



Transition Belper News - Late November 2011 - Issue no 4

In this issue:

- [Transition meeting - 1st December](#)
- [Love Food - Hate Waste actions](#)
- [Christmas Fair](#)
- [Rag Rugging](#)
- [Green Drinks](#)
- [Transition Meeting 5th January](#)
- [NEA and DECC support for expert neighbour plan](#)
- [Groundwork help for 'off gas' houses – update](#)
- [Energy Expert Neighbour idea gets local press coverage](#)
- [Supporter survey results so far](#)
- [Energy Group presentation online](#)
- [Belper's fruit and veg grower's forum](#)
- [Christmas gift ideas](#)
- [Contact](#)

Transition meeting

- **Thursday 1st December** – Transition Belper meeting from 7.30pm at Strutts, Derby Road, opposite Babington Hospital. There will be planning for the Christmas Fair on 4th December and a talk and discussion around the theme of 'Love Food – Hate Waste'. Steve Tomlinson and Alex McDonald from Derbyshire County Council Environmental Services will give a presentation and take questions. If you can't get to the meeting email your questions to [Ian Jackson](#). We'll also be looking at interesting ways of recycling – if you've found a novel use for some waste or a way of recycling please also send your photos to Ian and we'll show them at the meeting. Love Food – Hate Waste is the current theme of the [Derbyshire ECO Challenge](#) – here's some details:



Love Food Hate Waste actions:

1. **Food diary:** Keep a food diary to keep track of the food you use (and any you may waste). [Join the Eco Challenge website or go to www.lovefoodhatewaste.com for details]
2. **Meal planner:** Plan meals before shopping, considering the food you already have at home. [See the LFHW website or join the Eco Challenge for links to a recipe planner]
3. **It's not on the list:** Once you have planned your meals take a shopping list with you to stop those impulse buys!
4. **Ditch the packs:** Buy loose fruit and vegetables instead of pre-packed.
5. **Save the date:** Know your 'best before' and 'use by' dates. [Join the Eco Challenge or use the LFHW website above for further explanations]
6. **Savvy Storage:** Find the best way to store fresh produce and leftovers.
7. **Leftover delights:** Once a week have a meal made from leftovers. [Join the Eco Challenge or visit LFHW website for recipe ideas]
8. **Perfect portions:** Get on top of your portion control with a handy portion planner. [Join the Eco Challenge or visit LFHW website for recipe ideas]
9. **Soup or smoothie:** Fruit or vegetables going past their best? Why not make a fruit smoothie or vegetable soup.
10. **Bits n pieces:** Keep peelings, fruit, egg shells, tea bags and coffee grounds to turn into compost.

Christmas Fair

Sunday 4th December, King Street/Market Place. Transition will be having a stall in King Street as part of Belper's Christmas Fair. 4th December Christmas Food Fair in King Street/Market Place 10.00 – 3.00. The theme will be – Love Food, Hate Waste and the energy group will be looking for 'off gas' houses and giving tips. Volunteers are needed to man the stall and give advice and tips about energy saving and food miles. Please contact [Richard Keighley](#) to offer help.

Rag Rugging

Tuesday 20th December - 7.30 at 93 Sandbed Lane. Come and join Barbara's Rag Rugging sessions on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 7.30pm. Please let [Barbara Goodall](#) know if you will be coming. Bring your own or help with Barbara's Big Rug... advice and guidance is on hand.

Green Drinks

Wednesday 21st December is Green Drinks night at the Tavern, Derby Road from 7.30. Come and join us for some informal discussions and a pint. Take a break from Christmas shopping and raise a glass to what we have achieved this year.

Transition Meeting

Thursday 5th January, Strutts, Derby Road at 7.30. We'll be discussing the World Heritage Site, Management Plan consultation; Making the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site sustainable and low carbon.

National Charity and Department for Energy and Climate Change support Transition Belper plans

National Energy Action (NEA) – a charity that aims to eradicate fuel poverty and campaigns for greater investment in energy efficiency to help those who are poor or vulnerable – are being funded by DECC to provide guidance and support to 10 projects across the country. The Green Deal and Affordable Warmth Practical Assistance Programme aims to prepare organisations to use the Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation (ECO) to meet local and national fuel poverty targets.

In September we submitted a bid for NEA's support for our proposals to reach out to the community through publicity, public meetings, events and a network of 'Energy Expert Neighbours'. In early November we received the news that our bid had been one of the 10 successful submissions from the whole country and the only community group to be selected. The selection process was undertaken jointly between NEA and DECC officials.

On 17th November Ian Jackson and David George met with NEA as well as Amber Valley Council and Groundwork Derby and Derbyshire to discuss the programme and how NEA's time – up to 15 days – could be used to further our plans and be prepared for the launch of the Green Deal in a year's time.

NEA are currently preparing a proposal for a work programme to be completed by the end of March. The results of the project and any lessons learned will be summarised to inform DECC of some of the more practical implications of the Green Deal and to provide a case study for community groups and councils across the country. NEA's wealth of knowledge and experience should be invaluable when it comes to getting residents involved and in talking to energy companies and other big players about what assistance they can provide to low income households and those in older solid walled houses or with no access to mains gas that are difficult to heat economically.

Groundwork help for 'off gas' houses – update

Five members attended a training session at Strutts on 17th November and are now able to give advice and fit a range of simple, low-cost energy saving measures to 20 houses with no access to mains gas. We are still looking high and low for qualifying houses and will use the Christmas Fair to try and identify some. To date three people have contacted Groundwork to enquire about getting our help and advice.

Volunteers needed

We still need volunteers to 'buddy up' with trained volunteers to help fit energy saving measures and give advice and tips. With five teams that is 4 houses each at an estimated 2 hours per house between now and the end of January.

Please contact [David George](#) or [Ian Jackson](#) for more information or to volunteer.

Energy Expert Neighbour idea gets local press coverage

The idea to develop a network of Energy Expert Neighbours has made the Derby Telegraph and Belper Express. See: [Derby Telegraph](#)

Supporter survey results so far

15 of you have so far completed the supporter survey online. The headline results so far are;

- The best nights for meetings are Monday and Tuesday. Thursday is the least favoured option. Wednesday is possible for more than two thirds,
- The biggest areas of interest are energy, food and recycling
- The most popular topics for meetings, information or events are energy saving and food growing and distribution although there was high interest in other topics – except transport emission reductions,
- There is a wide spread of talent available with slightly higher numbers able to give energy advice and food growing advice,
- Most can offer some time to help support Transition Belper's activities

Full results so far will be available at the Transition meeting on Thursday 1st December. Please have your say and add to the picture by completing the online [survey](#)

Energy Group presentation online

David George's presentation to the Energy Group - containing all sorts of interesting data - is now available online via Slideserve - view it [here](#)

Belper's fruit and veg grower's forum

There is a new Facebook Group locally for exchanging tips and ideas for your garden and anything to do with growing fruit and veg. [Join the Forum here](#)

Christmas gift ideas:



TreeHugger have produced a gift guide for 2011. Click on the image above or [here](#) to go to their selection of ideas for all the different people in your life. You do not have to be stuck in a gift giving rut of always giving Aunty a box of chocolates, or always receiving M+S knickers from your mum:



Give in a different way by giving your time to your friends and family, e.g. by hosting a big feast and inviting friends or family round to spend time together, each person could be asked to bring one item of food or drink to share the cost, or by giving a gift of time as a voucher offering a babysitting night to friends with young children, or a gift voucher to take grandchildren out for the day. Click on the image above or [here](#) to go to the website.

Contact

The trustees of Transition Belper are:

Chair – [Ian Jackson](#)

Secretary – [Richard Keighley](#)

Treasurer - Alan Foord

Core Group - Craig Scott

Core Group - [David George](#)

Trustee - Mick Hepworth

Or you can contact us via the Transition Belper email address: info@transitionbelper.org