

# The Forum 21 Flier



Towards a Sustainable  
West Somerset

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<http://www.forum21.org.uk>

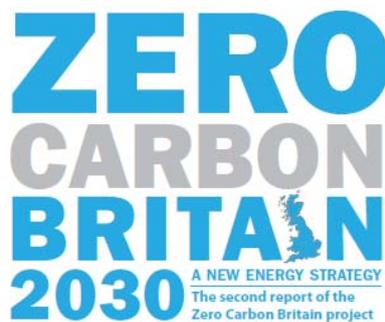
The Forum 21 website is updated regularly and includes a link to the F21 Constitution and to the Energy Efficiency Pack as well as a downloadable membership form and a Library of Forum 21 articles which have appeared in the *News Trader*. If you have any items for the website please e-mail them to Marlene at [forum21@btinternet.com](mailto:forum21@btinternet.com)

## Please help us save paper.....

If you receive this newsletter by post but now have access to email and could receive it electronically, please let us know. This will help us keep you up to date on events and useful information too. Alternatively, if you no longer wish to receive newsletters, please let us know. Email : [forum21@btinternet.com](mailto:forum21@btinternet.com)

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'Zero Carbon Britain 2030' is an inspirational report recently published by the Centre for Alternative Technology. It is a positive, realistic vision for an energy progressive society free from fossil fuels. It provides political, economic and technological solutions to the urgent challenges raised by climate science. It explores the synergies between sectors to create the first fully integrated solution to climate change.

*"The great transition to a zero-carbon Britain is not only the most pressing challenge of our time, it is also entirely possible. The solutions needed to create a low-carbon and high-wellbeing future for all exist, what has been missing to date, is the*

*political will to implement them."*

**Dr Victoria Johnson**, New Economics Foundation and lead author of the Employment chapter.

*"In calling for a common sense of purpose, not just nationally but internationally too, it points out the benefits of society, its health, social welfare and sustainability, that will result from the pursuit of such a goal. May I urge you to study carefully its arguments and its findings."*

**Sir John Houghton**, Former Co-Chair of the International Panel on Climate Change.

The report explores how we can Power Down demand in the built environment, transport, land use and behavioural change, then Power Up the energy system with renewables. The report has been written by bringing together the UK's leading thinkers, including policy makers, scientists, academics, industry and NGOs.

The report is available to download for free or buy from the website:

<http://www.zerocarbonbritain.org>

(the contents of this review can also be found on this website).



Centre for Alternative Technology  
Canolfan y Dechnoleg Amgen

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

2011

**May 14th**

**Plant Swap 10am to 12.30pm**

Quaker meeting Hall, Bancks Street, Minehead

Organised by Minehead and Alcombe Transition Group in partnership with Forum 21 and West Somerset LETS.

For info or to get involved contact: [www.transitionmineheadandalcombe.org](http://www.transitionmineheadandalcombe.org) or e-mail [tma2009@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tma2009@hotmail.co.uk), or telephone 01643 709478.

**September 16th and 17th**

**Western Somerset Energy Fair:**

10am to 9pm on Friday 16th

10am to 1pm on Saturday 17th.

At the impressive new Minehead Eye building Mart Road, Minehead TA24 5BJ. Entrance Free, refreshments available. Organised by Forum 21 and Transition Minehead and Alcombe.

**October/November: date tba**

Forum 21 "The Big Society and the Green Agenda", how can Parish Councils and other groups get involved? Watch our website [www.forum21.org.uk](http://www.forum21.org.uk) for more details or apply to join our mailing list.

The Climate Adaptation Knowledge Exchange (CAKE) is an online resource, including case studies, a directory, list of tools and a virtual library. It is predominantly North American, but there are examples from further afield, including UKCIP's Adaptation Wizard. UKCIP staff are distraught at having failed to think of this splendid acronym first. To have your CAKE, go to <http://www.cakex.org> (Source:UKCIP Newsletter).

## New government energy saving incentives

### The Green New Deal

Plans for the government's 'Green New Deal' are well underway with the first Green Deals scheduled to appear in autumn 2012. So why is it necessary and what does it mean for us?

Over a quarter of the UK's carbon emissions come from domestic energy use. Upgrading our housing stock will be essential if we are to meet our 2050 carbon reduction targets. With some of the oldest housing stock in Europe, it is quite a challenge to improve the energy efficiency of our homes and buildings without some help and incentives.

The Green New Deal will provide up-front finance (from private firms) for energy saving measures such as insulation to home-owners, private landlords and small businesses. The cost for building improvements will be paid back through instalments added onto energy bills. The idea is that the consumer will not have to bear the direct costs of the improvements but can benefit from them by saving money on energy bills. The 'golden rule' of the scheme is that the savings in energy bills should always equal or exceed the cost of the improvements so the consumer is always better off.

Since it may take some time to pay back the cost of improvements, there will be some interest applied. The details of the level of interest are yet to be announced. Extra help will be available for those most in need such as the vulnerable, low income households and hard-to-treat homes.

The consumer only pays back the cost of the improvements whilst benefiting from them, i.e. if you move house, the new inhabitant will continue with the payments. This will be agreed with the sale/rental of the property.

What about renewables? The government have implied that at the moment, the Green New Deal will not cover the costs of renewables as there are other schemes covering these such as FITs and Renewable Heat Incentives. The scheme may extend to renewables in the future, in circumstances where the energy savings would be greater than the upfront cost.

The details of the scheme are yet to be finalised but the current summary report by the Department for Energy and Climate Change can be found online at:

<http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/legislation/energybill/1010-green-deal-summary-proposals.pdf>

#### Renewable Heat Incentives

Heating accounts for 47% of carbon emissions in the UK. There is a great need for more of our heat to be generated via renewable sources such as ground source heat pumps and biomass boilers. The government is committed to the ambition that by 2020, 12 per cent of heating can come from renewable sources.

The first phase of the Renewable Heat Incentives will be rolled out in 2011, followed by the second phase in 2012.

The first phase will pay a tariff quarterly, over twenty years, to installers of non-domestic heating i.e. everything from large-scale industrial heating to small business and community heating projects.

As part of the first phase, the Government will also introduce **Renewable Heat Premium Payments** for the domestic sector. These direct payments will subsidise the cost of installing qualifying renewable heating systems.

The government aims to launch these payments in July 2011 and will announce further details in May 2011.

The second phase aims to include more complicated renewable heat technology and also quarterly tariff payments for domestic installations.

Further information is available on the Department for Energy and Climate Change website: [www.decc.gov.uk/rhi](http://www.decc.gov.uk/rhi).

The government has also set up an online portal: **Community Energy Online**, to promote community energy schemes. Anyone interested in setting up a scheme should find valuable information and guidance here: <http://ceo.decc.gov.uk>.

Table of Tariffs available to non-domestic consumers at the beginning of the scheme:

Levels of support					
Tariff name	Eligible technology	Eligible sizes	Tariff rate (pence/kWh)	Tariff duration (Years)	Support calculation
Small biomass	Solid biomass; Municipal Solid Waste (incl. CHP)	Less than 200 kWth	Tier 1: 7.6	20	Metering Tier 1 applies annually up to the Tier Break, Tier 2 above the Tier Break. The Tier Break is: installed capacity x 1,314 peak load hours, i.e.: <b>kWth x 1,314</b>
			Tier 2: 1.9		
Medium biomass		200 kWth and above; less than 1,000 kWth	Tier 1: 4.7		
		Tier 2: 1.9			
Large biomass		1,000 kWth and above	2.6		Metering
Small ground source	Ground-source heat pumps; Water-source heat pumps; deep geothermal	Less than 100 kWth	4.3	20	Metering
Large ground source		100 kWth and above	3		
Solar thermal	Solar thermal	Less than 200 kWth	8.5	20	Metering
Biomethane	Biomethane injection and biogas combustion, except from landfill gas	Biomethane all scales, biogas combustion less than 200 kWth	6.5	20	Metering

Notes: kWh stands for kilowatt hours (used in relation to heat output) and kWth stands for kilowatt thermal (used in relation to equipment capacity).



### FREE ADVICE AND GRANTS FOR FARMERS

Devon Renaissance is offering all farmers in the South West a day of FREE advice, to help them lower their energy costs and improve their farm's resource efficiency. The Resource Efficiency for Farms (R4F) programme, is offering farmers a free face to face 'on farm' meeting to look at the farm's use of energy and resources. The half day spent on the farm is followed up with a full action plan explaining how the farm could save money with more efficient use of their resources. Farmers are urged to contact Fiona Edwards as soon as possible to book their free on-farm appointment. Fiona can be contacted on 01837 658643 or by email [fiona@ruraldevon.org](mailto:fiona@ruraldevon.org).

If you have an environmental issue you wish to write about and share, please submit an article to us via e-mail or post and it may feature on this page or in our climate column in *The News Trader*.



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Thank you for reading,  
we hope to see you at  
some of the  
up-coming events!

## Forum 21 is an environmental group in West Somerset working with West Somerset District Council and other partners to help avoid climate change and to promote sustainability



All Somerset Libraries have received a number of Energy Monitors to lend to the public: Minehead library has 5, Williton 4 and Watchet 1. Each of these libraries has agreed to hand out a flier for our free home energy surveys with each monitor. Please spread the word around: using a monitor can help a household to reduce its energy use by up to 30%, once people see how much each individual action is costing.

The monitors are easy to set up and fit. Each monitor comes with 4 small batteries, 2 for the transmitter and 2 for the energy monitor itself. The transmitter and the monitor have to be synced so that they work together, the enclosed booklet explains how to do this, it is quite easy. The monitor is then programmed with the price per kWh you pay for electricity, again the booklet explains how to do this. A clip attached to the transmitter is then put around either the outgoing or ingoing cable to the consumer's electricity meter, all quite safe and easy. The monitor reading can be switched between kWh used, or cost of energy used, since last reset. It is a bit scary when high energy consuming items are switched on, so beware! The monitor can be moved some way away from the electricity meter once it has been synced with the transmitter. Premises using three phase electricity can also use the Owl monitors, but three will be needed, one for each of the three cables. The booklet says that two transmitters can be synced to one monitor, but I was not able to make this work.

The writer liked it so much she bought one, finding the best deal on e-bay. Some energy suppliers are giving them away to their customers.

### Watchet 2025 Energy Group

This subgroup of the Watchet 2025 committee was formed a year ago. Its first project was to find out what Watchet residents thought should be happening about energy saving in the town. A questionnaire was delivered to 300 homes, with some interesting results

- 65% would like an energy advice centre to be set up in Watchet
- 12 households requested a free energy survey
- 10 people wanted to be involved in a community energy project in Watchet
- 73% wanted some reduction in street lighting (eg either dimmed, turned off at certain times).

Forum 21 is planning to organise some free training on energy efficiency for Watchet residents, and any others in West Somerset who might wish to take part. Please let us know if you are interested. It will be either a whole day or two half days and will take place in Watchet. Contact Lorna on 01984 634242 or e-mail [mail@forum21.org.uk](mailto:mail@forum21.org.uk).

### A Note about Membership

We welcome anyone with enthusiasm, initiative or time to help run projects. Or if you have a project you would like advice on, get in touch and we may be able to help or put you in touch with someone.

We would like to act as a source of information for local people to help in achieving a more sustainable, self-sufficient West Somerset.

If you wish to become a formal Forum 21 member which allows you to vote in new Steering Group members at our AGM, please fill in the form on the website and e-mail to Marlene Allinson at [forum21@btinternet.com](mailto:forum21@btinternet.com). Thanks.