

MESS news

Marple, Mellor & Marple Bridge Energy Saving Strategy

No. 9 Summer 2015

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



SOLAR IMPULSE 2

Solar Impulse 2 the solar powered airplane that is part way through its around-the-world experimental flight is, as I write this, stuck in Japan, due to weather conditions. The plane, which is covered with 17000 solar panels, flies at a height of about 28000 ft during the day collecting solar energy and storing it in the batteries for use during the night. Crossing the Pacific Ocean, which could take 5 or 6 days non-stop flying, is the area which will put the plane and the pilot at the greatest tension.

The value of this research for those of us with solar panels is the progress being made on battery storage. Tesla batteries are hoping to develop the domestic market and the African market.

Watch this space.

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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, 14 September, 12 October, 9 November, 14 December

2016

11 January, 8 February, 14 March and every 2nd Monday of the month
Everyone welcome

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Hundreds of people went to Westminster to lobby their MP's about Climate Change on Wednesday 17 June - maybe you were one. Before the UN Climate talks resume in the Autumn our campaigning is vital. These days it is important that we speak up for the things we believe in and our Members of Parliament want to know our views. So don't be put off signing the many petitions that drop through your Email box or arrive on social media.

If we try and stop the killing of bees with insecticides, the pollution of water and damage to our land from fracking and the destruction of democracy and total takeover of the world by corporations whose sole aim is the making of money then it is up to us, to put ourselves out, and do something about it.

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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

TTIP and the Environment

As the people of the UK begin to become aware of the 'classified' documents and negotiations between the USA and the EU of the **Transatlantic Trade Investment Partnership (TTIP)** so we need to monitor what is being secretly agreed on our behalf. The TTIP agreement will cover most aspects of our lives and gives big business corporations the power to sue governments if their profits fall. As well as the threat of privatisation of the NHS, two areas which are of much concern are Food Law and Environment.

As Europeans we have high safety standards with outright bans on certain chemicals. These safety standards will be put at risk if we lower our levels to match those of USA. Growth hormones are allowed in American beef but not in Europe. The Environment is at risk by corporations being able to sue any country that bans fracking. Europe is far tougher on pesticide use than USA. The rule in Europe is that a company must prove the safety of a substance before it is used, in America a substance can be used until it is deemed unsafe. Therefore, if an agreement is reached on TTIP, Europeans may be exposed to dangers they are currently protected from.

To find out more: www.globaljustice.org.uk or www.waronwant.org

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MESS working for greener energy

MESS is exploring the possibility of negotiating a 'special' energy cost with the green energy company Ecotricity. To find out more about this complete the form below and return to MESS. You will not commit yourself to anything at this stage.

Name	Post Code	Provider	Dual Fuel	Gas		Electricity		Willing to Change
				Annual Usage (kWh)	TCR	Annual Usage (kWh)	TCR	

TCR stands for Tariff Comparison Rate and is a figure that can be used to compare energy prices between companies and is required by Ofgem. The TCR should be shown on your bill.

Plans for a community allotment

Incredible Edible Marple, who are part of MESS, are planning to start a community allotment on some land behind the Navigation pub. We have the go ahead from Stockport Council, and are just waiting for the results of the soil test as we are not sure what was on the land in the past.

If all is well we intend to plant potatoes, leeks and herbs for our first crops, and later in the year have a "Cook-In" and together make leek and potato soup for everyone!

We intend to put in a raised bed as well, so that less active residents and wheelchair users can join in.

If you think this sounds like fun for you and/or your family, please contact MESS and get growing with us.

HB

The Green Deal is Dead – Long Live the Green Deal



From 9th June last year, the Green deal was relaunched as the Green Deal Home Improvement Fund (GDHIF) where you can claim a grant, but firstly you will need a Green Deal Assessment or an Energy Performance Certificate recommending that the work is required. Secondly you have to apply for a voucher for the grant before the work starts and thirdly you have to use an approved contractor.

Grants of up to £1250 are available for doing two of the cheaper measures, such as cavity wall insulation, a new boiler or double glazing (to replace single). The most useful grant for Marple residents is if you have solid walls because you can get up to 67% of the cost with a grant of up to £3750 for internal or external wall insulation. You may also be able to get more money by topping up with a Green Deal Loan, but this is not recommended as you can usually get a better rate of interest elsewhere.

The catch is that the first lot of money ran out in less than two months although more has been promised. You may have to be very quick on your feet to catch a grant when new money is available, so be prepared to move fast. As I write, funds do appear to be available.

More details and a comprehensive list of measures that are eligible is available at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Green_Deal although this is already a bit out of date as the scheme keeps changing. To the best of my knowledge, my information is correct as of 12.45pm on 12th May 2015, but by the time you read this – who knows!

GT

What is the problem with Global Warming / Climate Change?

Here in the UK the idea of warmer summers and milder winters is quite appealing isn't it? Well if that was all that was going to happen with climate change it would probably be fine; unfortunately these are not the only effects. Currently we in the UK are getting ever more instances of extreme weather events. Elsewhere countries are suffering from worsening droughts that are leading to crop failures with malnutrition, small sea level rises and very damaging storms (Typhoon Haiyan, hurricanes Sandy & Katrina).

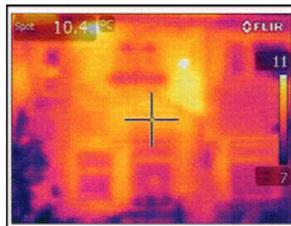
Unfortunately the science predicts that even if we stopped adding to greenhouse gases now, climate change will continue to get worse for several decades before improving. Hence not only will the weather get worse but the ice caps could melt so that if all the ice of Greenland and the Antarctic melts there will be a sea level rise of several hundred feet – so no London (and most capitals in the world), little of Cheshire would remain, most of the agricultural land suitable for crops will be underwater and well over a billion people will be looking for somewhere to live. In short a recipe for chaos and suffering. Even if we meet the targets set by those governments who have agreed to them, sea levels will rise so that by the end of the century it is likely that the houses of parliament will be permanently flooded along with many thousands of homes and businesses.

We can prevent this but to do so each one of us and our government need to take it seriously and reduce our carbon footprint

CB

Thermal Image your home

When the Autumn weather comes again this year MESS will resume its service of thermal imaging your home. The thermal image is a 'heat picture' which can help to identify where you are losing energy and in a non-invasive way can pinpoint areas where there are problems.



MESS will not offer solutions to any problems the survey identifies but will provide you with a report to take forward.

You will be asked to fill in an application form and an appointment will be made to do the survey. Two MESS members will perform the survey which may take an hour.

Contact MESS to arrange.



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 41 Ecclesbridge Road, Marple, SK6 7 PF Email: marplemess@gmail.com
YOUR DETAILS
NAME:
ADDRESS:
POST CODE: TEL.NO:
Email: