



MESS news

Marple, Mellor & Marple Bridge Energy Saving Strategy No.6 Winter 2013

"An opportunity to face and plan, together as a community, the challenges that Climate Change will bring."

In November MESS celebrated its 4th Anniversary. MESS was originally set up to raise awareness of the effects of Climate Change and to encourage finding ways of lowering the amount of carbon we all use. This aim is still very much part of the MESS vision but with the escalating prices of fuel, saving money has become of equal importance and we continue to explore new technologies and techniques to make our homes more warmth secure. Our SHOWCASE on 15 February seeks to share with local residents the resources that are available.

Through the grants we have achieved in the last few years we are able to offer this newsletter twice a year, to keep people informed and invite new members. Moving our meetings to the community room at the Fire Station in January will give us a more central position which we hope will encourage people to come along.

The MESS Schools Boxes, which introduce primary school children to environmental technology, are still circulating around the local schools and our large thermal camera, purchased with a DECC grant, allows MESS to offer thermal surveys of local homes. These surveys lead us to explore ways of dealing with draughts — the first area to deal with in saving energy. Most of the materials needed are available at DIY stores and from the internet. MESS will not recommend a specific product or manufacturer but we will share with you our own experiences.

MESS members are enthusiastic local people who are trying to offer ideas, knowledge and solutions to the challenges that we all face in these changing times. Call on us if you think we can help or you have ideas to share.

www.marplemess.org.uk

MM



MARPLE CARNIVAL
MESS WINS 1st PRIZE in the vehicle section



MARPLE ECO HOUSE

For details and possible viewing
Contact MESS at 0161 663 0402

MESS MEETINGS

MESS meets every month at 7pm in the Community Room at **Marple Fire Station**, Hollins Lane, Marple SK6 8AL
Next meetings are: **13 January**, 10 February, 10 March, 14 April, 12 May, 9 June and every 2nd Monday of the month

MESS Contacts

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116 Longhurst Lane, Mellor
Stockport SK6 5PG



SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2014

10.30am — 1.30pm

MESS
Marple, Mellor & Marple Bridge
Energy Saving Strategy

Save energy
Save money
Save the
environment

ENERGY SHOWCASE

See the
equipment
Meet the
suppliers

SENIOR CITIZENS HALL, MARPLE

Will the lights stay on this winter? It's up to us.

It strikes me that the recent energy price debates have all come at it from the wrong angle. Energy costs have always gone up much more than they have come down and, despite what the government or opposition promise us in the short term, I don't see the overall upward progression of energy prices reversing. Although there is legitimate debate about the profits of companies providing us with energy and who should pay, almost nothing has been said about reducing our energy needs.

So if you really want to reduce your energy bills - you will need to reduce your energy use. Some MESS members have changed their homes to be much more energy efficient. I have managed to more than halve my energy usage and another member may even make a profit using his energy production. It's not that we live in cold unheated homes, on the contrary we live in very comfortable temperatures and with almost no draughts. So if you want to really reduce your energy bills. Instead of accepting a transient price freeze on fuel prices or believing that a review of the energy companies will lower prices, why not take control of your bills, MESS would be delighted to discuss with you how this can be done.

CB

MESS leaflets for ideas and information



ECO House update

The MESS ECO house has just had some extra insulation added to the inside of the kitchen and dining room external walls. As it was the front of the house it was the only place we were not allowed to insulate from the outside because of planning regulations.

The work involved removing the plasterboard, putting two centimetres of Aerogel insulation onto the brickwork, and then replastering. Aerogel is one of the best thermal insulators, sometimes called "solid smoke", and two centimetres is equivalent to two inches of standard insulation. Using this very thin material meant we lost less than one centimetre of space from the room.

The wall is definitely warmer now but the downside was Aerogel is not an easy material to use and some workers do not like the feel of the dust, although others have no problem at all and once plastered it causes no problems.

Aerogel is quite expensive and unfortunately for us we had to buy a roll and we have some material left over, so if you want a small amount of one centimetre thick Aerogel for a difficult to insulate spot in your house, please get in touch with MESS.

Aerogel is a synthetic porous ultralight material derived from a gel, in which the component of the gel has been replaced with a gas. It is the lightest solid material on the planet.



The BIG RED BUS visits Marple ECO House

In October, the Carbon Co-op organised a visit to three houses that had done, or are in the process of doing energy saving measures to reduce their carbon footprint. All three had used different ways of reducing their carbon footprint, giving the visitors lots of different ideas on what they could do in their own homes. The MESS Eco House was one of those visited and they came in a big red bus.



We were first told to expect ten or twelve people, but two days before the visit, the numbers had risen to twenty eight! Question: how do you get 28 people into an ordinary house? Answer: you can't! So we split them into two groups, with one group talking to Geoff on the bus while the other group looked round the house with Hilary. At half time they all swapped over.

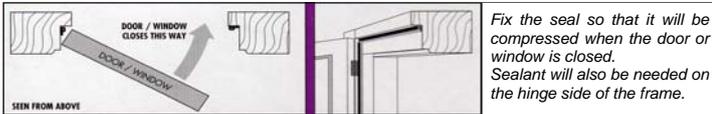
If you are interested in joining another trip, get in touch with the Carbon Co-op at www.carbon.coop

For details of the MESS Eco House visit: marplemess.org.uk/eco-house and to arrange a visit in person please email or ring MESS.

GT

Start with draught proofing

By stopping the warm air from escaping from your house you will use less energy and save yourself money. So draught proofing should be the first thing you do to try and lower your bills and keep yourself warmer.



Fix the seal so that it will be compressed when the door or window is closed. Sealant will also be needed on the hinge side of the frame.

The majority of draughts are around windows and doors. Visit your local DIY store or the internet for different types of draught strip. These strips are made to cope with different sizes of gap.



Along the bottom of doors, where the gaps are often the greatest, use a strip with a brush at the bottom or a rise and fall mechanism that will cope with varying floor heights. Look out for draughts coming through letter boxes, key holes and loft covers.

If you cannot install double glazing to your house consider using secondary glazing with polythene film, warmed by a hair drier to fit snugly, or acrylic sheeting fixed to the inside of your window with double sided or magnetic tape.

MM

Water — a scarce resource

With the threat of rising water prices in the new year we need to consider all possible ways of reducing our consumption of this precious commodity. One MESS member has her own experiences of using water economically.

Learning from Uganda



Whilst staying in a family home in Mubende, Uganda, I used water from the catchment tank to wash my clothes and then put the same water into the toilet cistern. A good lesson in water conservation to take back to Marple.

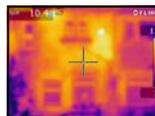
I am a member of MESS and a trustee of a charity. In July I visited the schools we have built and the lack of clean water is a major problem in Uganda. The children boil water for drinking from the Water Catchment Tank and use water for washing from the local pond. The students told me when they wash with water from the pond they get rashes. The charity is organising a Bore Hole to obtain underground water, which will be pumped out with a Solar Pump. We hope this will give sufficient clean water to meet the needs of the children at our schools.

To find out more about the charity see the website: www.helpingugandaschools.org

DE

Thermal Imaging

MESS is again offering to do a Thermal Image of your home so you can see where there may be heat



loss and other problems that could be corrected. If you wish to book a survey contact MESS to arrange on: marplemess@gmail.com or 0161 663 0402



MESS meets monthly to discuss the scheme and matters arising and to plan the way ahead. If you would like to be part of the group and / or keep in touch with the group & other issues of Carbon Reduction in the area please complete this form and send to: MESS 116 Longhurst Lane, Mellor SK6 5PG Email: marplemess@gmail.com

YOUR DETAILS

NAME:

ADDRESS:

POST CODE: TEL.NO:

Email: