

Low Carbon Communities Programme – June 2010 e-Bulletin



Welcome to our first update about the Low Carbon Communities Programme, launched in April 2010. We will issue an e-bulletin once quarterly with the latest news and events from the programme. Please send any comments or suggestions to susie.ohlenschlager@oxfordshire.gov.uk

The Low Carbon Communities Programme received £500,000 funding over 2 years from the LAA1 Reward Grant awarded by the Public Service Board. The programme will help local people reduce their fuel bills and reduce CO₂ emissions by:

- providing a single, high profile service which improves access to energy efficiency advice
- administering a countywide energy incentive grant scheme,
- supporting a programme of community engagement

Oxfordshire County Council is the accountable body managing the programme through a project team of all the project leads. All grant agreements have now been signed and took effect from 1 April 2010.

The project team co-ordinates and promotes the various projects, reporting back to OxCAN, (the Oxfordshire Climate Action Network), and formally to the [Oxfordshire Waste and Environment Partnership](#).

The programme's 5 linked projects are:

Affordable warmth network: managed by Kelly Gardiner, the [United Sustainable Energy Agency](#).

Working with a countywide network of partner organisations, the project provides a dedicated free phone advice line with a comprehensive range of advice to alleviate fuel poverty.

- The Affordable Warmth Network was launched on 10 April with a press release, a helpline opened and promotional material distributed.
- An additional member of staff has been appointed to assist with the project.





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Energy incentive scheme: managed by Jan Deacon, United Sustainable Energy Agency.

An incentive grant is being offered to fund cavity wall and loft insulation at £99 per measure. The £99 deal "went live" in April.

www.cocoonyourhome.co.uk/ for further details.

Developing low carbon communities: Oxfordshire Rural Community Council and Climatexchange. Co-ordinated by Tom McCulloch and Jo Hamilton.

Working to encourage an expansion of the number of local groups from 50 -100 and running an "energy neighbourhoods" pilot in six areas.

The project has hit the ground running!

- Several new community groups have already been identified
- A **Climate Resource Pack** for new groups is being finalised
- Details are being completed for the **Big Carbon Challenge**, carbon reduction competition- more details soon!

The work of ClimateXchange can be followed at www.climatex.org and Oxfordshire Rural Community Council at www.oxonrcc.org.uk

Renewable energy projects: managed by Oxfordshire County Council, Darrell Marchand.

A renewable energy fund will provide for up to 10 micro-generation projects in target areas county-wide. Several potential projects already identified and under investigation. Support funding committed for a photovoltaic installation at Barley Hill School in Thame. Recruitment of a temporary member of staff post to develop the projects is under way. The post is advertised on www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/jobs - closing date 31 May 2010



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Working with schools: the [Northmoor Trust](#).

A member of staff, Jenny Watson, has been appointed for 1 ½ years to join the “[Energy Busters](#)” energy education programme for schools, working with staff and pupils to help achieve and monitor real energy and carbon savings in schools.

All the projects complement each other and have agreed to support each others’ projects. For example the Energy Bus launched in October 2009, and administered by the Northmoor Trust, will be available outside school hours for use for local communities and businesses across the county.

Who’s who?

	Name	Organisation	Contact details
LCC programme	Susie Ohlenschlager <i>Programme manager</i>	Oxfordshire County Council	susie.ohlenschlager@oxfordshire.gov.uk
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