Agenda Item 5.6
To: all Devon parish and town councils
Re: Devon Climate Emergency

We need your help!

I was fortunate to participate in an excellent workshop with some of you at the DALC AGM last Wednesday. Thank you for letting me sneak in!

Aside from a preview of the new website, I said I would follow-up with more information. I would also like to request your help in helping to spread the word about the Devon Climate Emergency, and the Devon Climate Declaration. I know you have received information direct from Cara Stobart, at DALC, so this may overlap, but this is the latest information as of now.

Introduction

For those not in the workshop: a range of public, private and voluntary organisations from across Devon came together on 22nd May 2019, to declare a climate emergency and to endorse the principles of the Devon Climate Declaration. They have appointed a Net-Zero Task Force to produce a Devon Carbon Plan. You can read more on the newly launched website: https://www.devonclimateemergency.org.uk/. DALC is represented on the Devon Climate Emergency Response Group by Cara Stobart.

Call to action

Things are moving quickly, and there are three things that you can help us with:

- Help to publicise the Devon Climate Emergency website and general awareness
- Help to encourage individuals and organisations to submit ideas and evidence to the Net-Zero Task Force quickly, for consideration for the Devon Carbon Plan (as of now we have received 72 submissions!). **This is urgent.**
- Your council could consider declaring a climate emergency, and might wish to endorse the Devon Climate Declaration; you can register this and have your council listed on the website.

Communications

Our first press release is online: any help in re-publishing in newsletters, or linked to on your website, would be appreciated: https://www.devonclimateemergency.org.uk/devon-carbon-plan-process-launched/

Please follow us on social media, and share any key messages to your followers:

- Twitter
- Facebook
- LinkedIn

It would be helpful to tag any messages with the hashtag #DevonCarbonPlan and #climateemergency if possible.

We have posted some ready-made messages; it would be amazing if you would share and repost these with any accounts you have set up for your council. I have included direct links to the messages here, to make it easy to re-post and share:

Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/DevonClimateEmergency/photos/a.113497173406574/119901436099481/?type=3&theater
Twitter: https://twitter.com/devonclimate/status/1189514061043654657
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6595283579842904064

Resources for parish and town councils

Over the next few days we will start adding in useful stuff to the website, and links, that can help individuals and communities take practical action. In the meantime, you might want to draw your council members attention to the following which offers grant funding to rural communities to invest in renewable energy.

The Rural Community Energy Fund

Clean, renewable energy generation at the community level is beneficial both to the community and the wider environment. By reducing dependence on fossil fuel-based energy generation communities can secure future energy supply, gain protection from rising fuel costs and reduce the risk of fuel poverty. Income from renewable projects can be used to provide benefits to the community, create jobs, and promote social cohesion.

The Rural Community Energy Fund offers support to eligible communities in two stages:
Stage 1 – Feasibility Grant
For those communities at an early stage of exploring the possibility of a renewable energy project, and which meet the Fund's eligibility criteria, this stage offers grants of up to a maximum of **£40,000** to cover consultancy and professional costs for the development of a feasibility report in a standard format for a specific project. These should be early-stage activities without which the installations would not be able to go ahead.
Stage 2 – Full business development and planning grant
For projects that demonstrate a good chance of securing planning permission and being implemented, the Local Energy Hubs will consider further development funding of up to **£100,000** to be made available to cover more detailed investigation into the key areas of technology selection. This includes securing a site (legal fees for example), environmental impact assessments, submitting planning applications, permitting applications and developing a full investment business plan.
Applications for grants are now open – apply at http://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/south-west-energy-hub-rcef/

Further questions

- If you need to get in touch about aspects of the website, social media and communications, please drop me an email to tom.dixon@devon.gov.uk.
- If you want to get in touch with the team providing the secretariat function, or to inform then that your council has signed the declaration, email environmentalpolicy@devon.gov.uk.

Thank you very much indeed!

Best wishes,

Tom
Tom Dixon