

NEWS RELEASE

30 August 2011

Free energy saving products for west Suffolk residents

Residents from across west Suffolk can find out more about a scheme offering up to £350 worth of free energy saving products during a special event taking place next Sunday (11 September).

The renewable energy showcase will take place at Whelnetham Community Centre in Stanningfield Road between 11am and 3pm. Organised in conjunction with the annual car, bike and tractor rally, the day will give householders the chance to find out more about energy efficient products for DIY installation which can reduce their carbon footprint as well as helping them save money on fuel bills.

Experts will also be on hand to explain the “greener homes DIY scheme”, which is funded by West Suffolk Local Strategic Partnership (WSLSP). Through the initiative, people can apply for grants of up to £350 to pay for radiator panels, water butts, draft proofing and a variety of different types of loft and wall insulation.

John Griffiths, chair of WSLSP, said: “Sunday’s event offers householders a great opportunity to find out more about the grants available through the greener homes DIY scheme, which will not only help them save money but also reduce their environmental impact.

“A variety of different products will be available, while experts will be able to explain more about what may be suitable for individual homes and how the measures can be installed. In addition, visitors will also be able to see the new renewable energy products which have been added to Whelnetham Community Centre, including 24 solar panels and an air source heat pump to provide heating and hot water.

“I would encourage anyone interested in the technologies now available, and the help they could receive to fund them to drop in on Sunday and find out more.”

In addition to funding available through the WSLSP, people who live in the St Edmundsbury Borough Council area can also apply for a £500 grant towards the cost of installing a renewable energy system. The money can be used to help finance a variety of different technologies, including ground or air source heat pumps, solar hot water, and biomass or wood-fuelled heating systems.

Anyone who would like to find out more about either grant scheme should contact Andrew Oswald, environment officer at St Edmundsbury Borough Council, on 01284 757622 or email andrew.oswald@stedsbcc.gov.uk.

Ends

Notes to editors:

The West Suffolk Local Strategic Partnership was set up 2001 and brings together a wide range of organisations to work towards 'making life better'.

Partners include Forest Heath District Council, St Edmundsbury Borough Council, Babergh District Council, Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Primary Care Trust, Suffolk Constabulary, West Suffolk Voluntary Organisations, West Suffolk College, West Suffolk MIND, K J Business Consultants, Business Improvements, Suffolk Association of Local Councils and Suffolk Inter-Faith Resource

For more information, visit www.onesuffolk.co.uk/WSLSP

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