

Note from Ecocongregation Moray Network meeting, 3rd June 2014, Spynie Kirk

Present:

Jenny Adams, Ogilvie Smith, Margaret Munro - Duffus, Spynie & Hopeman Church of Scotland

Avril Clark, Liz Moir, Hamish Moir – Bellie Church of Scotland, Fochabers

Carola Smith – Elgin: St. Giles' & St. Columba's South Church of Scotland

Judith McIntyre – Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Elgin

Rebecca Kail – JASCIAH, Elgin

Carin Schwartz – Findhorn

James McKessack-Leitch – Alves

Speaker : Anne Thomas, Hilton Church, Inverness – on Energy Use in Church Buildings

The meeting opened with the Parable of the tenants, from Matthew 21:33-44, and prayer.

Anne outlined the work that had been done at Hilton Church in Inverness. Notes from talk and ensuing discussion...

Following the conversion of the Hilton manse to a community café, the following has been installed in different parts of the café building, church and hall :

- solar hot water panels
- solar PV panels
- cavity wall insulation for the church
- new doors – for disabled access, but with energy saving in mind too. Clear doors, so that doors could be kept closed but people still see to be welcoming.
- bike racks

Some grants. Also a loan of £20,000 from the Energy Saving Trust to be paid back over 8 years.

Now get Feed In Tariff for solar PV – but to get the best tariff, need to get the building to a D rating for energy efficiency – not easy with church buildings. Solar PV – notional 25 year lifetime.

Also now available, Renewable Heat Incentive.

Grants available from Church of Scotland General Trustees.

Energy Saving Trust offer loans for businesses (including churches). (Home Energy Scotland for domestic properties).

Energy Saving Trust best starting point for advice on renewables.

Also local projects – Friends of the Earth “Keep the Heat In” – see FoE Inverness website

Recommendation of LED lights – now available for all fittings.

Recommendation of halogen heating (not halogen lighting!). Halogen heating – heats people, not space.

Quite a discussion about control of heating systems in community space, particularly when different user groups have different needs (e.g. older people sitting, or fitness groups). People are afraid to take responsibility to turn off or on, up or down. Notes don't always help. People seem to prefer opening windows to turning heating down.

For ventilation, can get heat exchange fans, which ventilate, but keep more heat in.

Thick curtains and energy saving blinds can really help.

Anne also recommends Sempatap insulated wall covering, to reduce heat loss in outside walls.

What's been happening locally?

Duffus, Spynie & Hopeman held an Eco-awareness coffee morning, unfortunately clashed with a school fayre, but still had 50 people come and browsed information stalls on energy, transport, waste, Traidcraft, bikes. Will work with school for next time.

Bellie had an art competition with local primary school, had a few classes involved.

Rebecca had information to share about "Get growing" in Lhanbryde – gardening course for complete beginners

Carin shared information about Transition Town Forres, and all that's going on there to help transition beyond our dependence on fossil fuels. Community garden. And now a large shed has been refurbished to offer a great venue with kitchen space for cookery classes, and space available to use. Focus on environmental awareness. Open 12-4 most days. Also has a charging station for electric cars.

Network discussion

We'd like to keep in better contact with news of events etc between network meetings.

Can we have each others' emails, to contact each other directly instead of working through Ecocongregation Scotland all the time?

Can we make better use of the Moray network page on the Ecocongregation Scotland website?

Jenny to ask these questions when putting in these notes!

(Notes by Jenny Adams)