

HELP IS AT HAND TO REDUCE YOUR ENERGY BILLS AND KEEP YOUR HOME WARM

Our energy survey identified opportunities for households to reduce their electricity costs, including immediate savings by changing to a cheaper supplier or tariff. Durham County Council Energy Adviser, David Hird, is available to offer impartial advice that may help you to save money. Support is available by telephone, with a follow up home visit after lockdown ends. Email warmhomes@durham.gov.uk or call 03000 268000 to arrange an appointment.

THERE'S BEEN TALK

Helen Goodman gave an interesting talk titled *Setting the Scene for Local Action on Climate Change* on 30th September organised by Barningham Net Zero via Zoom. Participants joined from Barningham, Barnard Castle, Bishop Auckland and surrounding villages. The Zoom format worked well with questions and discussion running over our allotted time!

Helen outlined the current position in the UK. Although greenhouse gas emissions have been reduced by 42% since 1990, we are still responsible for over 500 million tonnes per year. Of these emissions, 35% come from heating. She described some of the measures that we can take as individuals as well as actions that need government to act.

Of particular local relevance is the loss of moorland peat, which acts as a carbon "sink" and nationally, stores 5 billion tonnes of carbon. Drying out of peatlands currently accounts for 5% of our CO₂ emissions. The Office of National Statistics estimate that this could be reversed and an additional 3 million tonnes of carbon locked into peatlands every year at a cost of only £100 million. Yet the government is only investing £16 million. Lobbying could be beneficial to achieve an increase in funding for this low-cost measure to restore our most important natural carbon sink.

Barningham Net Zero Community Interest Company

Meeting the Climate Change Emergency in Barningham

www.barninghamnetzero.com

Barningham Net Zero News...issue 6

BARNINGHAM ENERGY SURVEY : RESULTS & CONCLUSIONS

A very high response rate from local households and businesses to the recent survey of energy usage in the Barningham area resulted in some fascinating facts:

- Biomass (woodchip and logs) provides 24% of our local energy but only produces 2.0% of our greenhouse gas emissions.
- Heating oil consumption is guilty of 68% greenhouse gas emissions but supplies just 53% of energy demand.
- Just 18% of energy demand is supplied by electricity and contributes 22% of emissions but at a huge 44% of energy costs.

A switch away from fossil fuels to biomass and electricity would reduce local emissions closer to our target of net zero. As renewable electricity generation is increasing in the UK, the greenhouse gas emissions from supply are reducing and by the mid-2040s will be close to net zero.

A community owned renewable generation scheme could both reduce costs and climate changing emissions. One option for meeting *current* electricity demand would be installation of 1.5 acres of solar panels and two 25 metre turbines. A larger scheme could meet *future* demand arising, for example, from electric vehicles and heating technologies, and also provide income for our area from the sale of surplus generation.

Options for local electricity generation will be put forward for community consideration in January under the Barningham Energy Project.

Barningham Energy Project Zoom Meeting
Results of the Energy Survey – Presentation and Question Session

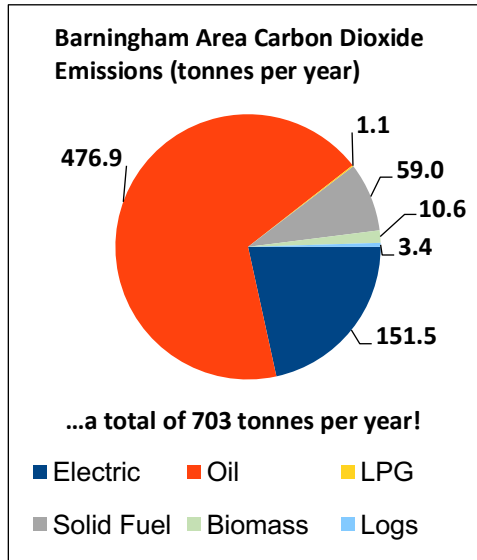
Wednesday 2nd December, 7:30-8:30pm

Joining link will be available at www.barninghamnetzero.com – News and Barningham Net Zero CIC Facebook page.

BARNINGHAM ENERGY SURVEY :

RESULTS & CONCLUSIONS

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In the meantime, electricity costs can be reduced for some households by changing their supplier or tariff. Those who haven't changed suppliers for a number of years or are on standard tariffs are likely to be paying more than they need to.

The survey also found that many properties would benefit from installation of additional energy efficiency improvements (e.g. thicker insulation, double glazed windows and modern boilers). These would reduce energy usage

and costs over time. The Barningham Net Zero team will work on ways of supporting local people in making these changes, some of which could be funded by local electricity generation.

The survey highlights the importance of identifying alternative heating and cooking solutions. These are planned for investigation as part of the Barningham Energy Project, including:

- Extension of a ground source heat network associated with new build properties to nearby existing properties in the village.
- Options for switching to non-fossil fuel heating oil
- Replacement of oil-fired systems with electrical or wood-product fired systems.

Full report available to download from:

www.barninghamnetzero.com

Or contact Steve (01833 621257) to request a paper copy.

ST FRANCIS XAVIER GO ZERO

St Francis Xavier School in Richmond is one of the trail-blazer *Let's Go Zero* schools committing to cut carbon in seven key areas – energy, food, procurement, waste, water, travel and school grounds, as well as addressing the place of climate in the curriculum.

The students, including some from the Barningham area, aim to reach net zero carbon by 2030 and are inviting politicians to work with them to reach this goal. Their initiatives are a welcome example to us all of how we can address the climate crisis locally and they are to be commended!

THE TREES ARE COMING.....

We planted our first trees in late October, utilising some of last season's bare root stock that was nurtured over the summer. Training was provided on construction of the stock enclosure and the new volunteers now appreciate the benefits of a post rammer! Soon the Barningham group will have our own. Trees for Teesdale are supplying us with equipment, materials and trees, all of which are UK grown.

We've been asked about the use of plastic tree guards. Trees for Teesdale have a very large stock of second hand, re-usable guards which have been successfully used several times. We've also had a donation of around 50 used guards. While we don't like plastic, it makes more sense to use recycled guards than to throw them away and buy new. At each site they will be well secured, so there is no risk of loss in the environment.

Further planting is postponed until lockdown restrictions are lifted but we hope to get cracking on with more work in December. Contact Martha (07984 756080) if you are interested in volunteering on future sessions.

FOOD AT THE FOUNTAIN

We donated over £160 to the Food Bank and the TCR Hub from our summer produce sharing initiative. Surplus fresh food was also taken to the Food Bank and Wetheriggs animal rescue. *Any thoughts on improvements for next summer?* Contact George-Anne (01833 621201).