

Re.energise



We would like to commend to you all the very excellent new report by the Centre For Alternative Technology. *zerocarbonbritain* is a radical vision of Britain's energy future, outlining bold policy drivers to reduce carbon emissions to zero within 20 years.

Want to know more? Then visit the website www.zerocarbonbritain.com



Buildings

The main focus of the groups activity so far has been visits to some very interesting and very different low energy buildings in the Stroud area.

The enigmatic Mike Hillard gave us a tour of **Tranquility House** in Rodborough near The Bear Hotel. He claims this is 'the most energy efficient house in the world' and it's certainly most impressive. He says the energy-saving solutions used in the house are applicable to greater or lesser degrees to existing housing stock and he's writing a book that describes how every householder, regardless of means or property design, can make significant energy savings. Mike's approach is all his own with a large solar room on the south of the house and computer control of airflow around the building. It will be very interesting to see how this project develops and it'll certainly gain a lot of media coverage. www.TranquilityHouses.com is due to be launched soon. Check it out.

We have also toured the new **Greenshop Office** eco-build in Bisley with Roger Budgeon. This has a different approach, being a lightweight construction timber framed building with high levels of insulation. Built to AECB Gold Standard it should need very little heating even on the coldest winter days (if such things exist any more). Natural ventilation and shading should keep it cool in the summer. It incorporates solar power for water heating and some of the electricity used in the business and even has green and brown roofs that replace the wildlife habitat that would otherwise be destroyed by the

Join our energy discussion group send a blank email to: tts-energy-subscribe@googlegroups.com

Or contact one of the group co-ordinators - Greg Dance: tsgregorydance@googlemail.com

or Dave Cockcroft: dave@cynatech.co.uk 07768 418960 - see also www.transitiontowns.org

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presence of the building. For more information see www.greenshop.co.uk

It's great to have two such innovative, and different, local buildings. We are keen to help progress efforts to establish a **Gloucestershire Sustainable Building Trust**. Other counties in the South West have trusts that work to encourage sustainable building practice and educate the construction industry to the advantages of eco-build.



We are now turning our attention to looking at options for community scale renewable power generation. Greg Dance has circulated documents from an Energy 21 project to produce farm scale bio-fuels. This collaboration with UWE even got as far as growing test crops but was unable to obtain the necessary machinery to do the processing.

We also have a copy of a thorough report produced over 10 years ago by Ossie Goring and Hebe on the hydro power potential of the Stroud Valleys, and very interesting reading it is too.

Roger Budgeon has produced a discussion paper for Bisley Parish Council that compares many alternative options for energy saving and generation. This concludes that the most economic option is to install a large wind turbine, owned by the community, to exploit Bisley's windiness for the mutual benefit of the community. Some other local parishes also want to explore wind turbine options.

We are planning a bio-fuels meeting with Adie Lawton in the near future to discuss the why's and wherefores of local bio-diesel production, and the possibility of home brew to take advantage of new government tax break where the first 2500 litres of bio-fuel produced is duty free.

We are starting to scope out a study to establish the best way of establishing an ESCO (Energy Services Company) to develop community scale renewable energy projects. Dave Cockcroft also plans to look at the practicality of local carbon offsetting – for an example of this see www.projectcarbon.org