



West Wales ECO Centre Energy for Tomorrow/ Ynni Yfory

Final Progress Report and Evaluation (1/6/05 to 31/12/05)

Introduction

Due to the cancellation of the second phase of the INTERREG IIIA community renewable energy project with Irish partners Freshford 20/20 in late October due to financial difficulties experienced by our partner organisation whilst waiting for the INTERREG contract, there is insufficient funding to continue the Energy for Tomorrow project beyond 31st December 2005. The West Wales ECO Centre will cover a match-funding shortfall from 30th September 2005 from the organisation's reserve funds and provide staff time to cover responsibilities to community projects until the Energy for Tomorrow/ Ynni Yfory original end date of 31st March 2006.

Financial Summary

Cash expenditure 1/9/03 -31/12/05		£177,658
Cash match funding income received or invoiced to 30/9/05	£129,782	
Outstanding approved match funding to 31/12/05		
Countryside Council for Wales	£ 10,000	
Pembrokeshire Coast National Park SDF	£ 9,835	
Enfys Green Spaces and Sustainable Communities	£12,975	
Total cash match funding		£162,592
Cash contribution West Wales ECO Centre reserves		£ 15,066
In kind match funding	£12,479	
Total project cost cash + in kind		£190,137

Householder renewable energy advice

In spite of the reduced budget, most of the targets for this section of Ynni Yfory/ Energy for Tomorrow been exceeded.

Numbers of households receiving renewable energy advice- target 900

Numbers of households receiving energy efficiency advice as a result of the project – target 1200

Details of 1074 renewable energy enquiries dealt with by staff funded through Energy for Tomorrow are logged on the Renewable Energy Advice Service database. In addition, hundreds of telephone and e mail enquiries were handled after May 2005 and not recorded due to lack of funding to cover renewable energy advice staff costs. All of these enquiries were given energy efficiency advice and the message that energy saving and use of renewable energy are both necessary if we are to move to a low carbon future.

In addition, through the INTERREG funding as part of Energy for Tomorrow, 150 households on Mount Estate were provided with energy efficiency advice. Each household was provided with an energy saving pack including advice leaflets and 4 free energy saving light bulbs donated by a utility companies. The Mount Energy Advisor Joyce Walters worked with West Wales ECO Centre staff to distribute light bulbs and energy saving advice to 4 other social housing estates in South Pembrokeshire, reaching another 150 households. In total approximately 1350 local households received energy efficiency advice directly through the project.

Number of promotional events - target 12

In practice, staff funded by Energy for Tomorrow made more than 30 presentations on renewable energy to community organisations and attended 15 promotional events such as all the local agricultural shows and local environmental events. The mobile renewable energy exhibition unit was used at many of these events. Unfortunately, it overturned whilst being towed in July 2005 and was damaged beyond economical repair

A summary of the householder renewable energy advice service spreadsheet for the last full year of the service up to 31/3/05 is included in appendix 1.

Number of completed household renewable energy installations- target 100

It has been difficult to monitor the number of completed installations following advice, partly because the advice service has not been funded since 31/3/05 and partly because it is not uncommon for a householder to install a renewable energy system 12 months or more after receiving initial advice and information. However the Energy Saving Trust employed consultants to follow up 240 Renewable Energy Advice Service clients from the 5 participating Energy Advice Centres, one of which was the West Wales ECO Centre, with telephone interviews. They found that 5% of people interviewed had already installed a renewable energy measure either totally or partly as a result of the provision of the renewable energy advice service, and a further 15 % were planning to install a renewable energy measure (Energy Saving Trust, Renewable Energy Advice Service, Final Report to DTI, March 2004)

The target figure of 100 installations from the 1074 logged enquiries represents approximately 10% and is comfortably within the findings of the subsequent EST research.

Support to 6 Community Renewable Energy Projects

1. Mount Estate

The wind energy project with farmer Keith Knight and Mount Estate has continued to generate favourable press publicity. (See appendices 2 and 3). A detailed evaluation of this project was requested by the Welsh European Funding Office, who manage the INTERREG IIIA programme. It is included as appendix 4. WEFO have highlighted the project in a publicity brochure for INTERREG IIIA.

The West Wales ECO Centre were awarded the “Best Partner of the Year Award” by Mount Community Association in July 2005 (See appendix 5)

2. Pembrokeshire Bioenergy Ltd

The Defra Bioenergy Infrastructure Scheme funding application written by the Energy for Tomorrow Project Manager, Pete West, was successful and a contract worth £140,000 over 3 years was awarded to the farmer owned co-operative in October 2005. An office will be set up within the Pembrokeshire Machinery Ring offices in St. Davids and a full time Development Manager plus part time Admin Assistant will be recruited in early January. The project continues to attract press publicity and was featured as the headline story of the first edition of a new local farming newspaper (see appendix 6)

3. St Davids Eco Trail

This community project has continued to develop together with the website www.eco-city.co.uk which is intended to raise the profile of the project and attract tourists interested in environmental issues. Recent developments include the award of a £15,000 contract to build a solar powered sculpture including flowing water, installation of a biodiesel fuel storage facility at the yard of a car mechanic on the outskirts of St. Davids (currently awaiting final commissioning and first delivery of biodiesel) and the installation of a £20,000 photovoltaic roof on the St. Davids primary school, thanks to additional funding support from the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Sustainable Development Fund.

4. Diesel to Vegetable Oil Conversion Grants

With the loss of the Phase 2 INTERREG project the proposed project to develop a biodiesel production plant in S. Pems in partnership with Mount Community Association was also lost. A biofuels transport project has been developed to replace it with project management support provided by the ECO Centre through Energy for Tomorrow. The match funding cost of ECO Centre staff time will be met from the organisation’s reserve funds until 31st March 2006.

Funding to provide 50% grants for vehicle conversion has been provided by the Welsh Assembly Government’s Sustainable Development Fund delivered locally by the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority. A successful launch and information evening was held at the Nant y Ffin Motel on 14th December. Approximately 40 people attended the event and 10 completed grant application forms have been received to date. Some will be kept in a reserve category to allow further applications from a second promotional event planned for Saturday 28th January at a venue in South Pembrokeshire. Further details can be read in the attached press cutting (appendix 7) and on the West Wales ECO Centre website <http://www.ecocentre.org.uk/vegoil.html>

5 & 6 Pembrokeshire Green Giant and RSPB building on Ramsey Island

Extended technical help has been provided to these projects over the past 18th months, including site visits with installers, assistance with funding applications and preparing technical feasibility studies for the use of renewable energy. A 30- page report was provided for the eco-refurbishment of buildings on Ramsey Island. Both projects are on-going and the proposed installations are not yet completed. Due to the reduced budget for Energy for Tomorrow/ Ynni Yfory from 1/4/05, only one member of staff has been employed to deliver the overall project and therefore it has not been possible to allocate additional time to these two community projects.

Community Renewable Energy Projects – Performance against targets

Number of initial enquiries from community organisations – Target 20

There were less community projects coming forward that originally estimated, approximately 14 in total, including 3 in Ceredigion and 1 in West Carmarthenshire. This may be attributed to the fact that early projects came forward quickly and as it became known that the Energy for Tomorrow project was fully committed to six community projects, fewer new ones approached the West Wales ECO Centre

Number of completed community based renewable energy projects – Target 6

As mentioned above, 4 projects will be essentially completed by 31/3/06 and the other two selected projects are on-going but not complete due to a loss of match funding and consequently a reduced staffing level. However, the completed projects are likely to grow with their own momentum and create further opportunities for local job creation in the renewable energy sector. An unexpected outcome from Energy for Tomorrow/ Ynni Yfory has been the creation of 2.5 permanent new jobs (farmer Keith Knight has decided to rent out his land and become a full time renewable energy developer, and 1.5 jobs created by Pembrokeshire Bioenergy Ltd) In addition it is hoped that Dan Blackburn's job as a diesel to vegetable oil can conversion specialist will be protected and eventually local farmers encouraged to process and supply rapeseed oil fuel.

Number of volunteers involved in community projects, steering groups etc- target 36

This target has been met as 4 of the community projects have involved voluntary steering groups of between 7 and 10 members. These are Mount Community Association, St. Davids Eco City Group, Pembrokeshire Bioenergy Ltd and Pembrokeshire Green Giant

Number of community projects from areas of multiple deprivation – Target 2

There is an 85% benefit dependency among the 480 households at Mount Estate, Milford Haven. The Mount Community Energy Advisor gave free energy saving light bulbs and energy efficiency advice to 4 other social housing estates in S. Pembrokeshire, as an extension to the same project. A second Energy for Tomorrow project was planned to start with Mount Estate in September 2005, but was cancelled with the loss of the phase 2 INTERREG funding and the veg oil conversion project substituted instead. Therefore only one project with a deprived community was completed.

Average annual financial benefits to participating communities - £4000 pa

A key aim of Energy for Tomorrow was to support local renewable energy businesses and social enterprises, with local financial benefits. The average local financial benefits have exceeded the target, ie net income/ energy savings £36,000 pa from the Mount wind energy project and financial grant funding secured for Pembrokeshire Bioenergy Ltd of £140,000 over 3 years , plus at least the same amount to local farmers once the energy crops sector is established in Pembrokeshire. The ten motorists running their cars on vegetable oil will each save £250 per year on fuel costs if the 20p litre fuel duty for biofuels is agreed to include pure vegetable oil. It is estimated that 1% of the 250,000 visitors to St. Davids each year will make use of the Eco Trail , with local financial benefits from tourist spend.

**Number of trained renewable energy installers registered with Energy for Tomorrow
–Target 12**

The DTI has subsequently developed a list of accredited installers for renewable energy as part of the Photovoltaic and Clear Skies grants programmes. The household renewable energy enquiries were referred to these installers for quotations after being provided with free and independent basic information. Six local installers attended a public “Meet the Experts” Day at the West Wales ECO Centre in May 2005 as part of the ECO Centre’s silver jubilee events.

Number of qualitative feedback forms from members of community groups- Target 36

This target was not progressed, as it seemed inappropriate for most of the Energy for Tomorrow community projects. Feedback forms may be useful for one-off events to improve performance if the event is repeated, but Energy for Tomorrow staff have worked with the same community groups for between 1 and 2 years and therefore feedback is better obtained directly through normal project development and discussion. Indirect feedback has been very positive as evidenced by the “Partner of the Year Award” from Mount Community Association and excellent letters of support from Energy for Tomorrow project partners for the continuation of the INTERREG project which was approved in July 2005 but subsequently cancelled by the Irish partners. Feedback evaluation forms have been prepared for people using the St. Davids Eco Trail and for those having cars converted through the vegetable oil grants scheme. In these cases the project is engaging with individuals on a short-term basis and their feedback will be valued to improve future service provision.

Energy for Tomorrow / Ynni Yfory has been financially supported by the following organisations:

