



Look out for...

Resource Reviews save businesses thousands

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www.renewableseast.org.uk

Packed diary of Renewables East events

With a whole host of events already arranged for 2010 and the Spring months especially busy, Renewables East has been working hard to ensure the year starts with a full diary.

As ever the goal is bring together experts, knowledge, investors, planning authorities – as well as those businesses across the supply chain – to help ferment and share renewable energy ideas, technologies, and opportunities.

A key event will be the Biofuels East Annual Conference which will be staged at Churchill College, Cambridge, on Wednesday 17th March 2010. The agenda will explore policy developments and sustainability issues, the research and skills gaps raised in the report 'Biofuels Research

Gap Analysis' commissioned by the Department for Transport and DEFRA, as well the latest technological developments in the field.

Renewables East will also be staging its own Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) event early in 2010. With the initial phase of the Carbon Reduction Commitment starting in April 2010 and anticipated to affect more than 20,000 business in the UK, this event aims to help business understand the requirements of the scheme and how it might impact upon them.

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Packed diary of Renewables East events continued

The event is being organised by the Resource Efficiency East Team. To express an interest in attending the event email info@resourceefficiencyeast.org.uk

Other events to come and organised by Renewables East cover all manner of subjects including the Feed In Tariff, careers in offshore renewables and concept development.

Renewables East at Brazil's International Workshop on Carbon Capture and Storage

The East of England's universities and research institutes can make a significant contribution to the development of low carbon biofuels, and to maximise this potential Biofuels East is fostering collaboration between academia and industry through its virtual Advanced Biofuels Hub.

To maximise the economic benefits for the East of England the hub is also developing strategic partnerships with international players in the field. It has attracted interest from stakeholders in Brazil, the world's second biggest producer of biofuels.

In November Bianca Forte, Biofuels Co-ordinator at RE, presented on 'the emerging algae biofuels industry' at the II International Workshop on Carbon Capture and Storage, in Fortaleza, Brazil.

Organised by the Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus, presentations were made by globally renowned experts such as Prof. Sammy Boussiba from the Ben-Gurion University of Negev. Among the 105 delegates was Suleiman Jose Hassuani, Coordinator of Technological Research at CTC, a research centre that has been facilitating technology transfer within the sugarcane supply chain for more than 40 years.

With research institutes and industrial players also working, for instance, on the development of lignocellulosic fuels and syngas technologies, the expertise in this field to be found in Brazil offers scope for collaboration with the UK that could accelerate the development of these technologies.

Biofuels East is now looking to identify opportunities for collaboration between regional stakeholders and research groups and companies based in Brazil. If you are interested in such opportunities or would like to work with us to foster collaboration in this field, please write to biancaforte@biofueleast.org.uk.

Fuel poverty links with first local authority partner

The District Council of Huntingdonshire has become the first local authority delivery partner to join the Renewables East Fuel Poverty initiative.

The partnership will see 2,000 households within the Cambridgeshire town of St. Neots assessed as to whether they would benefit from energy efficiency measures, and then deliver those benefits.

The programme is to be delivered via a three stage approach. First, selected properties and households will be sent an introductory mailer outlining the programme and carrying the local authority logo, showing clearly the programme is being delivered in partnership with Huntingdonshire District Council. Next, representatives will visit and ask a short series of straightforward questions with answers recorded on hand-held PDAs.

Carole Randall of Renewables East said: "That initial doorstep assessment will tell us whether there are any loft or cavity wall insulation measures that could usefully be carried out. Properties which could benefit will be identified at this stage, all of course given that the householders want to proceed.

"Our own surveyors will then do a full assessment of the property. Having identified the property as definitely able to benefit from energy efficiency measures, we will pass that information to our professional insulation installers who will carry out the installation measures.

"If the householder is in a priority group, as defined as being in receipt of certain Gateway benefits, then those priority customers will receive the insulation completely free. If the customer is a non-priority customer then we will offer an Able To Pay option with fees of £125 for cavity wall insulation and £125 for loft insulation.

"Also, if a property is not on the mains gas network we will offer to priority groups and to Able To Pay customers, the option of an air source heat pump, provided their property is well insulated."

The region has been awarded £1 million from the Department of Energy and Climate Change to establish a programme using renewable energy as the answer to fuel poverty. This investment is being managed by the East of England Development Agency and invested through Anglian GOwarm, a new Renewables East enterprise.



Algae technologies – Biofuels East and InCrops promote the region's strengths

More than 50 delegates from academia and industry attended the first in what will be a series of regional meetings organised by Biofuels East and InCrops.



The events are aimed at promoting and developing the region's capabilities in algae technologies and at accelerating innovation and technology transfer in this field.

At the first meeting, held in October at the University of East Anglia (UEA), delegates learnt about the opportunities and challenges in high value applications, bioremediation and bioenergy.

UEA's Dr. Gill Malin opened the event with an introduction to the advantages and challenges of algal processes and products. Founder member of the Algal Bioenergy Consortium, Prof. Alison Smith, from Cambridge University, spoke on vitamins, pigments and energy from algae.

With special emphasis on funding opportunities, the event included a presentation on current UK funding opportunities from Dr. Tom Jenkins of Bioscience KTN, while Helen Fairclough of Energie Helpline UK presented on European partnerships in research and development.

Prof. Richard Geider, from the University of Essex, spoke on biological constraints on algal production, and UEA's Dr. Thomas Mock presented his research on genomic screening and genetic engineering of diatoms for different biotechnological applications.

Prof. Graham Hillier, from the Centre for Process Innovation, presented on the potential of algae technologies in delivering sustainable cities, while Vitor Vieira from AlgaFuel, a spin-out of the Portuguese company Necton, shared key lessons learned through 20 years' experience of industrial production of microalgae.

- In advance of the UEA event Biofuels East and InCrops produced a summary of potential public sources of funding for algae research and development. That document, and the presentations delivered at the UEA event, are now available from the Biofuels East web-portal. If you are not a member of Biofuels East yet, apply at www.biofueleast.org.uk. Membership is free.



Green-Tide Turbines

A unique tidal stream technology that captures more than twice the available energy compared to bladed technology has been developed by Cambridge company Green-Tide Turbines (G-TT).

The company's vision is to become a Tier One supplier to the marine tidal turbine manufacturing supply chain by 2020. With G-TT actively seeking funding, Chief Executive Michael Evans says: "There are opportunities for our technology in run-of-river applications, an easier step to get to revenues more quickly, while we also work towards tidal stream."

With a plan of works scoped, costed and agreed with Cambridge University Engineering Department Fluid Labs, a scale prototype is to be tested with NaREC, a centre of excellence for marine renewable research and testing.

Initial patent searches have been undertaken through Renewables East and Michael says: "We are extremely grateful to Renewables East for their support for IP filing and preparation of market reports. They even helped with the cost for me to attend a crucial trade conference which led to a number of potentially fruitful future collaborations."

Michael adds: "Most existing turbine technologies use bladed turbines which turn generators. Our bladeless turbines result in more cost effective energy generation and promise to do for the tidal stream industry what the jet engine did for aviation."

Contact Michael Evans on T 01223 842010, M 07795 025550 and michael.evans@green-tide.org

Add Energy AD in Devon

Norfolk renewables company Add Energy has just installed its first anaerobic digestion system at a dairy farm in Devon.

While in the UK there are only 35 to 40 AD systems, in Germany there are already 3,800 and Hethel-based Add Energy believe the potential for AD, especially adopting their smaller systems, is huge.

Add Energy Director Mark Aspinall says: "We are a new venture business in Hethel and we have a new approach to AD, a real business getting real orders.

"Our Devon system is a 110KW plant with four tanks each 19 metres long and two and a half metres in diameter. Most AD systems are much larger, quite complex and the planning application process regarding them is lengthy.

"Ours are smaller, have a low profile, are sealed so smell is not an issue, and planning permission is much more straightforward. The farmer then has a system on his own land, using his own feedstock. He can put the digestate back on his own land, and the pay-back period is relatively short. Our systems typically cost between £300,000 and £500,000 but will generate £100,000 to £150,000 a year. Also, as an agricultural investment, borrowing money is cheaper for the farmer to secure.

"Once the system is up and running we can continue to help through remote monitoring, detecting which feedstocks are most effective, or if there is an issue.

"We are a regional business based in Hethel and having secured innovation vouchers from EEDA we have worked closely with partners including Cranfield and Active Technologies in Hethel. Renewables East has also been very helpful in assisting us with IP and also helping us to set up a system for managing the planning process to make things as easy as possible for our customers. Richard Parker at Renewables East has also been a huge help as he has great knowledge of AD."

The goal for Add Energy is to ultimately offer a complete turn-key package, all the way from initially talking to farmers about their feedstock and the output they are aiming for, through to design and plan, the planning application process, finance, cash flow, installation and build, filling the tanks and seeding the system, then handing it over with remote monitoring and further help in, for example, pasteurising feedstock from supermarkets.

Contact Mark.aspinall@addenergy.co.uk, phone 07932 009401 or visit www.addenergy.co.uk

Land locator brings sites and energy firms together



Landlocator's Christopher Maddison

Farmers, individuals and companies now have a new way to advertise their land for use by renewable energy operators while operators have a fresh route to finding sites.

The new www.landlocator.co.uk aims to "bring together individuals and renewable energy companies so as to increase their revenues."

Christopher Maddison, who lives in East Anglia and who set up the website says: "Landlocator was developed for those wanting to advertise land, sites and locations suitable for Renewable Energy projects. While development companies can search the advertisements and see if they would be interested in developing these sites further for renewable energy projects.

"The website is aimed at farmers as well as other land owners who feel that they have suitable land or sites that could be used for renewable projects such as wind turbines and hydroelectricity generation."

For more information contact chris.maddison@landlocator.co.uk or phone 0845 387 0024



www.LandLocator.co.uk
Wind Hydro Solar Recycling

K2 Management sets up East of England HQ

New to the East of England – having announced plans to set up a headquarters at Chelmsford – is K2 Management UK. Their new Essex office will be the hub for their UK operations.

Denmark-based firm K2 was founded by Per Melgaard and Lars Hammershøj and provides management services for large scale construction projects. Services range from initial feasibility and planning, through design and contracting, to construction and implementation, and K2 specialise in the offshore and renewable energy markets.

K2 will be working with Mike Prowse to provide project management and engineering consultancy services to the UK market. Mike has long experience of working in a wide range of commercial management roles in offshore construction projects for the last 15 years, focusing especially on the offshore wind market since 2002. Most recently he was UK Sales Manager for A2SEA, and before that Renewable Energy Manager at Global Marine Systems.

K2 Management has a strong reputation for providing high quality, practical management services to the offshore and renewable energy markets with plans to extend their reach into the fast growing UK market.

K2 Management UK plans to be operational at the start of 2010. For more information until then contact Per Melgaard, Managing Partner of K2 Management A/S on +45 8610 1040 or at info@k2management.dk.

Wells - the main base for Sheringham Shoal

Work is progressing at the Norfolk coastal town of Wells-next-the-Sea, North Norfolk, the main onshore base for the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm, an 88 turbine project that will cover 35 square kilometres and be sited some 20 kilometres off the East of England coastline.

The project will be Britain's fourth largest offshore wind farm.

Scira Offshore (a joint venture comprising StatoilHydro and Statkraft) say Sheringham's Siemens 3.6MW wind turbines, each 80 metres tall, will generate enough energy annually to meet the demands of some 220,000 homes.

The use of Wells as an operational harbour for the next 50 years comes as a major benefit, driving local employment and creating dozens of onshore jobs. The on-land substation is due to be completed by June 2010 with the first turbines installed in 2011 and the project completed by 2011 also.

As well as dredging, on-shore directional drilling for the culvert which will house power cables running 22kms inland from the coast, has now been completed.

Please contact Emma Toulson for more detail emmatoulson@renewableseast.org.uk

Centrica plans £725 million wind farm off Skegness

Centrica - parent company of British Gas – is to build a £725 million, 270MW wind farm five miles off Skegness on the Lincolnshire coast, with construction beginning in 2010 and energy generation beginning towards the end of 2012.

The new Lincs wind farm will be sited next to Centrica's existing wind farms at Lynn and Inner Dowsing and will feature 75 3.6MW Siemens turbines able to generate energy for 200,000 homes.

Centrica has also agreed the sale of a 50 per cent equity stake in its Lynn, Inner Dowsing and Glens of Foudland project to American investment management company TCW. Centrica and TCW will govern their "ongoing relationship as co-owners of the Lynn, Inner Dowsing

and Glens of Foudland wind farms" as a joint venture.

Through British Gas, Centrica will enter into a 15-year Power Purchase Agreement to off-take all the electricity production together with 50 per cent of the ROCs generated by the three refinanced wind farms.

Sam Laidlaw, Chief Executive of Centrica, said: "Our decision to build Lincs illustrates our continued commitment to

develop renewable generation and confirms our position as one of the UK's leaders in green energy. The Government's enhanced financial framework for offshore wind has been fundamental in improving the overall project economics of this development.

"This is a milestone in our renewables strategy and we look forward to working together with TCW who bring significant global expertise in energy investments."

Business-to-Business Club to improve Resource Efficiency and cut costs

Small businesses will soon have the chance to define and adopt their own environmental management system (EMS) with the help of Resource Efficiency East.



Early in 2010 Resource Efficiency East will launch The EMS Club and is currently recruiting smaller businesses across the East of England to get involved. The Club aims to help them implement an EMS and in doing so, identify cost saving opportunities, ensure compliance with relevant legislation, meet the requirements of key customers and reduce the organisation's environmental impact.

The EMS Club will help businesses develop and put in place their own system through a series of workshops designed to encourage knowledge exchange and peer-to-peer networking. Businesses will also have access to additional 'one-to-one' support to help them identify key issues they need to address in order to implement an EMS.

The Club will be run as a series of 'hubs' across the region with the aim of making the support as accessible as possible. Antony Gough, Director of Resource Efficiency East, says: "The EMS Club will really benefit smaller organisations for whom an environmental management system would help achieve positive change, but who don't have the resources or knowledge to get started on their own.

"Each hub will be run by professionals experienced in the implementation of environmental management systems and who are able to share their knowledge in a straightforward manner."

Places are limited to 100 eligible SMEs and interested businesses are encouraged to visit www.resourceefficiencyeast.org.uk/the-ems-club.asp to check eligibility and to register their interest in taking part.

Resource Reviews save businesses thousands

At the last count some 220 businesses have now benefited from the Resource Efficiency East programme to help small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) cut costs and reduce resource use.

Around £1.5 million of potential savings have been identified as well as opportunities to reduce carbon emissions by 19,000 tonnes.

With the support of regional partners, Renewables East is delivering the Resource Efficiency East support programme across the region helping SMEs achieve significant savings through more efficient management of water, energy and materials.

In many cases companies have cut thousands of pounds off their bottom line and reduced their carbon footprint. The programme is funded by the East of England Development Agency and the European Regional Development Fund.

The programme offers up to two-days of fully funded support. The Business Resource Review offers eligible organisations advice and support on all aspects of resource efficiency. The review includes a site visit by one of REE's experienced resource efficiency advisors; a concise written report highlighting key opportunities for savings; and a bespoke action plan on how best to realise the savings and efficiencies outlined. Businesses can access more advice and support for up to six months as they implement their plan.

Resource Efficiency East Programme Director Antony Gough says: "Resource efficiency is a vitally important business opportunity for any company. By working with Resource Efficiency East businesses in the East of England can receive support to improve their resource efficiency, cut costs and improve performance."

Success stories include Stuart Morris Textiles in Hadleigh, Suffolk where Resource Efficiency East identified potential savings totalling £14,000 a year, Merit Plastic Mouldings in Diss in Norfolk where savings of £12,000 a year were identified, and Peterborough United Football Club where significant savings in energy use, CO2 output, and water consumption, were identified.

To find out more about the Business Resource Review visit www.resourceefficiencyeast.org.uk/business-resource-review.asp or call 01733 294524.

Business Clusters Project brings businesses together

Funding of £160,000 is being made available to business alliances in the East of England through Resource Efficiency East's new Business Clusters Project.

The Project aims to make the funding available to applicants representing groups of at least 25 small and medium sized businesses (SMEs) across the region with up to £40,000 for each of four successful projects.

Business Clusters is aimed at helping businesses make cost savings, increase productivity and competitiveness, as well as reduce their energy use and carbon emissions.

Antony Gough, Director of the Resource Efficiency East (REE) programme, says: "While it is clear that small businesses benefit from one-to-one support, such

as REE's free on-site Business Resource Review, there is obvious potential to improve resource efficiency on a collective basis by working with businesses that are connected with one another."

Examples of collaborative approaches include neighbouring businesses which are sited in same area - such as a business park - working together; businesses in the same industry sector; or business groups facing similar issues such as waste disposal.

Applications are currently being assessed and successful projects will be announced in the new year and run throughout 2010.

Expert Support Network extended

The Expert Support Network (ESN) initiative, trialled early this year, has been extended, giving planning officers the opportunity to draw on expert advice, information and guidance, on specific issues relating to renewable energy and planning.

The extended scheme will now run until January 2010 and may continue on a permanent basis depending on further evaluation. The decision to extend came following the very positive feedback from planning officers who had used the service to deal with queries on a range of renewable energy developments.

The service is specifically designed to assist local authority planning officers in both forward planning and development control via a network of renewable energy experts including noise and landscape specialists. Other local authority officers are also able to access the network if they have a relevant query with the aim of producing evidence to support good quality and robust decision making.

Planners can submit queries through the Planning Renewables website. These will then be assessed and, if suitable, up to a day of an expert's time will be offered free of charge.

The expert support network is managed by the Centre for Sustainable Energy with funding from the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), and is run in association with DECC and the Department for Communities and Local Government.

For more information see: www.planningrenewables.org.uk

Supply Chain Network

Resource Efficiency East's Supply Chain Network will offer small and medium sized businesses across the East of England the opportunity to work with larger "host" organisations to improve their resource efficiency, helping them save water, materials and energy.

By bringing together the supply chains of larger regional organisations the Networks - up to eight in all - will enable public and private sector organisations to work with, mentor, and connect the SMEs in their supply chains.

The aim of the Supply Chain Network is to help host organisations understand the opportunities of working as a delivery partner; to better engage with their supply chain; make internal procurement procedures more sustainable; as well as share their understanding and learning with their suppliers, distributors and wholesalers with respect to resource efficiency.

The Supply Chain Network will enable larger host organisations and smaller supply chain SMEs to share experiences and ideas through formal networks, and a series of meetings, training workshops, collaboration and discussions, all supported by Resource Efficiency East. Each Supply Chain Network will be supported by up to 30 days of fully funded support.

The programme is funded by the East of England Development Agency and the European Regional Development Fund.

For further information on the Supply Chain Network contact supplychain@resourceefficiencyeast.org.uk

Dates for the diary

11th January to 15th January 2010

Energy from biomass combustion
University of Leeds LS2 9JT

The course will provide a comprehensive overview of energy from biomass combustion.

Details: School of Civil Engineering
T 0113 343 2494/8104
E cpd@engineering.leeds.ac.uk
www.engineering.leeds.ac.uk/cpd/biomass

15th January 2010

Workshop for Planning Officers on Renewable Energy
The Bull Hotel, Peterborough, Cambs.

Details: Kirsty Mitchell, Centre for Sustainable Energy
kirsty.mitchell@cse.org.uk
Website: www.cse.org.uk/enews

10th February 2010

Planning in Offshore Renewables Projects
OrbisEnergy, Lowestoft

Details: T 01606 591415
E info@renewableseast.org.uk

18th February 2010

Careers in Offshore Renewables
OrbisEnergy, Lowestoft

Details: T 01606 591415
E info@renewableseast.org.uk

18th February 2010

Concept Development – Managing Inspiration

PA Consulting Building, Melbourn, Herts.

Details: T 01606 591415
E info@renewableseast.org.uk

23rd February 2010

Environmental Impact Assessments and their role in onshore renewable developments
SmartLife, Cambridge

Details: T 01606 591415
E info@renewableseast.org.uk

3rd March 2010

Feed in Tariff: the real potential for renewable energy support
Churchill College, Cambridge

Details: T 01606 591415
E info@renewableseast.org.uk

4th March 2010

The Crown Estate hosted Wind Supply Event in partnership with EEDA and Renewables East
Lowestoft

Details: Toni Diggins
T 01223 200887
E events@eeda.org.uk

17th March 2010

Biofuels East Annual Conference
Churchill College, Cambridge

Details: T 01606 591415
E info@renewableseast.org.uk

25th June 2010

Cleanpower Expo 2010
Murray Edwards College, Cambridge

Industrial and commercial business conference expo.

Details: www.cambridgeinvestmentresearch.com/events/cleanpower

Membership

Would you like to become a member of Renewables East?

Join Renewables East as a company member FOR FREE to show your support for our activities across the region. All we ask in return is that you sign up to our vision of the positive role that renewables can play in reducing carbon, improving our energy security and securing economic benefit to the region. Call us now for further details 01603 591415.

Do you have an article you would like featured in the next Renewables East newsletter?

Please contact John Heath on 07905 869989, 01603 591415 or johnheath@renewableseast.org.uk

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