

sustainable YOULGRAVE news

The valley of the River Bradford: Alport, Harthill, Youlgrave, Middleton, Gratton

No 1: February 2007

Anaerobic digestion study launched

A consultancy has been appointed to carry out Sustainable Youlgrave's feasibility study into anaerobic (methane) digestion in the local area. Three tenders were received and it was decided to go with Celtic Composting, who have considerable experience in



A biogas plant in Germany.

this field, as well the back-up of sound German technology.

The first stage will involve auditing farms in the valley, in terms of infrastructure, accessibility, livestock types and numbers, etc. The consultants will then take a detailed look at the commercial viability of developing an anaerobic digestion unit - effectively capturing power (electricity) from methane - including technical, operational and economic analysis.

The feasibility study is being financed through a grant from the Sustainable Development Fund, via the Peak District National Park. For more information on the AD study contact Fred Baker on 01629 636768 or email a.baker@bsg-ecology.com.

Community-wide energy survey in preparation

Before addressing potential renewable energy projects, it is essential to improve domestic energy conservation - which Sustainable Youlgrave has already begun examining. We have set up a sub-group to prepare a questionnaire that will go to every dwelling in our area in order to gather the raw information that will serve as a baseline for further action. What sort of insulation and heating systems exist in most properties? How many households have taken energy-saving measures, like low-energy light bulbs? And are water-saving measures such as rain butts and re-using so-called grey water prevalent? If you can help with the survey please contact Sue Watmore on 01629 636338 or email s.watmore@waitrose.com.

Sustainable Youlgrave began early in 2006 when a group of likeminded villagers in the Youlgrave area came together to discuss ways in which, by thinking globally but acting locally, we could do our bit to preserve this fragile planet and at the same time make our rural community fully sustainable. We are exploring a range of initiatives which cover specific renewable energy schemes, educational and energy-saving projects, plus related themes such as promoting local shops and services. We cover the parishes of Youlgrave & Harthill, and Middleton & Smerrill, including the settlements of Youlgrave, Alport and Middleton-by-Youlgrave. Sustainable Youlgrave is an independent and voluntary community group run by and for local people. Although we have a formal committee, we also have a growing base of supporters whose interest and expertise embraces farming and engineering through to planning and local government. If you would like to get involved in any way or simply know more about our plans please contact either John Youatt (Chair) on 01629 636241, email john@youatt.co.uk or Andrew McCloy (Secretary) on 01629 636125, email andrew.mccloy@btinternet.com.

MIDDLETON PUBLIC MEETING

Following its successful launch in Youlgrave last year, Sustainable Youlgrave will be holding a public meeting in the Village Hall at Middleton-by-Youlgrave on **Thursday 22nd February**, beginning at 7.30pm. The event is free and open to all, and as before there will be a short presentation and discussion, with refreshments to follow.

Al Gore's highly acclaimed and powerful film on the dangers of global warming

AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH

will be screened by Sustainable Youlgrave soon - details to follow.

72 Derbyshire Times Thursday, November 1, 2006

COMMUNITIES ARE FIRED UP TO FIND ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY

Not so many years ago, the very thought of people getting together to fight a terrible threat to the planet would have seemed like the plot of a sci-fi novel.

Growing concerns about global warming hit the headlines this week, as the Stern Report warned that the world has to act now on climate change — or face devastating consequences.

But action to combat global warming at grassroots level is already taking place in Derbyshire.

Leaves Valley reports on how individuals in the county are trying to cut back on the use of power produced from fossil fuels — blamed for global warming...

People power fights against global warming

ANY day now, 1,500 Peakland villagers will be invited to become some of the most energy self-sufficient, ozone layer-friendly, communities in the land.

Residents in Youlgrave, Alport, Middleton and Hartill are being encouraged to fight global warming by switching from power made from fossil fuels to power produced locally from renewable sources.

The Sustainable Youlgrave scheme is being launched at a public meeting on November 16, with the help of 45,000 more from the Peak District National Park visitors to the meeting.

The idea of the area using its own natural resources — including wind — has been spotted by a small committee and about 20 supporters of the Sustainable Youlgrave, said: "There's a real sense of excitement in the area and we are confident it will definitely be successful."

The other "big news" is the possibility of wind power. The area is a good one for wind power, and there are many wind turbines in the area.

Bright idea springs from group

A scheme for a low-energy light bulb "library" that will allow people to swap out old bulbs for energy-saving ones was one of the ideas being prepared by a new Peak District Energy Group.

And there are more to look at the possibility of low-energy lighting, of course. The group is also looking at solar panels and other renewable energy sources.



● Sustainable Youlgrave chairman John Youatt and technical advisor Fred Baker with some of the group's supporters at the river Bradford which they hope to harness for hydro electric power. **PAUL OSBORN**

Sustainable Youlgrave makes the news in the Derbyshire Times.

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE: WHICH MODEL FOR SUSTAINABLE YOULGRAVE?

At our meeting on 1st February, there was a presentation by Jane Avery of the Co-operative and Social Enterprise Development Agency on possible business models for Sustainable Youlgrave. If feasible, we hope to develop one or more local renewable energy projects on a commercial footing, in order to generate income to plough back into energy-saving and educational projects in our own community. Jane outlined possible social enterprise models, the most likely of which is what's known as a Community Interest Company. Limited by guarantee, it operates like a conventional company with shareholders, but has certain restrictions to ensure that there is no opportunity for excessive individual gain and that ethics as much as profits guide decision-making. Other possible models include an Industrial and Provident Society, as well as a straightforward co-operative. Group members will continue to examine the best options, and any further advice or experience on this matter is welcome - contact Jeni Edwards on 636550 or Peter Pimm on 636341, email peter.pimm@zeronet.co.uk.

- www.madcnf.blogspot.com — Matlock & District Carbon Neutral Forum.
- www.goingcarbonneutral.co.uk — how Ashton Hayes, in Cheshire, is aiming to become England's first carbon-neutral village.
- www.greenfutures.org.uk/thisissue.aspx?id=101 — see fascinating and topical features on 'Village People' and 'Local Leaders'.
- www.carbonfootprint.com — measure your own environmental impact.

Peak District Sustainable Energy group

Sustainable Youlgrave has joined the newly-formed Peak District Sustainable Energy Group, a loose-based coalition of various bodies that are looking to coordinate local efforts towards renewable energy and sustainability. Other group members include the Peak District National Park, Derbyshire Rural Community Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council and the local Council for Voluntary Services.

Funding options

We are actively exploring a number of other funds to help Sustainable Youlgrave realise its plans. One of these is the Community Renewables Initiative, part of the East Midlands Regional Assembly, for funding to research what possibilities exist for capturing wind power locally. We are also approaching Rural Solutions for modest funding to cover the cost of processing the questionnaire.

Solar and PV

Sustainable Youlgrave would like to hear from anyone in our area that has considered installing solar, thermal or photo-voltaic (PV) panels but has either been deterred or actually turned down by the planning authority. Call Ali Plowright on 01629 636421 or email ali@makingchanges.co.uk.

Plans for SY website

We hope to have a Sustainable Youlgrave website up and running soon. If you have IT experience (especially web design) and can volunteer any help please contact Andrew McCloy on 01629 636125 or email andrew.mccloy@btinternet.com.

Hydro possibilities

Our Chairman and Treasurer have had a very positive meeting with representatives from Haddon Estate, which owns the River Bradford, to discuss issues of local sustainability, including possible hydro developments. More to follow.

Logo and design

We are looking for someone to design a logo and typography for Sustainable Youlgrave - any creative ideas out there?! Contact Andrew (details overleaf).

HeatStreets for Youlgrave?

We are trying to persuade Powergen to implement their HeatStreets programme in our area. This initiative is aimed at energy efficiency and conservation in domestic properties, and since it also requires the active support of the local authority we have invited Derbyshire Dales District Council to get involved - their reply is awaited. For details contact John Youatt on 01629 636241.