



# Open Ecohomes in Lichfield and Whittington

Southern Staffordshire Community Energy  
Whittington and Fisherwick Environment Group  
Low Carbon Lichfield



# Whittington and Fisherwick Environment Group



- Formed 2007
- Mission to reduce our community's carbon footprint
- Ban the incandescent lightbulb!  
Ban the unfilled cavity wall
- Launched Solar 500 (with LoCaL) – 100 installations
- 6 Big Green Fairs
- Local Food Market
- Community Orchard, Apple Day and Wassail



# Low Carbon Lichfield



- Formed in 2009
- Mission – tackle climate change and peak oil
- Energy audits for 50 Lichfield Households
- Talks and film nights
- Green gardening and recycling events
- Solar 500 with WFEG
- Onshore Wind debate



# Southern Staffordshire Community Energy



- Est. 2011 by WFEG/ LoCaL
- Installed PV on 2 community buildings in Whittington
- Raised £54,000 from a community share issue
- With Council and Energy Saving Co-op created 4 demonstration solid wall insulated properties
- Working with Energy Saving Co-op on installing energy saving measures in private homes

# Open Ecohomes Events

- Raise awareness of possible energy efficiency measures
- Inspire people to make changes
- Allow them to talk to people who have done it
- Provide practical information on costs, benefits and suppliers
- Provide contacts for follow-up



# Open Ecohomes – Oct 2009

Whittington & Fisherwick Environment Group

## Take a trip to the Low Carbon Future

**EcoRefurb - Whittington Eco-Homes Open Day**

**Saturday 10th October 2009**  
**10.30am – 4pm**

- *Slash your energy bills*
- *See smart living in action*
- *Meet householders, experts and installers*
- *View energy-saving products and the latest techniques*

The Eco-Homes Open Day offers you the opportunity to see what you could achieve, and obtain practical advice on systems, products and installers from the owners. Most of the ecobuildings appear ordinary on the outside, but looks can be deceptive. From simple and affordable to sophisticated, they use the latest ideas, technology and design to slash their energy and water use and lower their carbon footprint. Visitors can meet home owners, look around their homes - and discuss the challenges (and sometimes frustrations) that they've encountered.

**What you need to do:**

1. Call **07507 627 830** and book your place now, with places starting from the Pavilion any time after 10.30am (last entries 3.30pm).
2. On the day, go to the **Pavilion, Bit End Field, Whittington** for the EcoRefurb Exhibition and light refreshments.
3. Off you go to make your visits. See overleaf for more details.

For more information on EcoRefurb, energy saving and all aspects of low carbon living please visit our website: [www.wfeg.org.uk](http://www.wfeg.org.uk)

- 4 homes in Whittington
- Heat pump/PV/insulation/solar thermal/wood stove/monitor/lighting
- 10.30 – 4pm on one day
- Pre-booking and registration system
- Start at Pavilion – mini exhibition
- 25 visitors in total





# Open Ecohomes - 2011

**Take a trip to the Low Carbon Future**

**1**  **EcoHome No. 1 - 1990s 3 bed home - Whittington**  
A 1990s house with double glazing, cavity and loft insulation, solar PV and thermal panels. Heat reflectors fitted behind radiators to keep in heat and an electricity monitor used to measure electricity use. Rainwater harvesting with six water butts around the garden. Free range eggs from own chickens and fully organic garden with wildlife friendly planting.

**2**  **EcoHome No. 2 - 17th Century Farmhouse - Whittington**  
Renovated 3 years ago. A ground source heat pump provides energy for central heating and hot water. Double glazed throughout, with triple glazed conservatory. The new side of the house has cavity wall insulation while the old side of house is lined with external insulation. Toilets are flushed with greywater from a rainwater tank.

**3**  **EcoHome No. 3 - Split Level Bungalow 1920s - Cannock Wood**  
Thoroughly renovated in 2009. Solid wall insulation. All heating is provided by an air source heat pump. The electricity for the heat pump is partly supplied by a large 3.9kW solar photovoltaic system. There are plans to install a solar water heating system.

**4**  **EcoHome No. 4 - Virtually Carbon Neutral 1912 Bungalow - Cannock Wood**  
Wood pellet central heating, 4kw photovoltaic system electricity, the rest is on a green electricity tariff, recycled rain-water system for loos, washing machine & garden watering; grow most of own vegetables; wood burning hot tub with filtered rainwater.

**5**  **EcoHome No. 5 - Low Carbon 1930s Semi - Lichfield**  
Semi-detached 4 bedroomed house in east of city. Solar photovoltaic panels and solar thermal water heating on the roof, combined with wood pellet central heating. Woodburning stove. All of these have been installed for some time.

**6**  **EcoHome No. 6 - 1970s Detached House with later extensions - Lichfield**  
4 bedroom detached house near City Centre. 30kW Gas condensing central heating with B&W air source heat pump as back-up. 450mm light pipe to landing (saves lighting). Most downstairs floors insulated with 75mm Celotex. Most downstairs windows triple glazed with heat reflective glass.

This project is organised by Whittington and Fisherwick Environment Group (WFEG) with support from Low Carbon Lichfield (LoCaL).

For more information on WFEG and our events and activities please visit our website [www.wfeg.org.uk](http://www.wfeg.org.uk) or see us on Facebook and Twitter. Visit LoCaL on Facebook too.

For information on energy saving visit the Energy Saving Trust website at [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk) or call the West Midlands Energy Advice Centre on 0800 512 012

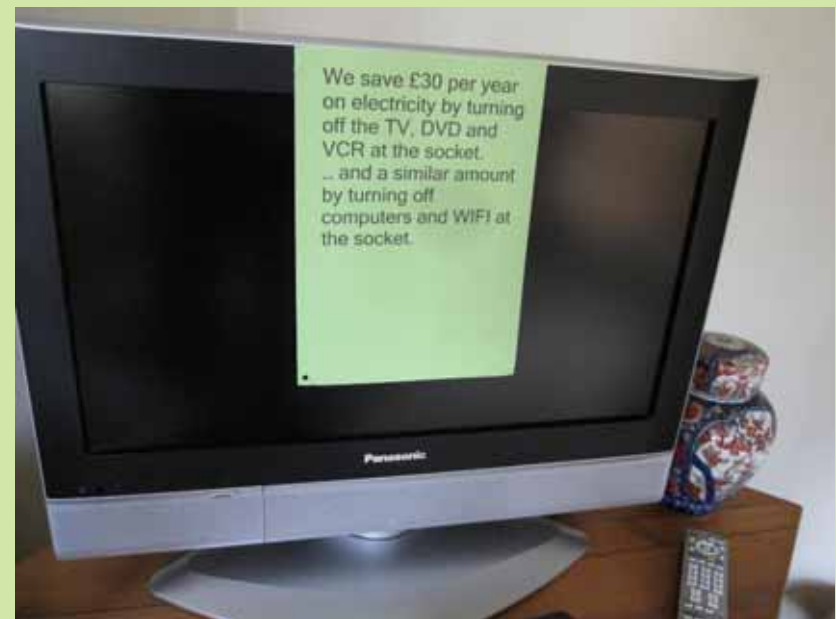
We gratefully acknowledge financial support from Staffordshire Aggregates Levy Grant Scheme (via Staffordshire County Council), Whittington and Fisherwick Parish Council and Lichfield District Council with sponsorship from Perceptis Limited.

**WFEG** 

For free energy advice call: West Midlands Energy Advice Centre on 0800 512 012

- 6 homes across Lichfield District
- Sunday 1 – 5pm
- 60 visitors
- Minibus tour
- Air Source Heat Pump
- Ground Source Heat Pump
- Solar PV
- Solar Thermal
- Biomass boiler
- Light pipes
- Survey monkey follow-up





# Chance to win energy-saving home makeover

By Andy Kerr  
News Reporter

TWO lucky home owners in the Lichfield District are set to win a free energy makeover for their homes saving them hundreds of pounds a year on their energy bills.

Owners of solid walled properties who would like to have their walls insulated are invited to enter a competition being organised by Southern Staffordshire Community Energy (SSCE) on behalf of Lichfield District Council.

The key feature of the makeovers is solid wall insulation which is more expensive and complicated than insulation for cavity walls, but is "very effective" in reducing energy bills and improving the comfort of people's homes.

Entrants must be willing to open their homes to visitors on a number of occasions, as a key element of the project is to create properties which can act as demonstration homes for solid wall insulation.

Planning permission may need to be sought for the insulation measures and normal planning policies will apply.

The competition is part of The Green Deal - a new Government scheme to enable homeowners to install energy efficiency measures in their homes at no up-front cost and pay for the improvements through savings on their energy bills.

It is being funded by the Department of Energy and Climate Change, following a successful bid by Lichfield District Council.

Mike Kingham, chair of SSCE, said: "This is a great opportunity for two local households to benefit from this ambitious project to demonstrate the effectiveness of solid wall insulation and the savings it can bring."

"There are many properties in the district that can benefit from this and the Green Deal should help to make this affordable."

Councillor Ian Pritchard, Lichfield District Council's cabinet member for housing, health and



Mike Kingham, chair of Southern Staffordshire Community Energy.

environmental protection, said: "We're delighted our bid to the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) for Green Deal Pioneer funding has been successful, especially since we were up against stiff competition."

"This is an important part of our drive to tackle fuel poverty and improve energy efficiency across the district."

"Over the coming months, we will look to see how we can help our residents to benefit from the Government's Green Deal initiative."

Entrants need to download a form and full details from [www.ssce.co.uk](http://www.ssce.co.uk) and return their completed entry to SSCE by Monday, January 28 2013.

The entries will be assessed by a panel and the winners informed by Wednesday February 6.

All work on the properties will need to be completed by March 31 2013.

## What do you think?

Write to: The Editor, Mercury Newspapers, CIN, Victoria Park Road, Tamworth B76 3LZ.  
Email: [mercury.editor@cin.tamworth.co.uk](mailto:mercury.editor@cin.tamworth.co.uk)

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7 DAYS  
A WEEK

# Open Homes May 2013

- Lichfield Districtwide
- Part of Green Deal Pioneers project
- Sunday 2-5 pm
- Core focus on Solid Wall Insulation
- Minibus tour
- Least successful event!
- No advance booking – short lead time





### 1. Penny & David Murcott

6 Osprey Close Whittington, WS14 9NB  
1990s 3 Bedroom home

- Solar PV and thermal panels.
- Double glazing.
- Cavity and loft insulation.
- Heat reflectors behind radiators.
- Rainwater harvesting with six water butts.
- Own chickens and wildlife friendly organic garden.

### 3. June Thorne

12 Church Street, Whittington WS14 9JX  
19th Century terrace home

- Recently installed internal wall insulation using 77.5mm Kingspan Xtratherm breathable board.



### 7. Edward & Christine Windridge

93 Lower Lodge Park, Rugeley Road, Armitage, WS15 4BF  
1960s Park Home

- Recently fitted with 60mm external wall insulation. Estimated saving of around 25% a year on heating bills or around £120.
- New boiler recently fitted – oil fired central heating.



### 4. Sheila & Derek Upton

Whittington Hurst Cottage, Broad Lane, Lichfield, WS13 8QW  
19th Century cottage in small terrace

- External wall insulation
- Large vegetable garden



### 8. Craig Poole & Paula Banks

185, Chase Road, Burntwood, WS7 0EB  
19th Century detached cottage

- 100mm external insulation – expanded polystyrene on front and side walls
- Triple glazing.



### 2. Megan & Steve Barr

Rock Farm, Rock Farm Road, Whittington, WS14 9NN  
19th Century farmhouse  
*(NB only open 12noon – 2pm)*

- Renovated three years ago.
- Ground source heat pump.
- Double glazed throughout, with triple glazed conservatory.
- Toilets are flushed with grey water from a rainwater tank.

### 5. Van & Marcia Taylor

Broad Hazels, Beaudesert Park, Cannock Wood, WS15 4JJ  
1920s Bungalow

*(For access you enter Beaudesert Park via Chestall Road - next door to No.6)*

- Thoroughly renovated in 2009.
- Internal solid wall insulation.
- Heating and hot water provided by air source heat pump.
- 3.96kW solar photovoltaic system.



### 9. Paul & Sharon Tennant

92 Gilbert Road, Lichfield, WS13 6AX  
1960s Poured concrete terrace home

- 100mm external wall insulation recently fitted to front and back walls.
- Low energy lighting (including LEDs)



### 6. Christine & John Polhill

Little Hayes, Beaudesert Park, Cannock Wood, Rugeley, WS15 4JJ

*(To access you enter Beaudesert Park via Chestall Road - next door to No.5)*  
1912 Bungalow

- Wood pellet central heating
- 4kw photovoltaic system electricity.
- Recycled rain-water system for loos, washing machine & garden watering.
- Grow most of own vegetables.
- Wood burning hot tub.



### 10. Robert & Annette Jackson

28 the Leasowe, Lichfield, WS13 7HD  
Detached 1950s Dormer Bungalow

- 3kW Solar PV
- Solar thermal
- Immersun Solar Diverter to Immersion Heater
- Underfloor insulation
- Vegetable plot





# Publicity

- Posters
- Leaflets
- Social media
- Press Release
- Websites – own and others
- Group mailing lists
- Other Events
- Word of mouth



# Lessons

- Booking system is probably preferable – you have a register and contact details - but not essential in our experience
- Minibus tour very successful
- Good lead-in time & thorough prep
- Clear information to Open homers on what to expect is very important
- Offer of helpers if needed
- Summary information sheets on each house and measure with contact info for installers is useful
- Insurance & H&S essential
- Customer evaluation survey very useful – easy via Survey Monkey
- Link to other activities e.g energy surveys, installers, demo homes

# Final Thoughts

- Green Open Homes events are great .....the power of example

But

- Need to be linked to a wider retrofit strategy for maximum effect