



## Email Update – 10 March 2014

Dear 10:10 and Greening Campaign Supporters

There are some exciting developments to report this month and we'd like to test your reactions to the idea of setting up a community solar scheme in our area.

### What about setting up a Community Solar Scheme in Steyning?

There are currently three big solar farm schemes under development in our area: Huddlestone Farm, just North of Steyning, and Priors Byne and Ford Farms, both near Ashurst. If all three go ahead, we'll be generating over 30MW of solar power on a sunny day. After some concerted lobbying, we're now in conversation with the developers of two of these schemes. If discussions go well, one or both may be offering local residents the chance to buy into them – so rather than being owned exclusively by big investors, they could be partly owned by us. We would need to set up a community energy coop, or some other legal structure, to manage this. But this could be a great opportunity to put our money where our mouth is in backing local renewables.

There's a lot of work to do to make it happen, so before we dive in to this we'd like to test the water with you to get your advice on a couple of points and gauge the level of enthusiasm to actually invest some money. Please [click here](#) to fill in the survey. It will only take 5 minutes, and it is not in any way binding!

### Power to the People talk in Brighton - Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March

If you'd like to learn more about community energy, why not come along to the first **Power to the People** talk next week. Steve Halsey will be speaking on: *"Keeping the Lights On: Opportunities and challenges in a more renewable world"*. Steve is one of the top energy engineers at UK Power Networks who, among other things, was responsible for ensuring the power stayed on during the Olympics. Come and hear about the challenges involved in gearing up our regional power network to cope with ever increasing power demand and the expansion of wind, solar and other renewable energy sources. [Click here](#) for details and to reserve a place.

### Community Orchard update

The idea of setting up a community orchard in Steyning is coming along nicely and looks like it might be about to blossom! The organising group have put a short proposal to the Parish Council to get their blessing to start the project by pruning and regenerating some of the existing fruit trees at the South East corner of the Memorial Playing Field. If you're interested in learning more, check out their [Facebook Page](#), or their [brand new website](#), or email them at [steyningcommunityorchard@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:steyningcommunityorchard@yahoo.co.uk).

### Eco Open House Day – 27 April

Looking for inspiration on the home front? Steyning 10:10 has hooked up with Transition Town Worthing to run an Eco Open House event this year. It'll be on Sunday April 27th, the

weekend after Easter, running from 10.00am to 1.00pm and 2.00 to 5.00pm. Four Steyning houses with a range of eco features will be open to the public. A parallel event in Worthing will be held the weekend before Easter on 12th and 13th April, where 12 houses will be open to visitors. It's being coordinated by Low Carbon, the organisation that has run the highly successful Brighton Eco Open House scheme over the past few years, and Brighton Permaculture Trust, with financial support from DECC and the European Commission.

It's free and it's a great chance to see how others have gone about making their homes more energy efficient and sustainable. You can speak to the home owners and learn about the nitty gritty of installing solar panels, fitting insulation, rainwater harvesting, electric vehicle charging points, and more. Programmes will be available soon setting out all the details, and the [Eco Open Houses website](#) has case studies on all the houses.

As a special bonus, we've linked up with three of Steyning's excellent tea shops to create a 'Tea Shop Green Card'. Pick one up at any of the open houses and you'll be eligible for a free drink if you buy a snack or pastry at Cobblestone Tea House, Truffles, or Sussex Produce Company.

### Last chance to fill in the water survey

The [Water Fair](#) on 1 March proved to be a big success. More than 400 people came to the exhibition and talks at the Steyning Centre. If you haven't done so already, you have until March 14<sup>th</sup> to fill in their water survey, designed to gauge awareness and attitudes toward flooding and water management. You can fill it online at [www.oart.org.uk/steyningevent](http://www.oart.org.uk/steyningevent)

### Green Drinks

There's a couple of interesting Green Drinks coming up:

- **26 March: How realistic is wave and tidal power?** **Sam Figgins** will be sharing his research findings looking into the practical and economic realities of wave and tidal power. 8.00 pm at the Norfolk Arms
- **30 April: Introducing the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) Scheme.** This brand new scheme is designed to encourage the uptake of heat pumps, biomass boilers, and other low carbon domestic heating options. Patrick Allcorn from the Department of Energy and Climate Change, one of the chief architects of the scheme, will be explaining how it works and how you could benefit.

That's it for now!

Best wishes

Geoff

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Geoff Barnard  
Coordinator, Steyning 10:10 Climate Action Group  
[www.1010steyning.org](http://www.1010steyning.org)  
Tel: 01903 813232  
Email: [1010steyning@gmail.com](mailto:1010steyning@gmail.com)  
Twitter: @steyning1010



