

The Green Valleys Gathering 7th April 2013

KEY

- Projects we are unable to progress at present
- Projects where we will seek to work with others to achieve and will likely not be realised until after 2015
- Projects which we currently deliver or intend to deliver before April 2015

		What our Members said....	What The Green Valleys will do....
TRANSPORT		Develop a mobile app with where to find a car to share, bike etc. No central body, peer to peer trip sharing	This would require significant support from the individual members or any such group as well as some technical challenges (not least mobile coverage). We do not currently have the expertise or resources to develop a project like this, but we aim to keep up to date with similar projects that we may be able to adapt or transfer to our region and Members.
		Electric car schemes	There are some significant challenges to be overcome in a low density population area like Mid - Wales and the economic reality would mean a significantly subsidised service which we cannot currently resource.
		Seek corporate sponsorship from car manufacturers for car sharing schemes	This is a potential solution to the 2 projects outlined above and until one of these can be progressed we are not in a position to approach manufacturers.
		Promote local business to use to use an electric van or Twizy!	Through our support for the Eco Travel Network we are closely monitoring the project working with tourism businesses and will support suitable expansion of the scheme to cover other business users

BIO-DIVERSITY		Training on species identification	We will aim to secure funding for a program of community based training events on wildlife identification to be delivered in Spring/Summer 2014
		Access to information to find out what can be found locally	We will provide contacts on where to obtain information on the wildlife in your local area
		Access to local experts for support	We will provide contacts of local organisations and experts who can be approached to provide local expertise

FOOD		Provide access to sheeps wool mulch to protect food crops	We will determine how effective this has been and if it is useful will seek to source local wool and food growing projects that could make use of it as a mulch product - there are issues on the cleaning of wool to remove toxins which does not make this as straightforward as it may at first seem!
		The Green Valleys should provide small grants for demo projects	We are currently offering match funding of up to £1000 for any community food growing projects - contact us if you have ideas for projects!
		Course in pickles and chutneys (e.g. walk picking blackberries and then making into jam)	We aim to provide opportunities for learning and skill sharing events this autumn
		Green valleys to fund the pop-up-shop for veg growing and distribution	We have begun looking at potential shared community retail facilities. Fresh produce can be difficult as it must be brought by the growers and any unsold stock must be collected on the same day. This might be best undertaken at a community rather than regional level and we would certainly support development and funding of such projects
		Micro hubs, members pay fee to part-time gardeners/ garden share	We believe that this is best delivered at a community scale and would support our Member groups in development and funding of such projects. Several similar land share projects run in the UK which could be used as a model
		Big scale veg growing	We do not have the resources to undertake this sort of project at present, but we would certainly consider whether we could provide a useful support role to any other community based enterprise wanting to push this forward.
		Model forest garden	We could support development of such projects if suitable land and an active and keen Member group can be found to support it. Funding is already in place from our SEDA fund award. Natural Resources Wales have a process in place for communities to gain access to what was the Forestry Commission estate and Welsh Government is supportive of such projects.
		Change school curriculum to include food growing	We do not currently have the capacity or contacts to influence the curriculum, however many schools do undertake food growing projects and we'd be happy to support development of growing spaces within keen and interested schools.
		Shredder for woody materials to provide compost	We are currently trying to source grant aid to provide some more equipment for community woodland groups which would include a small shredder to create a supply of mulch for local use which would be produced from local woodlands.

ENERGY		Development of high level energy infrastructure and supply, such localised smart grids, community owned energy sector	We do not have the capacity to develop these major projects - at present! However, it was felt valuable to create a vision for the future and effectively communicate it. To be done via different media such as vidoes, pamphlets, newsletter, web, stories, school presentations, books. The vision should be clear and the message consistent.
		Community owned renewable schemes	A percentage of all The Green Valleys' community schemes profit to go into a pot for further renewables in other communities
		"Sleeving" energy supply for individual consumers of our Member groups	Sleeving means supplying the energy to a user from a particular source so while the energy comes from the national grid the bill payer is able to select the specific source of their energy. We are in the early stages of discussion on how this could work for hydro schemes.
		Need for basic information on 'how do I use less, save more, insulate better?' etc.	We will create a bank of simple (and not so simple things) that people can do in their own homes to be less reliant on fossil fuels.
		Developing a web resource of things individuals can do to lead more sustainable lives	Alongside our basic information on becoming more energy efficient we aim to provide information on how to make: a slow cooker, a wood fired oven, a wood fire barbeque, wood store, composting, compost toilets, eco friendly sheds, food growing in your garden, woodfired jacuzzi etc etc etc. Webpages/pdfs on how to with local photographic examples. We are currently seeking funding to take this project forward.
		10 most popular myths, amusing stories	It was felt that there was still a lot of misinformation regarding climate change, insulation, renewable technologies and other sustainable projects. Providing clear and unbiased guidance from a trusted source like The Green Valleys would be considered useful and we will aim to develop this.
		Aspiration for PV and Solar thermal as standard on all new builds and social housing. Encourage huge take up of existing housing stock.	These three points are all important and would make a significant contribution to carbon emissions. However, they require significant changes of policy and subseuent enforcement via the UK and Welsh Governments or Local Authorities. The Green Valleys seeks to work with government bodies to influence these policies and to provide feedback to consultations. We will also sign post relevent consultations to Member groups.
		Re-assess Listed Buildings interpretation for renewable energy installations	
		Landlords should have a legal obligations for energy generation and insulation before proprty can be rented	
		Renewable energy should be nationalised	We do not believe that this is likely to be supported by the current UK or Welsh Governments
	Communicate and celebrate success	We aim to invest in inspirational individuals who can communicate this vision (locally and further afield). Encourage and celebrate those who: Use Less, install green energy, and make a big push on the success of commuity schemes generating income for projects	

EVENTS		Summary of feedback from everyone was that running an Autumn Fair for TGV was not a good idea	The Green Valleys will not plan to hold a large event for members in the Autumn, but instead aims to support and/or attend the numerous events that already take place. Most Member groups are involved in local shows and other events and so there is ample opportunity to promote Member activities without the need for a dedicated event
		Fruit juicing and access to borrow equipment was valued	We intend to continue offering communities access to juicing equipment at events each autumn and will invest in some additional equipment and assist in promotion of juicing events to communities.
		Members found that the networking, meeting new people, chatting and sharing ideas was the most valuable aspect of events	Rather than formal events, Members felt that holding more informal/social networking sessions were very useful and several could be run each year, hosted by interested Member groups. The Green Valleys would investigate providing a small fund to cover hosting costs and work to provide transport options to reduce cost to attendees and carbon emissions
		Offer skill sharing/training as an activity during social events	We aim to provide some element of learning activities during social/network gatherings hosted by Member groups.

