Minutes: Transition Cambridge Energy Group 20.10.09

Present: Roger, Robert, Stuart, Nicola, Patrick, Roland

Feed-in Tariffs:

Whenever we discussed any of the energy projects mentioned below we always returned to the need to have a better understanding of the Governments proposed rates for the FIT. Roger kindly and promptly emailed the group with the latest findings a day or two after the meeting.

Anaerobic Digestion:

Possible attendance at the ‘Cleantech Special Interest Group – Waste as a Resource’ was discussed - http://www.cambridgenetwork.co.uk/events/article/default.aspx?objid=63539

However, Nicola presented her research into the energy that could be derived from AD and the figures/economics don’t appear to stack up. In order to generate a reasonable energy return we would need to invest significant time/resource that would be hard to justify/sustain.

It was suggested that perhaps we could show community support for a local AD company – we could be the facilitators between the waste generators and processors. Which reminds me – how did Spin leave his AD conversation with Addenbrookes? Perhaps we could make an introduction here?

Action: Robert mentioned he would try to speak with Sagentia about Harston Mill (where they are headquartered) with a view to installing a low head water turbine from http://www.navitron.org.uk/product.php?proID=78. It was suggested Sagentia may be prepared to fund the project for the PR value they could derive. It’s a relatively small project but this makes it more achievable and allows us to prove the model, and gain experience/understanding of operational/implementation issues.

Wind:

We were approached by Consensus who have asked for our assistance and it was agreed we should speak with them to explore areas of mutual interest.

Action: Roger was going to speak with Smart Life and the Cam Regional
College (or potentially any College/School with a turbine) so we can share first-hand case study with Swavesey College.

We weren’t sure what Spin had discussed with them already…

Action: Stuart agreed to place a FOE document exploding the myths around wind power; a counter argument to the nimby naysayers – this he did about 30 mins after the meeting broke up – unlike these minutes which are 2 weeks overdue…….

It was suggested that we could also be facilitators between Wind Energy companies and the local community.

Finance:
Action: Nicola was going to buy (arrived today in fact) a guide to building a CDFI and will try to give the group a very brief content/thrust synopsis when we next meet.

Nicola has also signed up to CCF’s Friendly Homes/House Doctor Programme – which aims to tell people what Grants might be available to help them lower their carbon footprint.

PhotoVoltaic:

Action: Stuart and Nicola were planning to draw up a spreadsheet to explore the revenue potential for renting and/or selling PV installations to businesses.

Risk factors such as theft/insurance should be considered

It was mentioned that the University and Council owned many business units in Cambridge and so may be a good place to take this idea

It was agreed we could speak with suppliers at the Village Energy show at Impington