

East Midlands
Carbon Action Network



Minutes East Midlands CAN Meeting

Monday 20 July 2015

Ashfield District Council, Kirkby in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, NG17 8DA

1. Attendees and Apologies

Attendees:

Karen Lond – West Lindsey District Council
Darsh Chauhan – East Midlands Carbon Action Network
David Young – EM CAN Secretariat
Nicola Holt – Carbon Management for Leicester SMEs
Aidan Davis – Leicester Energy Agency
Helen Richmond – Newark and Sherwood District Council
Sean Johnson – Lincolnshire County Council
Tom Veitch – Global Action Plan
Geoff Davenport – Hinckley and Bosworth District Council
Bonnie Bond – North Kesteven District Council
Jenni French – Ashfield District Council
Ian Chapman – Ashfield District Council
Karl Apps – Starfish Group
Martin Gerrelli – Starfish Group
Helen Carter – Derby City Council
Alison Wheeldon – Derbyshire County Council
Rob Cartwright – eTech Solutions Limited
Stuart Aldridge – Public Health England
Justine Biggs – E.ON UK
Doreen Whitaker – Nottingham City Homes
Ben Sayah – National Energy Action

Apologies:

Anne-Marie Coulthard – South Kesteven District Council
Carol Sainthouse – PECT Consultancy Limited
Dave Bowskill – City of Lincoln Council
Richard Chubb – Rutland County Council
Anita Hughes – South Derbyshire District Council

Rob Leeson – National CAN Secretariat

2. Chair's Update – Karen Lond

KL thanked Ashfield District Council for hosting the meeting, and Starfish Group for sponsoring the meeting.

- **Minutes & matters arising from previous meeting**

Minutes from the meeting in April 2015, held in Leicester, were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

- **National CAN Update**

CAN Executive meeting 16 April 2015.

- John Kolm-Murray was elected as Chair of National CAN.

CAN Executive meeting held on 16 July 2015. The main topics of discussion included:

- Sponsorship – CAN is still searching for sponsorship opportunities.
- Updating the Memorandum of Understanding and articles.
- Rebranding of the network – KL stressed the importance to consult with members.
- David Colbourne was elected as Vice Chair of National CAN.
- LGA and ACE attended the meeting and presented.

The next CAN Executive meeting is 16 October 2015.

The East Pennines region has no chair or vice chair.

CAN sent a letter to the government before the elections, on what they would like to see in the future. Now we have a new government, CAN is looking to send a follow up letter. KL requested views from the members on what they would like to go into the letter, to make sure it is a fully representative view

- **DECC Update**

DECC need to make £70 million in cuts. Steve Ives is no longer responsible for HECA, so now unsure who is responsible. Still waiting to hear what DECCs plan is for the Fuel Poverty Strategy under the new government.

- **Annual Fuel Poverty Statistics Report 2015**

There has been a decrease in the fuel poverty gap from £909 million in 2012 to £877 million in 2013, with an overall reduction of £32 million. There has also been an improvement in fuel poverty levels in England from 2.36 million in 2012 to 2.35 million in 2013.

- **DECC – Central Heating Fund**

The primary aim of the fund is to incentivise the installation of first time central heating systems in fuel poor households who do not use mains gas as their primary heating fuel. Applications have now closed, and DECC should have awarded successful bids by June 30th 2015. DECC received 81 bids worth over £65 million.

Two EM CAN members have put in applications, and they are still waiting to hear. They called last week and DECC did not have any information. They were told they would be told if they were successful or not. KL requested that they let her know either way.

- **NEA – Redressing the Balance**

This is a £26.2 million fund to address some of the priorities identified in the governments new Fuel Poverty Strategy. The three elements to the programme:

- Warm Zones Fund (£13 Million)
- Technical Innovation Fund
- Warm and Healthy Homes Fund

- **Upcoming Events**

- National CAN Conference, Islington Assembly Hall, London, Wednesday 2 September. Booking is now open for the conference.
 - o The CAN Regional Awards will be presented at the conference just after lunch, please get nominations to David Young by 14 August 2015.
- NEA Annual Conference, Sheffield City Hall, 14-16 September 2015.
- NEA East Midlands Fuel Poverty Forum, Leicester, date TBC.
- Next EM CAN Forum Meeting, date and venue TBC.

3. Treasurers Update

DC thanked Starfish Group for sponsoring the meeting. EM CAN has still got just over £2,000 in the bank, however EM CAN is still looking for sponsorship in the long term. EM CAN does not owe any money to anyone.

DC suggested that we look at doing a larger event towards the end of the year. Making the event a full day as well as including some training.

DC stated that the Zero Carbon Homes has been scrapped a year before delivery, after 10 years in the making.

4. Delivering Government and Energy Company supported energy efficiency schemes, Ian Chapman, Ashfield District Council, and Martin Gerrelli, Starfish Group. The presentation is available on the website (<http://www.can.uk.net/em/meetings>). Contact Ian Chapman on i.chapman@ashfield-dc.gov.uk or Martin Gerrelli on martin@starfishcomm.co.uk

Q: How are you tackling a row of terraces, do you wait for everyone to sign up?

A: We are unable to wait for everyone on the street to sign up, wait until 30-50% attraction rate in the street and make a start on the properties. The GDC is to identify communities who will benefit, you will always end up with some isolated properties. It comes down to affordability, and GD is an expensive scheme.

Q: Are you replacing boilers, especially if boilers need changing?

A: We did boilers for 150 properties in Ashfield District Council using HHCRO funding, but not replacing the boilers under the GD scheme for EWI as it adds to the cost. DECC mandated what we can and can't do. A lot of it comes down to funding, and how to split the funding up.

Q: How are you funding the £60k to homes?

A: The fund is from the regional housing fund grant in Ashfield District Council and it is not repayable. It was to help drive the scheme home. One of the most innovative area is in Rochdale, where they used equity loans for just the amount and not the interest, to install EWI.

Q: Green Deal Finance plan: why no Green Deal applications?

A: Due to the funding, investment is having to come out their own pocket instead. Some funded independently, others not gone through under Green Deal. For example, someone received £166 for a boiler replacement, however there is still a large amount to pay for the full cost. Therefore there is a large gap that customers need to pay. Green Deal interest rates and affordability is the most important factor.

5. Post-Election Policy Update, Ben Sayah, NEA. The presentation is available on the website (<http://www.can.uk.net/em/meetings>). Contact Ben Sayah at ben.sayah@nea.org.uk

Q: Do you think energy companies have got off lightly with ECO?

A: Yes, we think so to a certain extent. They have hit their targets, so have had two years of not doing much support, but changes can be made.

6. Introduction to PHE, and an overview of air quality issues in the East Midlands, Stuart Aldridge, PHE. The presentation is available on the website

(<http://www.can.uk.net/em/meetings>). Contact Stuart Aldridge at Stuart.Aldridge@PHE.gov.uk

Q: Is there a plan to reduce PM_{2.5}?

A: A national plan is being formulated, one of the main reasons for organising the regional meetings is to help develop the national plan. I can't provide a definite plan yet.

7. Regional Updates – LA Officers

No regional updates.

8. Date of next meeting

Date of next EMCAN meeting will be confirmed.

9. Any other business

Geoff Davenport from Hinckley and Bosworth District Council mentioned that they are planning a rent-a-roof PV scheme. Geoff asked if anyone had any previous experience with a similar project?

Martin Gerrelli, Starfish Group, had some ideas and suggested Geoff spoke to him.

Bonnie Bond suggested speaking to Scott Marsden, as he did a similar scheme.