



transitionarberth is part of the transition movement, a community based association helping to prepare local communities to move from a high carbon economy to a more sustainable, low carbon society.

## Farming in a Zero Carbon World

Peter Harper the original driving force behind The Centre for Alternative Technology gave a presentation about Moving Toward Zero Carbon Agriculture on March 25th at the Nant Y Ffin Motel in Llandissilio.

Peter argued that the current costs of farm production will change significantly if carbon pricing was applied to agriculture.



**CAT's Peter Harper talks about "carbonomics"**

Peter said "Since the world economy is critically bound up with greenhouse gas emissions, the setting of a 'carbon price' high enough to drive de-carbonisation would utterly transform the pattern of transactions in all sectors, generating a new economic framework that I shall call 'carbonomics'."

Taking these assumptions and applying his framework of carbonomics Peter went on to reclassify the uses of farmland on this new economic basis.

Transitionarberth's own original driving force and local smallholder Chris Lawrence commented on Peter's talk: "The presentation was particularly interesting as Peter suggested that although at present farm produce is valued by the various costs of production, these costs will change from the present market force based costs to the cost placed on production arising from its carbon footprint, i.e. the more carbon the greater the cost. This will result not only in changes to what is economical to produce on the land, but also the land use itself

will change; prime fertile land will be used for crops, poorer land for farming animals, uplands for forests and woodlands and perhaps for sustainable hunting of food. These controls will be in place to take farming from a high carbon based industry, to a lower carbon system, the controlling influence will be the market forces brought about by the new acceptance of the climate situation, and the peaking of production of world fossil fuels. This could only be fully effective if there is agreement at international level. One of the effects would be to drastically reduce the numbers of ruminants and artificial fertiliser presently used in farming, and increase the quantity of lower carbon foods such as seeds, fruit and vegetables. This does indicate that our future diet will be more vegetables and less meat and dairy."

## Rumble in the Jumble

Come and have a rumble in the jumble. Oh yes, we are extremely excited to announce transitionarberth's first Jumble Sale at St Andrews Church Hall, Narberth on Sat 4th April 2pm. If you receive this newsletter before the date then please bring your jumble to the hall between 10am and midday on the 4th or before the day ring 01834 861 187 for Narberth or 01437 563 936 for Llandissilio. Our thanks to Peter Lewis the Vicar of St Andrews for his tremendous support.

## Barriers Removed to Renewabe Energy?

At an event organised by the Eco-Centre and transitionarberth a panel of local experts were questioned about a whole range of renewable energy systems. The evening was very well attended and challenging, with the questions generally being direct, the panel trying to be helpful and answering honestly and sometimes bluntly. It was refreshing to hear the real picture of what does work and what is obviously selling talk. The representative from

planning at Pembrokeshire Council was challenged on a number of issues, but I feel was trying to be as helpful as possible.

On the Local Development Plan (LDP) he advised that to be most effective, comments and statements should be backed up with examples and evidence, but he encouraged people and groups to submit their ideas in the format requested and of course on time..

by Chris Lawrence

## Mulch Ado About Rotting

Narberth Compost Corner has agreed to be affiliated with transitionarberth.

Compost Corner is sited next to the new community allotment site and welcomes members from Narberth and surrounding areas. For an annual fee of £10 members can bring their garden waste (not kitchen waste) to the site and receive back composted material suitable for mulching or, if sieved, for potting on plants and use in patio containers. It was set up over a year ago with the

help and support of PLANED and SRS (Pembrokeshire County Council). The site is currently open every Wed 8 to 9.30 and 4.30pm to 6pm when members are on site to give advice about home composting.

Come and see for yourself at the Compost Corner Open Day (to correspond with Compost Awareness Week) on May 9th. The theme for the event is 'Food for Thought' and we shall have on display vegetable plants grown from our own compost.

## Narberth Still Digging the New Allotments

In conjunction with Narberth Allotments, transitionarberth is organising an Introduction to Vegetable Gardening course, Starting on the 4th April they will be held at the Narberth Allotment site and will be run by Lyn Cram, a local horticulturist and horticulture lecturer.

In other allotment news over £80 was raised from the raffle at the Film on Sunday showing of 'Grow Your Own'. Many thanks to Narberth Film Society. The money raised will go towards improving access to the allotments and community garden. After Easter anybody interested in developing the community garden can come along on a Tuesday morning between 9.30 and 11.30am.

Here's to a wonderful first growing year and to harvesting a shed load of produce!

## The Great Re-Skilling

With the end of cheap oil comes the end of convenience. We are approaching a point where we will no longer be able to consume our way out of difficulty. Part of transition is to stop thinking about how we can shop ourselves out of disaster and to think about how to use less of the earth's natural resources. To be in a position where we can comfortably survive in a post oil, post almost everything we rely on world, we need to learn

and to re-skill.

But fear not, the re-skilling club starts on April 16 at 2pm in Llanfallteg Village hall with bread, butter and yoghurt making. Future sessions are promised on subjects of bicycle maintenance, nuclear fission; in fact the sky is the limit on what skills we can learn and share. For information and to book for the first club day, telephone Josie on 01994 448 324.

## Narberth Plant Sale: We Need Your Plants

Transitionarberth are to have a stall at this wonderful annual Narberth event. It is a great opportunity to raise awareness of the Transition Initiative and hopefully also to raise some much needed money.

If you can donate plants for us to sell we would be very grateful. We hope to have other creative things going on at the stall as well. Hope to see you there.

## Other News and Events

Listen out for Sally Woods being interviewed about transitionarberth by Peter Lewis on his Sunday morning show on Radio Pembrokeshire.

Chris is giving a presentation to the CMI on the 22nd April at Pembrokeshire College on Peak oil and the transition approach.

Transitionarberth have been invited to give a talk on the transition initiative at the Narberth Food Festival.



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beat the crunch, grow your lunch

If you would like to contribute an article or promote a local event in Changing Times please contact Dan Jackson by email at dan@shanilawrence.co.uk or call (01239) 831838. For Steering Group information please contact Chris Lawrence by email at chrislawrence@cooptel.net or phone (01437) 563936