

Forest Row Energy News Highlights Archive

A few highlights from 2015-2017

23 NOVEMBER 2017 - COME AND BE INSPIRED ABOUT COMMUNITY ENERGY ON THE 1ST DECEMBER

The Community Energy movement is rapidly gathering momentum in Forest Row and the surrounding area. As part of this, next Friday 1st December is a chance for you to come and share in the buzz as we progress with plans to achieve a big but very real vision - to power our community with clean, green, renewable energy and become self-sufficient in our energy needs - for energy that costs less to you and the environment.

The evening will include presentations from some of the leading community energy experts in the country including Ollie Pendered, Chair of Community Energy South. You will hear about our recent big successes and about the next stage of plans to implement our community energy vision. You will also have a chance to share your views, opinions, ideas and, if you are inspired, to get involved further.

The evening will also include the Forest Row Energy Co-op's AGM, which will be a short, more formal part of the evening when members of the Co-op can vote on its direction. If you are yet to become a member and would like to it is currently just £10. You need to be a member to vote. Please email forestrowenergy@gmail.com for a membership form.

We hope to see you on the 1st December at 7:30pm, at the Baptist Church Hall on the corner of Chapel Lane and Hartfield Road, Forest Row, RH18 5BF. Free of charge plus free cakes and drinks!

If you are planning to come, please help us plan for numbers by emailing forestrowenergy@gmail.com and putting 'Joining you on the 1st Dec' in the subject area.

07SEPTEMBER 2017 - YOUR VOTE IS NEEDED FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY IN FOREST ROW

Forest Row with its dynamic community that embraces 'the new' is looking to put clean, green, community generated energy at the heart of our community.

Forest Row Energy Co-op has been shortlisted for an M&S award to put in place a solar installation on our community centre. This will mean that renewable energy could power our community services such as meals for local people, library services and electric car charging.

The award is given to around 30 shortlisted projects in the country that get the most votes. We need you to make this happen!

You can vote now by going to: www.mandsenergyfund.com/projects/forest-row-solar-power-to-the-people

We know the link is a bit long, it can also be found on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/forestrowenergy and website www.forestrowenergy.com

Please share our Facebook posts with your friends and invite your friends and family to vote. You can email us at forestrowenergy@gmail.com and we will send you a draft email to send on to your contacts.

08 DECEMBER 2016 - HOW CAN WE RESPOND POSITIVELY TO CLIMATE CHANGE?

Come and join the conversation at Climate Forest Row's Film showing and debate this Friday, 9th December in the Village Hall. The film is 'Fossil Free' and Forest Row Energy's Chair Jonathan Shopley will be taking part in the panel debate after the film. Doors open at 7.30pm. We hope to see you there!

15 AUGUST 2016 - FOREST ROW ENERGY TO CHAMPION THE BIG ENERGY SAVING NETWORK

Forest Row Energy, in partnership with Community Energy South and Community Energy Co-ops throughout the region have been successful in winning government funding as part of the Big Energy Saving Network (BESN). As part of the BESN we will be delivering a programme of outreach to vulnerable consumers, focused on helping them reduce their energy costs through assisted action on tariffs, switching and the take up of energy efficiency offers. Look out for more news in the autumn and please get in touch if you think you or someone you know could benefit.

04 FEBRUARY 2016 - HELP TO PLAN A NEW VISION FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE, FOREST ROW COMMUNITY HALL, SATURDAY 13TH FEBRUARY

Help to plan a new vision for a sustainable future with Natalie Bennett, Wealden Green Party members, Forest Row Energy Co-Operative, Transition Groups, and YOU!
Saturday 13th February at 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Speakers will include:

- Natalie Bennett - Green Party Leader
- Keith Taylor - Green MEP for the South East Region
- Jonathan Shopley - Chair, Forest Row Energy Co-operative Ltd

Public Event - Free Entry

An opportunity to meet Natalie Bennett, leader of the Green Party and Keith Taylor, MEP for South East England.

Itinerary:

1.30pm. Welcome, Introductions and Keynote talk from Forest Row Energy, Natalie Bennett, and Keith Taylor MEP.

2.15pm. "World Café" style conference with table groups lead by local organizations. Choose from; renewable energy, local food & permaculture, green business, international human rights, climate justice, local democracy, fracking awareness, green events, and the Calais refugee situation. Each participant planned to spend about 20 minutes in each of 3 groups.

3.30 pm. Tea & Cakes, with a Summary and Feedback from each table group. With a final response and closing from Natalie Bennett

27th March 2015 - WINNERS ANNOUNCED! WORK STARTED ON GO RETRO! RETROFIT YOUR HOME PROJECT

A big thank you to all of you who have approached us for the Go Retro! Retrofit Your Home project. Following assessment of the properties put forward, the six case studies have now been chosen.

Congratulations to the following:

Cilla Roberts, Hatch End

Sally Phoenix, Blacklands Crescent

Lila Shwair, Freshfield Bank

Maggie de Stroumillo, Primrose Lane

Rick Andrews, London Road

Rachael Pereira, Goats Cross

Work has begun on these homes and we will be posting up information over the next two weeks to report on their progress.

We have had a great response to the project and are delighted that so many people around the village are taking action to increase their energy efficiency, reduce our collective carbon footprint and save themselves some money!

So... we have managed to stretch the funding and we will also be supporting some energy efficiency measures on the Community Centre, and three additional homes, which have been chosen and will be announced shortly.

And there will be a special 'thank you gift' for everyone who put their home forward. We

are finalising details of what we can offer and will let you know over the weekend.

Don't forget that a Retrofitting Guide is being produced as part of this project and will be available on our website shortly www.forestrowenergy.com so you can find out for yourself how to go about retrofitting your home.

If you would like to join Forest Row Energy Co-operative Ltd and become a Co-op member, please contact us on forestrowenergy@gmail.com and we will send you an application form. It's a great time to join us and be part of a number of Community Energy initiatives in the village!

04 March 2015 - GO RETRO! RETROFIT YOUR HOME

Retrofit: to provide something with new parts that were not available when it was originally built

During March, six households in Forest Row will be doing more than just their usual spring clean, as Forest Row Energy seeks volunteers with a poor Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating to receive a free retrofit to increase energy efficiency and reduce fuel costs.

The project will begin by identifying six households in the Forest Row area with a poor Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating. The homes will undergo an energy efficiency audit followed by a retrofit of the building and smart meters will be installed, free of charge. Retrofitting involves tackling a number of areas around the building which contribute to energy inefficiency, including loft and cavity wall insulation, lagging water tanks and pipes, draught-proofing and fitting LED lights. Depending on the property, these measures could save as much as £1000 per year for the householder in energy costs. Throughout March, progress in the six households will be closely tracked to create live case studies on social media, explaining each stage of the process.

Sarah James Wright, of Forest Row Energy Co-operative, explains: "If your home is seriously draughty and your energy bills are high, your house could be just what we're looking for. In particular, if you are in rented accommodation, if you have a rural property that is 'off gas' (using oil), or if you think you are at risk of living in fuel poverty (not enough money to pay for the heat you need), we would like to help you."

The project should be of particular interest to landlords and tenants. New legislation which bans landlords from renting any property which falls below an 'E' rating on their EPC after 1 April 2018 means that landlords will have to do more to ensure the properties they rent are more energy efficient. 'Go Retro! Retrofit Your Home' will showcase at least one rented property as part of the six featured homes and will make the Retrofitting Guide available to local Estate Agents to encourage landlords to take the initiative and to help tenants who

may well be paying over the odds for their energy bills.

At the end of the month, a handy Retrofitting Guide will be produced by Forest Row Energy Co-operative Ltd, in partnership with Wealden District Council, so that everyone in the local area can find out what they can do to improve their home and reduce energy costs, whatever their budget. The showcased homes will become flagship eco-properties for the village and will be followed up to see just how much money and CO2 they have saved.

“This is a great chance for local households to really show the benefits of running an energy efficient home – both for the environment and their pocket,” said Justin Bailey, Home Energy Efficiency Officer for Wealden District Council. “Wealden District Council fully supports the ‘Go Retro! Retrofit Your Home’ project as part of our ongoing work to mitigate fuel poverty in the district.”

To put your home forward for the project, please contact Forest Row Energy Co-operative on forestrowenergy@gmail.com or 07508 464201 and explain why you think your home needs to Go Retro!

The ‘Go Retro! Retrofit Your Home’ project is designed to demonstrate the value of energy saving measures and show people how to go about it and is part of local Community Energy Co-operative Forest Row Energy’s ongoing work to help residents take steps to ensure their homes are as energy efficient as possible, to reduce the local carbon footprint and save themselves some money.

The project is being funded by a grant of £19,650 awarded by the Department of Energy & Climate Change, as part of their Community Energy Saving Competition 2015.