Centre for Sustainable Energy

Low Carbon Planning for Rural Communities

Bath & North East Somerset Council

Introductions

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Workshop theme

- Benefit and responsibility

Explain that what we are going to talk about is based around the intertwined themes of benefit and responsibility. Intro briefly mentioning national and local targets driving the development of renewable energy. While urban areas may end up with more installed heat and energy from waste technologies, other large technologies such as wind, biomass, hydro and AD are likely to be in rural and semi-rural areas. How can rural communities engage with this future of energy supply and reap the greatest rewards from it? (5 mins)

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Introduction to renewable energy technologies

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Exercise…

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You have carried out a community consultation in your village, and the general consensus is that everyone would be happy to see a large Anaerobic Digester developed.

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Exercise…

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The basic assessment you have carried out suggests that an operating profit (after management, maintenance, feedstocks etc have been paid for) will be £35,000 to £70,000 per year, for 20+ years.

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Exercise…

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It is now time to establish the formal business structure that will manage the AD plant, and therefore formalising what the profits can be spent on now needs to be done.

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Exercise…

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On your post-it notes, write down what you would you would like to see in your community that the funding could support.

ONE IDEA PER POST IT NOTE PLEASE!

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What is PlanLoCaL?

Web resources to support the development of Community-Led Planning for a Low-Carbon Future

What is PlanLoCaL?

Comprehensive resource packs that support development of community-owned renewable energy assets

What matters to you :: Plan Local - Windows Internet Explorer provided by ADT Systems Ltd

http://planlocal.375digital.co.uk/pages/what-matters-to-you/

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What matters to you :: Plan Local

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what Matters to YOU

If you're interested in a particular aspect of low carbon living, select a category to find out more about it

Children & young people

Improving and adapting facilities for children and young people

Community buildings

Managing community buildings and making them fit for the future

Democracy

Make sure your group is represented and heard by local government

Health

Improving local healthcare services and promoting healthy living

Housing

How housing provision can meet community needs

Local environment

Investing in local environment to ensure well-being of community

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The result

Aim is to support you through setting up and running a series of community events, covering all aspects, especially the non-technical barriers that are so often overlooked.

- ✓ 2 DVDs made up of 47 short films, including case studies
- ✓ instructions on running a series of participatory activities
- ✓ an event planner
- ✓ pre-prepared event plans
- ✓ Image bank
- ✓ Links and reference sources
- ✓ CASE STUDIES ARE ABOUT PROCESS, NOT OUTCOME

Who is it aimed at?

Two main audiences:

Community Activists

Community Development Workers

Tone and content are geared at the former and assume no knowledge of:

- Renewable energy
- Project finance or legal structures
- Project management
- Facilitation skills

Content of the DVDs

DISC 1:

Introductions to each technology – what are the basic principles that might make this suitable for us?

Things to consider for each technology – we think it's got potential, what are the next steps?

Case studies – what have others done, and how?

Content of the DVDs

DISC 2:

Rough guide to managing a community project – how can we split tasks etc?

Consulting with the community – how do we do this right? Can it be part of a wider consultation?

Legal structures – avoiding risk and potential ruin!

Planning – who do we speak to? What needs permission? Heritage, landscape

Funding – General overview, shares, bank finance, charities. FiT & RHI

Reinvesting – what to do with our profit – creating the ‘virtuous carbon cycle.

For each section, concluding film is experience from the case studies

Other contents

- Introductory section – Explains who CSE is, how this is all funded etc – user pathways
- How to plan, promote and facilitate events
- Participatory exercises
- Image Bank
- Further information and downloads – wind myths, transcripts of films and event planner online

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USP – Collective decision making

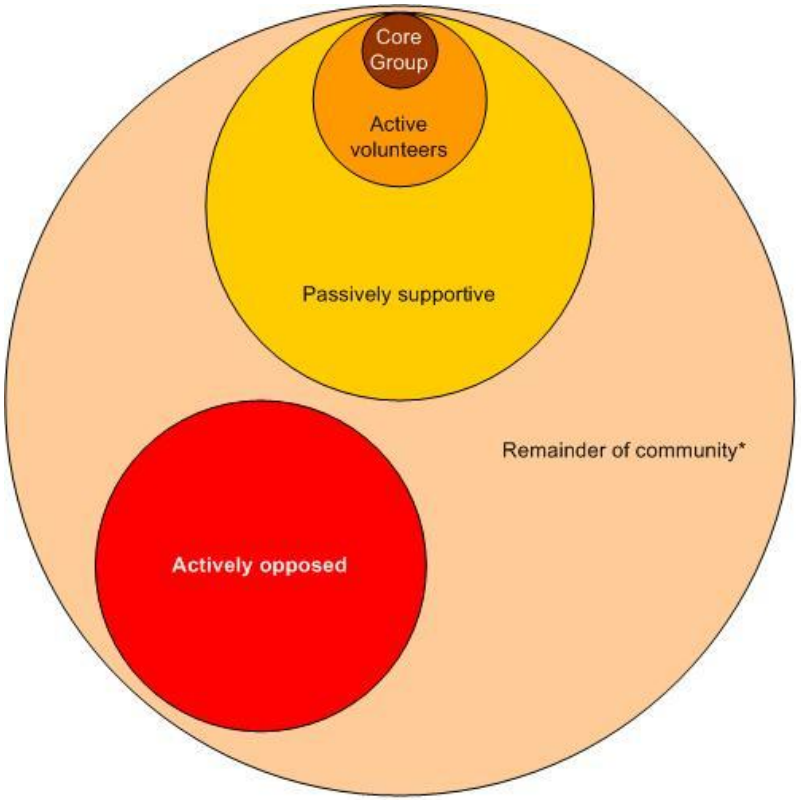

Figure A: Decide-Announce-Defend outcome

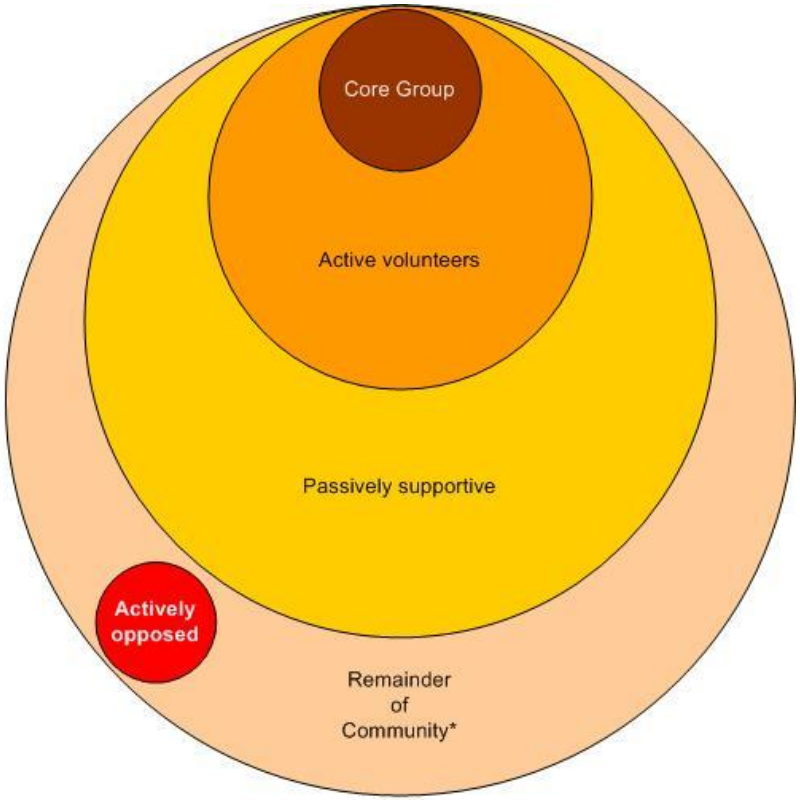

Figure B: Participatory dialogue outcome

** Remember, the community can also involve people who aren't geographically local but could be affected by what you do. e.g. national kayak clubs, if you are planning a hydro project.*