



Eco Renovation Question Time 2012

We hope you enjoy this evening and are inspired to improve your own home. Here are some useful links and reminders which may help you.

Open Eco Homes website www.openecohomes.org

Choose homes to visit – view case studies, features and costs.

Open weekends May 12/13 and May 26/27

Booking line 01223 301842

All eco homes tours must be pre-booked.

Green Deal Information Centres May 12, Rampton Drift Retrofit Project, Longstanton

Drop in at any of these fascinating examples of ecoretrofit for May 13, Coton Village Hall

tours and information about the Green Deal. May 26/27, Gamlingay Ecohub

The Green Deal

This government initiative due to be launched in October will provide advice and financing for your home energy improvements with no up-front costs.

- You must first request a Green Deal Assessment for your property with advice on what can be done.
- You pay for works done through a charge on your electricity bill (or you can pay directly as you wish).

Green Deal finance will only be offered for work which satisfies the Golden Rule – that the charge on your bill will be less than the amount you save by using less energy. For more details visit one of the OEH information centres (above) or see the Green Deal information page at www.transitioncambridge.org/energy

Cambridge Home Insulation Scheme

Cambridge City Council have secured funding for free loft and cavity wall insulation for all Cambridge home owners, private landlords and private tenants, subject to survey. Insulation will be provided up to current standards for all cavity walls and loft insulation where the existing insulation is 150mm or below. For more information please contact Cambridge City Councils Customer Service Centre on 01223 457000 or go to www.cambridge.gov.uk/homeenergy

Renewable Heat Premium Payments

This scheme gives grants for heat pumps (£850+), biomass boilers (£950) and solar hot water panels (£300) It is administered by the Energy Saving Trust <http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/>

Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs)

An EPC indicates how efficient your home is in terms of energy. Your energy assessor bases this on your estimated energy bills assuming you were a typical household. You may be more or less extravagant than this. The certificate allocates your home an energy rating A-G where A is the best and G is the worst. An average home is band D and new homes built to current building regulations should achieve rating B or C.

You will need to have an EPC if you rent out or sell your home. To find an assessor qualified to give you an EPC go to www.epcregister.com

Feed in Tariffs (for solar PV panels)

If you have solar panels generating electricity then you may be eligible for payment (by your electricity company) based on the amount of energy you generate. You will also save by not having to buy so much electricity. The current rates for PV panels are: 21p/kWh for the everything you generate plus 3.2p/kWh for electricity you export to the grid (for systems under 4 kWp).

The payments are tax free to domestic systems, index linked and guaranteed for 25 years. You must have an EPC for your house, band A-D and you must use an MCS installer - see www.microgenerationcertification.org

For more information about PV panels find the PV FAQ at www.transitioncambridge.org/energy

Cambridge Carbon Footprint

www.cambridgecarbonfootprint.org

Cambridge Carbon Footprint (CCF) is a registered charity, which works to motivate and empower people to substantially reduce their CO₂ emissions, helping to build low-carbon communities that are sustainable, resilient and rewarding.

As well as **Open Eco Homes** CCF runs projects such as:

- **Climate Friendly Homes** – free surveys to advise you on how best to reduce energy consumption in your home
- **Carbon Conversations** – a series of six engaging meetings in which participants address climate change in a different way, focusing on values, emotions, lifestyle and identity as well as the basic facts of emissions.
- **Eating Local** – a quarterly food challenge that encourages participants to think about the contribution food makes to climate change.

CCF has a fortnightly newsletter summarising activities and news in the area.

Transition Cambridge

www.transitioncambridge.org

Transition Cambridge (TC) is a network of volunteers in Cambridge based on the Transition Towns model. TC aims to promote community resilience to the twin challenges of rising energy prices and climate change.

TC has special interest groups such as energy, food, farming, permaculture, nature and story telling. TC projects include:

- **Household Energy forums** – question and answer sessions similar to this one but focussed on a particular topic such as: solar panels coming up in June
- **Garden Share** linking people without growing space with people with spare space
- **Community Supported Agriculture** (Onion Cropshare)
- **Community Bakery**
- **Growing Spaces** - growing food on public land

TC has a weekly newsletter with events and news from TC and other organisations with similar aims.

Open Eco Homes 2012 is sponsored by:

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Mole Architects	www.molearchitects.co.uk
Ridgeons	midsummerenergy.co.uk
South Cambridgeshire District Council	www.scambs.gov.uk/Environment/SPEP/default.htm
Upbeat Energy	www.upbeat-energy.co.uk

And your speaker today was Peter Thom from Green Heat Ltd. www.greenheat.uk.com/

Dates for your diary

Energy Fair	Thu July 5 th 7-9pm	Suppliers of solar panels, windows, insulation, energy monitors: everything you need to improve the energy efficiency of your home, plus a chance to meet householders with a range of experiences. Details at www.transitioncambridge.org/energyathome .
Open Eco Gardens	Sat July 14th	Like Open Eco Homes? Get inspiration for your garden too. Watch cambridgecarbonfootprint.org for more details.