

NEWSLETTER

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Hello!

We hope you had a good summer, despite the dismal August weather, which sadly entirely lived up to the climate change predictions of meteorologists.

Firstly this is to give you news of our next **public meeting**, which will focus on finding the right sorts of small-scale renewable energy for your home.

Many people have expressed an interest in generating their own power at home. We read of the profits that wind developers can make and wonder “how can we get a share of that?” In fact wind turbines are not the best option for most domestic properties – but you can still reduce your fuel use by tapping into some of the free and renewable energy around us.

So we’ve invited domestic renewables expert, Joe Fergusson, to give an illustrated talk which will cover the options available, how to identify what’s best for you, and how to get a grant to reduce the cost significantly. Joe is arguably the foremost expert on the subject in southern Scotland, having worked giving advice in this area for 7 years, with the Energy Agency and the grant-giving Scottish Home and Community Renewables Information service. He gave design advice on the renewables elements of the new Catstrand arts centre in New Galloway, and is currently also giving household advice with Bell Ingram estate agents.

The meeting is at 7.30pm on Thursday October 8th in the back room of the Town Hall (enter through the side door). We hope you’ll be able to come, and think you’ll find it a very interesting and informative evening.

OTHER NEWS

The **Moffat CAN bag** has now been distributed and one shop has entirely sold out of their 100. We are now almost entirely out of stock – but will wait to see how other outlets have been doing before we do a re-order, particularly as sales will now be lower over the winter months. Reducing the use of throw-away plastic bags saves energy, reduces waste and litter, and reduces damage to farm and wildlife who choke on plastic bags. It’s also a good way of publicising Moffat, as tourists can take these bags around the world.

We had a useful **meeting of members** at the start of July. Suggestions included running a series of public talks; the first is the renewables meeting above, and we are arranging for a talk on composting in November. The Co-op are also organising a lunchtime meeting on food and waste on Tues. 17th Nov. at the Town Hall – which looks as if it may be interesting (and tasty). In addition we have been asked to give presentations about our work to Abington Church Women's Guild and Lockerbie Eco Schools group. We are very pleased to give these talks, and if you know of any group that might be interested in a talk on any issue around reducing carbon pollution and the environment, please tell us.

Our **domestic energy surveys** continue through the town. It's taking us longer than we expected, but we're getting there. With over 400 households visited, Clyde Insulation has now started installing insulation in the town, as you'll see in next week's Moffat News – so several Moffat householders will find their houses easier and cheaper to heat this winter. If you have taken part in a survey you should be getting the report on your home's efficiency next week. But in the first 100 houses surveyed only 3 were found to be top 'A' rated – 97 % would save money through some extra insulation.

The figures that we are getting back will also help us measure how much carbon pollution is reducing by over the years. Both the Scottish and UK governments have now adopted targets to reduce greenhouse gas pollution by 80% over the next 40 years, and this may become an international target at the Copenhagen United Nations talks this December; we are at the very start of a long journey – but one which will be based on local communities across the world taking steps just like Moffat CAN's.

Over this summer we have been impressed by the number of visitors to Moffat who have called into our shop at 25 Well St. to tell us about initiatives they are involved in elsewhere. It's heartening to know there are groups, just like Moffat CAN, working to change behaviour right across the world.

We are in the middle of planning our project at the **Old Church Depot and Drying Green**. We have asked through the Moffat News for anyone with experience of accountancy, or developing small businesses, and also for people from other parts of Upper Annandale to join in with the planning – if you know anyone who you think might be interested, do get in touch; the more people involved the better, and this is an exciting project to plan!

I hope we'll see as many of you as can make it at one of our forthcoming meetings,

Chris Ballance
Development Officer, Moffat CAN