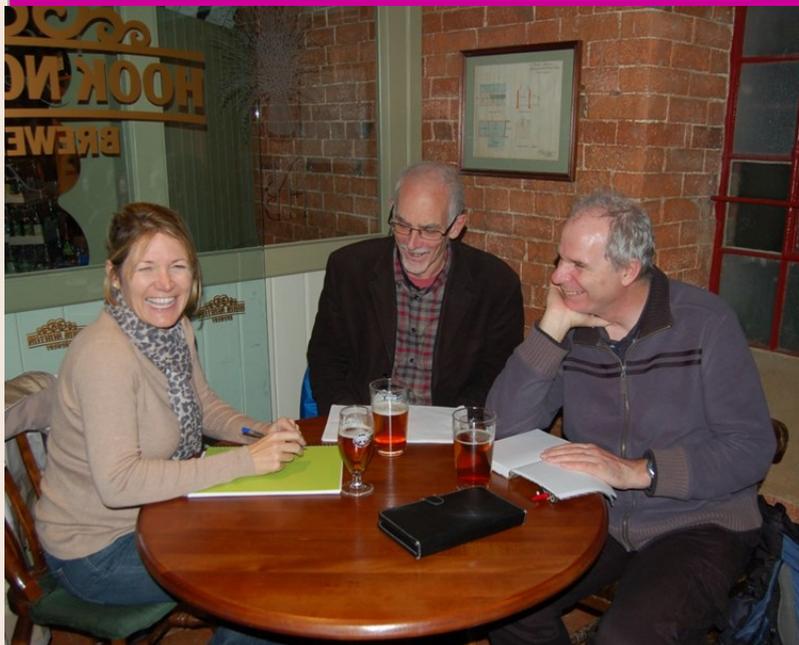




SHARED LEARNING EVENT: HOOK NORTON LOAN SCHEME

COMMUNITY EVENT SUMMARY C4-1

NOVEMBER 2012



TYPE OF LEARNING: Information & Knowledge

EVENT AUDIENCE: Neighbouring low carbon communities

DURATION OF EVENT: 2 hours

KEY AIMS: To share experience of running a loan scheme for purchase of domestic energy micro-generation

COST¹: Low cost (*The event was organised by volunteers and the venue provided free-of-charge*)

TIME²: Light (*Around 1 person day*)

KEY TASKS: Includes email invitations, organisation of venue; preparation of slides for presentation if not already available.

ATTENDANCE & FEEDBACK FORMS

Ten people attended the event including three people from neighbouring low carbon communities and one person from the Low Carbon Hub (a support organisation for low carbon community groups in Oxfordshire).

The participants had been invited by personal invitation and through an email sent out to local groups by a local community support organisation.

Number of feedback forms completed: 9

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

The objective of the event was to share Low Carbon Hook Norton's (LC-HN) experience of running a loan scheme for the purchase of domestic energy micro-generation infrastructures (and other similar projects) with other local communities. This followed requests from a number of local communities in the area and further afield. The groups plan to hold similar informal events on a fairly regular basis.

The event was held in the bar of the Old Brewery in Hook Norton and started with a free glass of local beer and people chatting informally. A Hook Norton member then gave a talk for about 20 minutes, with a couple of background slides, which was followed by questions and answers for another hour or so. At the end there was opportunity for further informal conversation between participants and LC-HN.

LEARNING

The event demonstrated the valuable role that community to community peer learning and mentoring can play in promoting social learning. Key learning mentioned in the feedback forms included: *'knowing that rolling loans work'*, the *'ability to give loans with a customer credit license'*, and *'the cooperative set up'*, and that *'HN-LC does not agonise about corporate relationships, procurement rules etc.'* Learning occurred through listening or discussion.

Most participants said they felt more motivated to take action to reduce energy use in their communities, as a result of the event for example because *'HN-LC has shown it's [a revolving loan scheme] is feasible' and demonstrated 'results'*.

The event also increased participants' ability and intentions to take action to reduce energy use in their own community by increasing their 'know how' and leaving them 'better informed' with more 'information and examples'.

One factor constraining possible adoption of the scheme by other communities is the 'need for large amounts of initial financing'. As one participant said *'Without the benefit of a massive starting fund we are limited in applying ideas in the immediate term'*.

¹Cost key- Low Cost (less than £50); Medium Cost (between £50-£500); High Cost (£500 or more).

²Time key - Light (Less than 1 person day); Moderate (several days organisation over a number of weeks); Intensive (Several weeks over a year).



Academic partners:

**Environmental Change Institute,
University of Oxford and Low Carbon
Building Group, Oxford Brookes
University.**

Community partners:

**Awel Aman Tawe, Sustainable Blacon Ltd,
Middlesbrough Environment City, Hook
Norton Low Carbon, Kirklees Council and
Low Carbon West Oxford**

For further information on EVALOC

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The EVALOC project seeks to assess, explain and communicate the changes in energy use due to community activities within six selected case study projects under the Department of Energy and Climate Change's (DECC) Low Carbon Communities Challenge (LCCC) initiative, a government-supported initiative to transform the way communities use and produce energy, and build new ways of supporting more sustainable living.



EVALOC is a four-year multi-disciplinary project worth £1.14 million funded by the UK Research Council's (RCUK) Energy Programme. The Energy Programme is a RCUK cross council initiative supported by EPSRC, ESRC, NERC, BBSRC and STFC.

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