- More accidents
- Bigger power stations
- Quick charge damage

For the diary

Date	Time	Event	Venue
17th March	7.45 pm	Talk on Emsworth Waysides	Nineveh, Havant
11th April	11.00 am	Flame of Peace	Emsworth and Havant
16th April	7.30 pm	'ask the climate questions'	Spring, East St. Havant
20th May	7.30 pm	FOE Group Meeting	Nineveh, Havant
23rd - 24th July	10 am - 5 pm	Hampshire Water Festival	Staunton Country Park

Contacts in Havant FOE:

E-mail: havantfoe@talk21.com
Website: www.havantfoe.org
Phone: (01243) 389487

Campaigns;
Public Sector:
Membership:
Website:
Planning:
Food:
Fairtrade:
Energy:

*Sue Holt
Ray Cobbett
Patricia Williamson
Kevin Birch
Jim Graham
Tim Dawes
Jenny Owens
Paul Diaper*

