

sustainable YOULGRAVE news

"It's all about our local community taking control of its own future..."

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 around Youlgrave 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.

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@btinternet.com or Andrew McCloy (Secretary) on 01629 636125, email andrew.mccloy@btinternet.com.

Community-wide energy survey in preparation

In addition to potential renewable energy projects, domestic energy conservation is another crucial area that 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.

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.



Above: Al Gore, likely Sustainable Youlgrave supporter

Al Gore's highly acclaimed recent film
AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH

SY screening in Youlgrave this Spring - more details soon.

72 Derbyshire Times Thursday, November 1, 2006 www.derbyshiretimes.co.uk

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.

Lansley Fields 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 Yowlgrave, 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 Yowlgrave scheme is being launched at a public meeting on November 16, with the help of 15,000 man from the Peak Green Partnership, which includes the local council.

The idea of the area using its own natural resources — including wind — has been backed by a small number of local residents and about 20 members of the Sustainable Yowlgrave unit. They're looking for support from other local residents and businesses.

The scheme is not intended to provide for local power, but rather to provide a model for other areas to follow.

It will be a first for the area, and a significant step towards self-sufficiency.

Bright idea springs from group

A scheme for a low-energy village has been set up in the Peak District, which will help to reduce the carbon footprint of the area.

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

Sustainable Yowlgrave 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 Yowlgrave. 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 Yowlgrave 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 Yowlgrave realise its plans. One of these is the Community Renewables Initiative, via 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 Yowlgrave would like to hear from anyone in our area that has considered installing solar or photovoltaic (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 Yowlgrave 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.

HeatStreets for Yowlgrave?

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.