

About Transition Exeter

We are a group of local people who want to:

- Increase the quality of life in Exeter, aiming for a healthier, happier and more empowered community;
- Reduce our negative impact on the environment both locally and further afield and to respect environmental limits;
- Reduce the negative impacts on us of climate change and peak oil – for example escalating fuel prices and flooding – by increasing our resilience in a changing world.

<http://www.transitionexeter.org.uk>



Some Green Technologies

- 🌱 Household insulation
- 🌱 Solar photovoltaic modules
- 🌱 Solar thermal water system
- 🌱 Underfloor heating
- 🌱 Water recycling
- 🌱 Wind turbine


Useful Links

To find out more, click on the following links:

- Act On CO²:
<http://actonco2.direct.gov.uk/home.html>
- Devon Climate Action Network:
<http://devonclimateactionnetwork.ning.com>
- Energy Action Devon:
<http://www.energyactiondevon.org.uk>
- Energy Saving Trust:

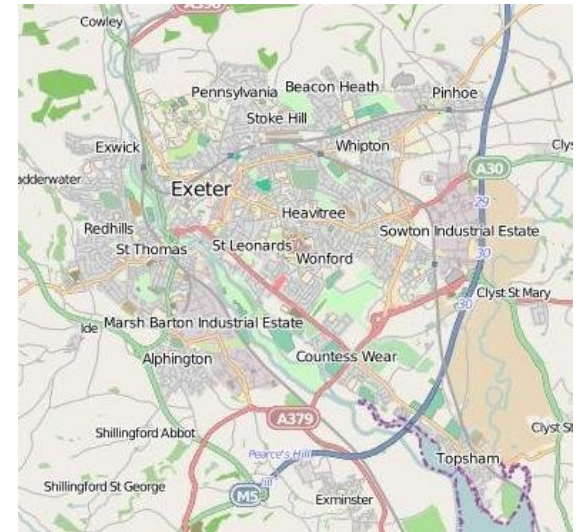
<http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk>
- Green Events Devon:
<http://www.greenevents.co.uk/devon>
- Resurgence Carbon Dioxide Calculator:
<http://www.resurgence.org/education/carbon-calculator.html>

Some Other Transition Communities in Devon

- Ashburton:
<http://transitiontowns.org/Ashburton>
- Buckfastleigh:
<http://www.buckthetrend.info>
- Crediton:
<http://www.sustainablecrediton.org.uk>
- Newton Abbot:
<http://www.transitionNewtonAbbot.org.uk>
- Tavistock:

<http://www.transitiontavistock.org.uk>
- Teign Estuary: <http://teigntransition.org.uk>
- Totnes: <http://totnes.transitionnetwork.org>



Local experiences of green home technologies



What local people said about their experiences of installing and using a range of 'low carbon' technologies.

Wood Pellet Stove For Central Heating

Installation: Ecoteck Veronica pellet stove with a ducted hot air system for the upstairs rooms.



House Type: Two-bedroom, Victorian terraced house.

Cost: Around £3,000. This is little more than a complete, conventional gas heating system. In a cold winter, running the system cost around £260.

Owners' Comments: "The stove works like a conventional boiler (i.e. it starts and stops automatically), it looks good in the room, is effective at heating the house and has no water involved so there is no risk of leaks."

Issues: An adequate space is required for storing the wood pellets. The stove can be a little noisy and needs regular maintenance such as cleaning and filling with fuel. Retrofitting in an old house may be difficult and initial problems included balancing the draught to the pellet burn rate.

Summary: A wood pellet stove is a suitable alternative to a conventional gas central heating system. With this installation, gas is required only for heating hot water and for cooking. Seeing the quantity of solid fuel consumed increases awareness of energy use and encourages greater efficiency.

Solar Photovoltaic Modules For Generating Electricity

Installation: 20 monocrystalline photovoltaic modules of 180 watts each.

House Type: Detached house.

Cost: Around £17,700 to install. Previously, the owners paid £35 per month for electricity. They now expect to pay nothing and they receive £130 per month for the electricity generated. This comes from the government feed-in tariff (FIT), which was introduced recently and pays householders for generating electricity using renewable energy systems.



Owners' Comments: "We installed the panels because it is green and the right thing to do." The panels occupy the entire south-facing roof. "We installed twice as many panels as necessary for our house because it would be good value for money when we come to sell the house."

Issues: The owner battled with the planning department for permission to install the panels, which was initially refused. Due to a faulty installation, the panels operated at half performance for 6 months before the owner suspected a problem, which was then quickly resolved by the installer.

Summary: An installation such as this makes a real difference: it produces a relatively carbon-free footprint and will soon break even in terms of carbon emissions, including in consideration the manufacture of panels and other materials.

Solar Thermal System For Heating Water

Installation: One solar thermal (hot water heating) panel and associated hot water tank.

House Type: 1930s semi-detached house.

Cost: £5,673 to install and estimated to save around £75-£80 per year. Greater savings are now likely as a thermostatic shower has been installed but no figures are available at this stage. As the price of fossil fuels rise, the savings will increase.

Owners' Comments: "We changed our electric shower for a thermostatic shower this year, which means we are now showering for free." The two-day installation involved putting a hot water tank in the roof. "We're delighted with all the free hot water we're getting. The installation seems to become more efficient with each year."

Issues: Initially, the thermostat was set to allow the hot water to cut in at 60°C. This was too high and has been adjusted to 40°C. The panels leaked both outside and inside the roof when they were first installed. The company quickly corrected this. In general, remember: pay nothing until the work is finished.



Summary: An installation such as this helps the environment and reduces dependence on foreign energy supplies. Technology has now improved further. Other measures such as home insulation have also helped.