



Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire Eco-congregation Network

MINUTES OF Meeting held on 29 MAY 2013, 7.30pm

ACORN CENTRE, INVERURIE

PRESENT:

Helen Beagrie	Dyce	Alistair Stark	Mannofield
Ian Milne	"	Ruth Richardson	Meldrum and Bourtie
Ann Ralph	Ferryhill, Aberdeen	Jean Mitchell	"
James Mackay	Kemnay	Rachel Douglas	"
Margaret Sangster	Inverurie West	Moira Lee	New Machar
Doreen Tough	"	Joan MacDonald	Queen's Cross
Jacquie Hood	"	Glenda Gurney-Hall	"
Sheila Cowie	"	Anne Paterson	Skene Parish
Gillian and Mark Paterson	"	Elaine Percival	"
Fran and Joy Doorghen	"	Ann Finlay	"
Dick Barrett	"	Sheila Gray	"
Margaret Crawford	Inverurie	Karen McCrossan	Torry St Fittick's
Paul Douglas	"	Vicky Mitchell	"

APOLOGIES : Bill Craigie

WELCOME: The evening began with a welcome cup of tea or coffee. Joy Doorghen welcomed all who were present and opened the meeting with a short prayer. She then introduced the speaker for the evening, Grant Keenan of Keenan Recycling.

SPEAKER: Grant gave a most interesting talk about 'Food Waste into Compost'. He covered the various stages of his own career and the history of his company at New Deer in Aberdeenshire. We were shown short videos of some of the processes and products that are produced by the company. It was interesting to note the wide area from which the company accesses the green and food waste that is used in the production of BSI accredited chemical free compost.

Much of this compost is used by farmers in the North East and its use is dramatically reducing the amount of chemical fertilisers being used. Much of the chemical fertilisers used involve the use of fossil fuels and are commonly imported from Egypt and Brazil. Therefore, the use of the locally produced compost has a huge effect on the carbon footprint. Somewhere in the region of 50 000 tonnes are produced annually. The use of this compost is also affecting the quality of the soil structure in the fields where it is applied with more worms appearing and greater microbial action.

Grant explained that he has built up contracts with a wide range of sources to remove food and green waste. These include local councils, supermarkets, restaurants, shopping malls such as Union Square. The introduction of new legislation about the amount of food waste that can be produced per week, along with yet another tax rise on landfill costs, should see a further rise in the number of clients looking to recycle through Grant's company. An example of this is that Aberdeenshire will be rolling out food recycling of food waste across the county by the end of this year.

Aberdeen City already have 65 000 food caddies across the city for recycling food waste which can include items such as paper towels, Moray has 50 000 caddies and Aberdeen City will shortly be issuing another 120 000 to flats and businesses in the city.

Keenan's Recycling employs 35 people at their New Deer plant and has far as is possible employed local businesses in the creation of the plant.

The talk was followed by a lively Question and Answer session.

VOTE OF THANKS: Margaret Warnock thanked Grant for a most interesting and informative talk. She also mentioned the Eco Network Seminar on 7 September 2013. She also reminded us of the next Aberdeen/Aberdeenshire Network Meeting which will be on 9 October. The venue has yet to be decided but look out for further information on the website at <http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/networks/aberdeen-network/>

Margaret told the group about the new Chaplain for Eco Congregation, Trevor Jamison. Trevor has been sponsored by the United Free Church and in fact will be the speaker at our next meeting.

For those working on Awards, Margaret told us that Modules are out and the new Eco Congregation 'Ideas for Action' are in!! These can be found on the website see <http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/materials/church-check-up/>).