



Bollington Carbon Revolution Newsletter

January 2009

website www.bollingtoncarbonrevolution.org.uk

The Bollington Carbon Revolution is a small group of local active volunteers who believe that their town can be a part of the new carbon revolution, driven by the voluntary sector at a local level. They have come together with the overarching aim of reducing their town's carbon footprint



Our planet, our choice

Foot print logo designed by Macclesfield Borough Council

Not long left to claim your £200 energy saving grant from Macclesfield Borough Council!

The grants can cover the cost of energy saving measures such as insulation or a new boiler. Since the scheme started 158 home energy improvement grants have been awarded to the value of £27,900 which equals 183 tonnes of carbon saved per year*

*carbon reductions have been calculated using standard values provided on the Energy Savings Trust website.

Happy New Year and welcome to the first Bollington Carbon Revolution Newsletter for 2009. It is published on a quarterly basis to keep the residents of Bollington & stakeholders up to date with what we are doing and have planned. Suggestions for content are always welcome.

Pioneering Carbon footprint project a success

On 12th of November an intrepid group of second year students from Leeds University hit the streets of Bollington to gather data on the town's carbon footprint. The students were volunteers from the school's environment programmes, Students and staff participants managed to collect carbon footprint data from 287 households in Bollington in just three hours - this is a great result and represents about a 10% sample of the town.

The students were invited to Bollington by the BCR group to develop a baseline footprint to inform the group's future work.



Work has been carried out by the students to extrapolate the data into a figure for the whole town.

The outline results received recently by the group indicate that Bollington's Carbon footprint is 38,494 tonnes per year. This was based on 14.5 tonnes of CO₂ per surveyed household. More information and analysis will be available shortly on the BCR website.

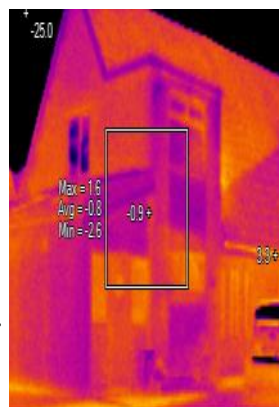
The project was featured in Macclesfield Express & local radio station Silk FM. It is

planned that the survey will be repeated in the next few years to measure our progress.

Bollington households benefit from thermal images

During November 2008, the BCR group offered a chance to Bollington residents to have a thermal image taken of their house.

Group member Graham Mellish was trained to use the special camera, similar to those used in Earthquake rescues.



The camera shows areas of heat loss. More examples are on the BCR website.

The BCR group will have the camera again in February to take more photos after residents have put in place measures such as improved insulation. Please email to book a slot.

"The eco-refurb course provided us with a fantastic opportunity to learn about all aspects of renovating our property, delivered by an expert in 'greening up' houses of all shapes and sizes. It was great to hear about a range of techniques; from minimising draughts and insulating walls right through to installing renewable energy systems in the garden!"
LB, Course delegate

The commitment to make changes to their homes equates to a saving of 77 tonnes of carbon per year *carbon reductions have been calculated using standard values provided on the Energy Savings Trust website.*

48 residents support course on eco-refurbishment

Over 48 Bollington residents attended a day long BCR eco-refurbishment course, held at the Bollington Arts Centre in November. The course was run by Nick Parsons from

the South Yorkshire Energy Centre. Nick led the course attendees through the many aspects of making improvements to their houses to save energy.

We are looking to run a repeat in the Autumn 2009 - further information will be in future newsletters and on our website.

New BCR website

February sees the launch of the new BCR website. The website contains information for Bollington residents to help them reduce their carbon footprint. It will be regularly updated with news of projects the group are working on, such as the water wheel and ecoteams.

See it at:

bollingtoncarbonrevolution.org.uk



Keep in touch

To receive the quarterly newsletter send an email to:

bollington_carbon_revolution_subscribe@yahoo.com

Email us:
contact@bollingtoncarbobrevolution.org.uk

Water Wheel feasibility study highlights way ahead

The feasibility study featured in the last newsletter has now been completed. Bollington has networks of old dams, ponds and mill races which were originally constructed to provide power for the town's mills. In 2008 BCR were awarded funding by The Cheshire & Warrington Economic Alliance to study the feasibility of re-building some of these hydropower schemes, for a 21st Century application – green electricity generation.

BCR appointed the Crichton Carbon Centre to carry out the study and Dr Phil Leigh, CCC's Project Manager, explained in a presentation to Bollington Civic Society

in the Autumn how he had assessed the power generating potential of the River Dean and Harrop Brook as both streams flowed over the historic mill races.

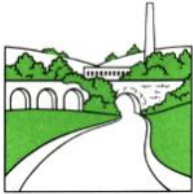
Dr Leigh advised that Bollington has many sites where it is economically and technically feasible to construct micro-hydropower schemes, but concluded that the sites which offer the power potential are not the old hydro schemes themselves. Rather CCC proposed linking the former mill ponds at Dyers Court and Ingersley Road with the power generating potential of the culverted sections of

both streams above the River Dean/Harrop Brook confluence, near Water Street.

The potential returns from the scheme have been calculated and construction costs estimated. If the community, the local authority and the Environment Agency react positively to the proposals, our next steps will be to invite specialist contractors to provide outline designs and costs and then identify revenue streams to fund construction. CCC expect to publish their report in January 2009 which we will make available on our website.



Registered Charity
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Bollington Civic Society

Ecoteams are go!

Two further Bollington eco teams are now set up and ready to go during 2009. As reported in the last newsletter the BCR group have several members trained as facilitators for

ecoteams. Ecoteams are a great way for members of the community to get together on a regular basis (normally up to 8), to share ideas on energy reduction and measure the impact on

their footprint. Ecoteams are also great ways to get together with friends and meet new people .

If you would like to find out more please contact us.

What we've been up to in the last quarter of 2008

Transport Extravaganza

In September the BCR group ran a successful stall at the Bollington Transport Extravaganza. The group distributed information about energy saving measures and displayed 2 low emission vehicles.

Meeting with DECC

BCR members Sonia Mysko and Nicola Percival attended a meeting with our local MP, Sir Nicholas Winterton at the Department of Energy and Climate Change. At the meeting Sonia and Nicola were able to explain the work of the BCR group and problems of reducing energy use in old housing stock to senior government officials.

Low carbon communities

BCR chair Nicola Percival & husband Warren attended a meeting of the low carbon communities network in October. LCC is a form for other groups similar to BCR, from all round the country to consider ways to work together via lobbying and collaborating on funding bids.

You can find out more about LCC at:

lowcarboncommunities.net/

Community garden

A BCR offshoot group is looking at setting up a community garden in Bollington.

The idea of a community garden is different to allotments in that the everyone works on the same land together , sharing the work and the produce.

The community garden group are currently looking for a piece of land of Bollington and possible funding options.

If you know of any land the group could use or would like to get involved please contact Rob Palmer. khatri.palmer@tiscali.co.uk.

Keep in touch

To receive the quarterly newsletter send an email to:

bollington_carbon_revolution_subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Contact: revolution@happy-valley.org.uk



We'd like to hear from you

Send us your ideas !

The Bollington Carbon Revolution group would like to hear from you.

We are always looking for new members, old or young. You don't necessarily need to have any background on

the topic area, just lots of enthusiasm.

Do you have any energy saving ideas you'd like to share with the residents of Bollington? Please send us any innovative ideas and details of ways to save energy in the home.

Would you and or your family be willing to be featured as a case study?

Contact us at : contact@bollingtoncarbonrevolution.org.uk