

MESS news

Marple, Mellor & Marple Bridge Energy Saving Strategy No.7 Summer 2014

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

CLIMATE CHANGE — BIG SIX ENERGY COMPANIES — FRACKING

The recently released UN **Climate Change** report is the first of four parts. The remaining parts of the report will be published by October. The findings of this part are that the science now shows with 95% certainty that human activity is the dominant cause of observed warming since the mid 20 Century. Also, there is continuing warming of the atmosphere and oceans; diminishing of snow and ice; rising of sea levels and increases of concentrations of greenhouse gases. We all need to use less heating and motoring fuel and realise our need for greater effort to protect our environment.

MESS was started four years ago to raise awareness locally about Climate Change and the need for all of us, as individuals, and community, to alter our lives so as to use less carbon than in the past. By turning down our central heating and living some car-free days it should be possible for all of us to start to lower our carbon emissions. The rise in gas and electricity prices, which affects us all, has caused us to look at the companies that supply us. Many MESS members have changed suppliers from the 'big six', and the 'Which' report in February listed the top ten performing companies, which did not include any of the big six. This report is a good guide for those looking to change.

As we accept the need for change the Fracking firms are pushing ahead in spite of widespread and growing opposition both locally and nationally. An application to drill, hydraulically fracture and test four sites on the Fylde coast was submitted at the end of May. (a decision is promised in sixteen weeks). The companies which are encouraging these explorations are looking at the profit to be made. We need to consider the long-term effects on our land. However short of funds local authorities are the promise of extra funds for affected communities does not prevent the ecological vandalism of our land. Shale produces more carbon. What we need to be doing as well as cutting back on our own energy needs is to use non-carbon methods of producing energy. We have wind and waves and light all of which are free.

MM & GR

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

www.marplemess.org.uk

RENEWABLE HEAT INCENTIVE (RHI) — INCENTIVE and LEGACY Payments



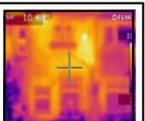
The government has finally got its act together about paying an incentive to people using renewable heat sources such as solar thermal panels, heat pumps and biomass boilers. The scheme is also open to those who have already installed the equipment. Provided they fit all the rules and regulations of the scheme they become "legacy applicants." Small domestic systems will in general not need a meter, but their output will be estimated. The installer, who must be Microgeneration Certification Scheme accredited (MSC) calculates the output, and for anything other than solar hot water, they will also need your Energy Performance Certificate (EPC). The RHI will be paid for 7 years and is index linked.

For solar hot water the tariff is 19.2p per kWh but if lots of people claim, this will be reduced for future claims. (Our system is rated at 1145 kWh per year which should pay us £219.84 per year.) If you already have a system installed and didn't receive the Renewable Heat Premium Payment (RHPP) you can apply for your RHI now. If you received the RHPP and applied for it before 20 May 2013 you must wait until 9 July to apply for the RHI, otherwise you must wait until after 9 October. You **must** however claim before 9 April next year. New installations have 12 months to apply. The application is done on-line at www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-programmes - follow the link to RHI.

One final catch – you have to have a Green Deal Assessment, which includes your EPC, before you can claim your RHI even if it appears to be a pointless exercise. Ours cost £100. You can pay more and some companies even refuse to do it because they cannot sell you anything extra.

GT

Thermal Imaging Due to the mild winter we have been unable to complete many of the surveys we have been asked to perform. MESS hopes to pick up the backlog in the autumn.



MESS members planting some of the 105 sapling trees acquired from the Woodland Trust



Photos: A M Proctor

MESS ENERGY SHOWCASE

2015
Saturday 28 February
Senior Citizens Hall, Marple
10.30 - 1.30

MESS MEETINGS

MESS meets every month at 7pm in the Community Room at **Marple Fire Station**, Hollins Lane, Marple SK6 8AL

Next meetings are: 14 July, 11 August, 8 September, 13 October, 10 November, 8 December

and every 2nd Monday of the month
Everyone welcome

MESS Contacts

Email: marplemess@gmail.com

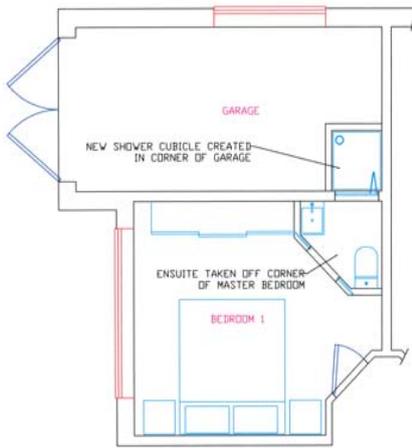
www.marplemess.org.uk

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116 Longhurst Lane, Mellor
Stockport SK6 5PG

Building a new en-suite bathroom with limited space.

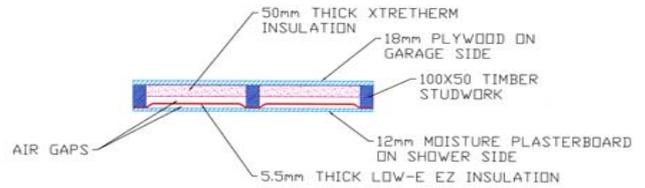
As families grow you find yourself needing additional things in the home. We reached the stage where a second bathroom was required in the house. Living in a 3 bed bungalow with no option to extend this was going to be a challenge. After a lot of measuring we worked out that an en-suite shower room could be added to the master bedroom if a corner was taken off the garage (the advantage of a bungalow).



I needed to make sure that the shower cubicle was not always going to be cold so insulation research was needed. After lots of internet searching it looked like my options were slab insulation such as mineral / sheeps wool or foil faced PIR insulation which gives better performance but is not as environmentally friendly.

It was then time for our annual **MESS energy saving showcase** and I had a long discussion with a supplier about a product called LOW-E reflective insulation. This works by trapping air in air pockets and preventing heat transfer through it. It is made from 2

layers of aluminium foil with a recycled closed cell polyethylene core and has the lowest carbon footprint of any insulation. It is very easy to fit with just a staple gun and scissors required. It must be fully sealed to be effective so I taped all the edges with aluminium foil tape. I decided to use a mixture of insulations to get the maximum effect. The diagram shows the construction method I used.



As part of the work the main part of the bedroom was going to be redecorated so I decided to try another product which I had been thinking about for a while - insulated wallpaper. I decided to insulate the outside wall complete with window reveals and also the wall that backed onto the garage. The product I used was Wallrock KV600 Thermal Liner which is 4mm thick and easy to install with the special adhesive. I then covered this with Wallrock Fibreliner to give an even better finish that can be painted to the desired colour with standard emulsion.

For further information on the products used see the websites www.low-e.co.uk for the reflective insulation and www.10elements.co.uk for the Wallrock thermal liner. DSB

MESS INCREDIBLE EDIBLE



Over the last few months MESS has widened its scope for energy saving by promoting the Incredible Edible initiative in Marple. The aim of this initiative (started in Todmorden and now followed by enthusiasts all over the world) is to promote learning about, and growing your own food.

During the last few weeks, four planters have been built and installed in Marple town centre. The two small ones contain culinary herbs and edible or bee friendly flowers; the two large ones have larger vegetables, strawberry plants and edible or bee friendly flowers.

Members of MESS, the general public and adult Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) horticulture students who study at Marple Sixth Form College have all been involved with the project in various ways, e.g. by sowing seeds at Marple Sixth Form College earlier in the year, building the planters, or planting, and shop keepers have kindly taken on the job of watering the young plants. Additionally, design students from Marple Sixth Form College are working on logos and signage to inform and educate people about the project. Marple Garden Centre has donated herbs to the project, and Lyme field Garden Centre, Broadbottom, some of the soil for the planters.

The ultimate aim of growing fruit, vegetables, herbs and flowers in the planters is that people will learn more about growing their own; and be able to pick parts, or whole plants to use as they become ready for harvesting. Signs will be installed to explain what the plants and their uses are, and also when they cannot and when they can be picked.

It is hoped that people from Marple, as in other parts of the UK and throughout the world, will embrace the idea and start to help care for the plants by weeding, watering etc. Also, by finding other pieces of ground

which can be cultivated and then by helping to set these areas up and sow or plant them.

Like all projects of this nature, its success will depend upon the interest and commitment of those who take part. MESS are really pleased to announce that Marple Swimming Baths have already offered the land outside their pool for use by Incredible Edible, and the land was dug over and planted on Whit Bank Holiday weekend!! Anyone who is interested in getting involved in the Incredible Edible project should contact MESS . DC



Green Roofs

Try this on your garden shed. The bees are enjoying it.



A delightful method of enlivening hospital walkways at Salford Royal (HOPE) Hospital

Clean without chemicals available at Marple Carnival
MESS is producing a new 'How to...' leaflet.

As the range of cleaning products on supermarket shelves continually increases we try to find cheaper alternatives that our grandmothers might have known.



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: