Community Owned Renewable Energy Systems
Speaker: Grenville Ham, Green Valleys Community Interest Company

Overview of presentation

Challenges – Local

- Agriculture
- Conservation
- Closure of Local amenities
    - Schools
    - Pubs
- Holiday Homes

National

- Agriculture – 50 food riots world wide
- Extreme weather events

Solve with less money and less carbon output

Resources

- Landscape
- People

Green Valleys:
Solve

- Energy
- Ecology

- 16 Community Halls

- No share offers – no one can make/ turn a profit
- Clients worldwide – Profits come back to Brecon Beacons used in Locality
- Brecon's Largest outflow of money in energy
- Tax Free
- "future proof" – unlike grants which end, money is recycled

Money spent on low return projects:
Eg.

- Allotments
- Low Carbon footprint developments

Rarely receive grants – not seen to qualify as a business or a community group

Green valleys will only loan money to projects, so that they can receive the money back to re-invest. The money is paid back within 5 years.

Microhydro (<100 kilowatts) – Can provide energy for a small village

- Perfect geography within the Brecon Beacons for Microhydro energy production
- Flat platoes on mountains
- At the foot of the mountains small villages can be connected to the power source.
- 5 month process to installation of Micro Hydro

Green valleys have also trialled the use of a communal second car is some communities – either an electric car or a Bio-diesel car being used as the second car for up to 20 homes. This has proven successful and has resulted in the communities re-evaluating need for second car.

Q – When developing an eco-village would a community wind turbine be an effective energy producer?
A. Depends on location of the eco village and geography of area – Biomass may be a better source, and the energy producer is more hidden.

Q. What is the hardest part of Green Valleys Projects?
A. Receiving Planning permission – the planning process and the time it takes to receive permission – especially for larger projects.
Receiving licenses from the Environment Agency can often take the longest time to receive.