Minutes from Transition Cambridge Energy Group 22/Sep/2009

Present: Patrick O'Donohoe, Robert Copcutt, Spin Pitman (chair), Roland Henry, Nicola Terry (minutes) Stuart Dyer

Publicity Leaflet

A leaflet was prepared in time for the Food, Garden and Produce Festival on the 19th/20th. Kerry printed it and quite a few were handed out but there are lots left over (Kerry must have printed lots?). Some of these will go to the Cafe project – there is a special event for newcomers on the 1st October.

There is still some discussion on the wording. We might be able to get a professional designer to do some artwork for it – as has been done for the food group. But we do need to agree the text first. Discussion will continue on the forum.

Anaerobic Digestion

Roland and Nicola have been working on the colleges. There has been only one response to Nicola's email – telephone seems to be more effective. However, Roland has found that most of the colleges are very busy at the moment and it will be easier in a few weeks.

Of the responses so far, most go either to Donarbon or to the Copper/Cooper (a.k.a the pig man) – we still are not quite sure who this is. Darwin and Downing both have mechanical garbage disposal units so most goes into sewage. The quantities do not seem huge – e.g. 1 to 3 small wheelie bins per day. Not surprisingly, as far as choice of disposal route is concerned the main concern is cost.

Robert has not yet managed to contact Tim Jervis. He thinks the AD company may actually be in London.

Roland is reading a fortnightly newsletter on AD which he recommends to the group.

Since we seem to be getting a bit wedged on this, we decided it would be good to arrange to visit either to the Ludlow plant or, preferably, something nearer, provided there are no commercial interests in conflict. Also Stuart has volunteered to do some research by finding and reading a book which he will summarise for the next meeting.

Spin has had some contact with the estate manager at Addenbrookes who does seem interested in the idea but has not yet given Spin any indication of the quantities of waste available.

Nicola and Roland to continue collecting data on waste volumes,
Robert to keep trying to contact Tim informally.
Nicola to see about arranging a visit to an AD project.
Roland to give us the newsletter link
Stuart to find a book and read it and report back
Spin to prompt Addenbrookes again if necessary

Jesus Lock Weir
Robert produced some data showing that a double Kaplan engine (?) was actually very efficient.
The British Hydropower Association is holding some seminars and Nicola said she would like to go to the one near Wilmslow, Cheshire on 12th November. Would anyone like to join her:
It is listed here: http://www.british-hydro.org/bhaevents.asp
Program here

Nicola to check out the seminar and see if anyone else wants to go

Swavesey Village College Wind Turbine
As far as we are aware, Nigel is still waiting for a response from the college to arrange a visit but since we are still near the beginning of term it is not surprising if they have other things on their mind. Similarly Spin's school has been very busy and not responding.
There was an issue raised as to the safety of this turbine – as it is old, it may need certification of some sort.

Action: Nigel to continue negotiations with Swavesey.

PV
There was a suggestion that with the feed in tariff and the recession causing a drop in price that PV may be becoming feasible economically. One model would be to start a company which would buy lots of PV and rent space on house or office roofs to put it. But we all agreed that for household installation it was more important to get solar thermal in and only use PV if there was spare roof space.

Next meeting:
20/Oct/2009 8pm at the Maypole – one week later than usual because the Maypole will be very busy at the start of term which is 6th October.