

**Glasu Transition Towns Consultation Event
Pavilion, Llandrindod Wells May 13th 2009**

Report of Workshops on Renewable Energy

Facilitator: Andy Bull, SWEA

General Comment:

The three workshops were quite different in character with the level of knowledge of renewable energy technologies varying greatly.

Some Common Themes

The participants generally appeared to have a very general and often unrealistic view of renewable energy technology. They quite frequently had a very low knowledge of the installations already present in their area.

I found very little support for the option of community owned wind even after it was explained that it would be almost certainly the best of the current options in terms of generating income. The reason was the perceived difficulty in getting planning permission and the possible divisive nature of the subject.

I found myself very often referencing schemes that I had seen in Austria!

Noted Requests of Glasu (or somebody else) in Support of Transition Towns

1. Assistance with the undertaking of audits of existing RE installations in the area. It was seen as being important that the groups were aware of the baseline.
2. The provision of independent (of installers) but reliable information. It was noted that some consultants offering RE advice are providing a very basic service!
3. The opportunity to learn from the experiences of others. This needed to include mistakes not to be repeated as well as glossy good news.
4. Guidance/templates on legal structures and financial models. It was noted, for instance, that the BBNPA had developed various financial models for hydro schemes that were designed to encourage land-owners to allow "community" schemes to be developed on their land.
5. A directory of interested and/or knowledgeable people/organisations. This would allow effective networking to occur.
6. Assistance with the cost and commissioning of feasibility studies
7. Training in order that groups can recognise opportunities and undertake their own pre-feasibility studies. It was noted that, in time, when people become enthusiastic and experienced then some will continue with further training and eventually perhaps make a living from this kind of work.
8. Possibly a study tour to Austria to gain inspiration and knowledge. This could be in the form of a co-operation project.