



Green Centre News

Bright Ideas Exhibition

The Green Centre was well represented at the recent 'Bright Ideas' (formerly the Energy Expo) exhibition, held in the Royal Hall of the Villa Marina, with ZWM, FOE and MEAC all having their own stalls.

'Business' was bit slack on the Friday, particularly in the evening, although a good turnout of schools helped boost the numbers during the day.



The 'greens' had a strong presence at the exhibition

However, by the close of play on Saturday afternoon it was reckoned that over a thousand people had been through the doors; and hopefully some of those people went away inspired to try to reduce their carbon footprint, fit a solar panel or even just make some compost in their garden.

It was disappointing that the 'bins' put out to collect recyclables ended up being 'contaminated' with half drunk cups of coffee and other 'waste' but, if organisers persist, eventually the public will cotton on to how to use them properly. The public may also reconnect with the expo, and turn out in larger numbers, if the organizers revert to using the term 'energy' somewhere in the title next year.

ZWM presents 'Award' to John Moss

Local radio broadcaster John Moss has received an 'award' from Zero Waste Mann in recognition of his "public spiritedness in helping to keep the Isle of Man clean and tidy".

Mr Moss was nominated for the 'award' having been regularly spotted picking up sacks of litter from the roadside in the Kewaigue area of Douglas and Braddan.

ZWM Chairman, Andrew Jessopp commented: "ZWM is a very keen supporter of the 'Clean up the Island' campaign and the Government's 'Community Pride' initiative. Mr Moss seems, to ZWM, to be a person who has heartedly embraced these ideas.



Mr Moss being presented with his certificate & litter picker

Having noticed he was collecting the rubbish by hand we thought it would be a nice gesture to present him with a litter picker, in addition to the certificate of recognition of his individual efforts. We also thought this award would help publicize the ongoing campaigns and we hope many other people will take a lead from Mr Moss.

However, it is particularly pertinent that a lot of the roadside litter is made from recyclable items and could easily be 'disposed of' responsibly through the kerbside collection or bring banks."

A very modest Mr Moss thanked ZWM and said he hoped people would stop throwing the litter down in the first place.

Inside this issue:

Water Power - a sustainable solution? 2

It's the Fashion - make your own shopping bags 3

Ode to a Wind Turbine 3

A well kept secret 4

Renewables campaign news 4

Age of Stupid 'review' 4

Latest News:

- Zero Waste Mann AGM 6th May 2009
- Real Nappy Week 27th April - 3rd May
- Compost 'event' 2nd May at Dhoon Glen
- Bag making demo at Green Centre 25th April
- MEA chairman, Quintin Gill to accept FoE renewables leaflets

Water Power - a sustainable solution?



Water powered the 'industrial revolution' in the Isle of Man

Not everyone has the property location to make use of this excellent form of sustainable power but if you do then make sure you investigate its possible use fully. What you need is a stream with a reasonable amount of water flowing and some head.

First some maths. The formula to allow you to calculate the power available in the stream is:

Power (in Kw) = efficiency (unit less fraction) x Head (in m) x Flow (l/sec)/1000

$$\text{i.e. } P = (\text{eff}) \times (H) \times (F)/1000$$

Now lets look at this in a bit more detail. Efficiency is simply a measure of the losses in the conversion of the energy available in the flowing water to the energy delivered as say electricity from the water turbine and associated generator. It is one of those items that can only be measured after a system is built and tested but can be estimated at the start to determine if the system is worth building in the first place. A figure of 0.5 is a reasonable value to use and gives a good measure of the likely losses in the system (i.e. 50% of the energy in the stream is likely to be converted to usable electrical power).

So our formula becomes:

$$P = 0.5 \times (H) \times (F)/1000$$

Now head in meters (H) is simply the vertical distance through which

the water falls within the water power conversion system. The water is collected at a point up stream, channelled to the electricity conversion turbine where it is converted to electricity. The difference in height between the point the water is collected and the electricity turbine is the head (H) and is measured in metres.

Now to water flow or the amount of water used in the energy generation process. As an aside you should not use more than 50% of the stream water for energy conversion so that the stream remains flowing normally to keep its ecology functioning correctly. So the amount of water used in the conversion is an estimate of the water flowing in the stream. A starting point would be to ask how many 8 litre (2 gallon) buckets would be filled in a second. It's a crude estimate but good enough for a first estimate of power available.

So if you have a stream with a head of 20m, a usable flow of 10 litres per second (or just over 1 bucket full in half a second) then you potentially have

$$P = 0.5 \times 20 \times 10/1000 = 100W \text{ (0.1kW).}$$

But this is available every hour of the year so you can have 8760 (hours per year) x 0.1kW = 876 free units of electricity per year.

Article provided by George Fincher MEAC

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It's the Fashion by Muriel Garland

The fashion statement for Spring 2009 is **"I don't need a bag, thanks!"**

More and more people are saying **NO** to plastic bags and carrying their own re-usable bags.

You've probably heard about Modbury in Devon that is Britain's first 'plastic bag free' town.



Have a look at their site www.plasticbagfree.com to read how customers and shopkeepers are co-operating.

Also view

www.messageinthewaves.com to see the BBC Natural History Unit film that inspired them; by showing the problems



caused by plastic bags in the oceans.

Plastic bags may seem a minor problem - compared to all the other things that need doing to reduce our waste - but they are made from oil; and even on our small island we use thousands every year.

They are not necessary. We all need to refuse plastic bags and carry our own.

Zero Waste Mann is helping by selling its own 'green bags' for £1 each; and on April 25th Hilary Cairns will be sewing Morsbags at the Green Centre.

These are useful cloth bags made out of old duvet covers and curtains. We know it's addictive. So once you've made one for yourself why not make some to give away?

Full instructions are on www.morsbags.com



Plastic bags are not necessary if you use a re-usable bag.

You can even make your own from old curtains or duvet covers.



Ode to a Wind Turbine by Deby Walker

Suddenly, rising above the horizon, like a throng of silver angels, you appeared.

Majestically sweeping the skies, gliding with such perfect harmony as to declare the rhythm of the earth.

An artist's monument to energy.

Free flowing and eternal, gently twirling and with steely strength, you stand your ground, moving through time and space.

Oh you much maligned

droning wind turbine, blot on the landscape,

you are the manifestation of the symbiosis of man and earth,

singing out your lullaby of earthly resonance to heal our world.

Let us not admire your beauty in retrospect- as a Van Gogh sunflower,

but open our eyes and declare your majesty.

Gentle wind turbine, you are our future, as we are yours,

in time with the waves

and the windswept grass.

Sweep on sustaining silver wings, cleaning our skies with your gliding blades.

Aeronautical - man made - and natural.

Manufactured, yet organic, at last the missing link.

Stand proud between heaven and earth,

Metallic Angel Messenger.



The Green Centre Yn Laare Ghlass

The Green Centre
Chester Street Centre
Douglas
IM1 2PG

www.zerowastemann.org

www.meac.iofm.net

www.foe.org.im

Opening Hours: Saturdays 10.00 am - 2.00 pm
(Although often open till 4.00 pm)

Campaigning for the Island's environment



A Well Kept Secret

If you want to install a solar panel or a wind turbine then you will need planning permission from DOLGE (IOM Government Department of Local Government and the Environment).

This involves filling out the planning forms, producing drawings of the installation and any photos or comments to help clarify the application. These sets of documents are needed by DOLGE in quadruple.

Having got all the mass of paperwork together it is just a matter of posting them to DOLGE with the cheque for the planning fee.

Hold it there. The planning fee for the installation of renewable energy is zero. This is good (better still if solar was a permitted development not requiring planning permission), but where do you find out that the planning fee is zero?

Not on the website. Not on the paperwork supplied by DOLGE. Not in the recent revised planning fees public notice in the newspaper. You have to ask, the people in planning will confirm the planning fee is zero; but otherwise it is a secret!

Why keep this a secret? It is positive news for DOLGE and IOM Government so why not let everyone know?

The Age of Stupid launches fresh call for renewables policy

On Wednesday 4th March IoM FoE booked the Manx Museum lecture theatre for 2 consecutive showings of the latest 'blockbuster' climate change film Age of Stupid.

2 weeks prior to this date the film makers had refused Phil Corlett (Coordinator) any chance of a showing as it was prior to their UK Premiere on the 15th; but after 'a little' persuasion explaining how we have our own government, currency, laws, influencing an independent nation etc they relented.

It starts with the Big Bang then rapidly counts down the millennia, showing the beginning of life, to the star Pete Postlethwaite sitting in a futuristic tower with the digital records of the past. It is 'in your face' stuff with real time clips telling the stories of people who have been affected by climate change; but corporate greed and exploitation is also highlighted with excellent animations. The film leaves you either feeling despair or, more likely, fired up to fight the challenges that face us, so that we live our lives 'nearly' zero carbon – despair is not an option on this one.

On the night about 260 people turned out with the 6pm showing nearly a full house. General feedback was enthusiastic & supportive, ranging from saying thanks to FoE for bringing the film over; to how they would change their lifestyle to a low carbon one.

I would like to say a big thank you to the many volunteers on the night and a special thanks to Chris, Ian & Carrie.

Since 'our' showing the film has gone onto UK wide distribution and critical acclaim (http://www.ageofstupid.net/press_quotes).



The film was also the launch of our Renewables campaign and everybody there were encouraged to sign leaflets asking the MEA to use and introduce more renewable

energy on the Island.

Since that night we've had a great response from people 'signing up' either on the leaflets themselves or through our web page so if you still haven't signed do it here:-

<http://www.foe.org.im/Campaigns-MEA.html>

Dear MEA,

As an electricity customer on the Isle of Man I'm concerned that I'm contributing to climate change because almost all of our electricity is produced from burning fossil fuels which produce CO₂.

I'm also worried about what will happen to my electricity bill when Peak Oil arrives and oil and gas prices sky-rocket.

I would welcome an MEA decision to use wind, wave, tidal or other renewable power generating methods.

I'd like to register my support for an MEA Renewable Energy Tariff.

Please let me know as soon as you have a Renewable Energy Tariff – because I would like the opportunity to switch.

Yours sincerely,


Customers for
a Renewable
Energy Tariff

Name:

Address:

E-mail:

The Isle of Man Friends of the Earth may contact you in the future to keep you up to date with this campaign. Please tick the box if you'd rather not receive this information by email.
For more information about Isle of Man Friends of the Earth please visit: www.foe.org.im