

Community Buying Unlimited

Farringdon Parish Council has been registered as interested in this scheme. Alan Pearce is the contact

Below is a recent message from the scheme organisers.....

To all Parish, Community and Town councils,

The launch event on the 14th was a spectacular success Tim Smit, Eden Project, the Co-op, and a host of other groups and organisations sharing a vision of what communities can achieve when they choose to act together. Please see below the invite to register for the Pilot Project - hopefully all questions are covered.



Invitation to register for the Community Buying unLimited "Pilot Project"

Our mission: to join up the dots of the "off-gas" rural communities and bring it together with those groups, organisations and companies around the UK that want to be part of a huge people's movement, creating a renewables revolution via a myriad of community buying and selling groups...step one - "Pilot Project"!

Tim Smit: "The conference was extremely well run and pitched at exactly the right level and I am sure left everyone feeling extremely optimistic about the opportunities for collaboration. We at Eden are very happy to work with you and indeed would like to get you down to explore how we might put that together and make it UK-wide."

Registration extended to **29th July 2011**

Simply register your organisation - it commits you to nothing other than receiving both a plethora of information to pass on to all those individuals you represent and the opportunity for them to be included in any or all of the launch ideas through August.

What are we covering? We launch with our initial four elements outlined below, but given the speed at which everything is unfolding don't be surprised if something else remarkable ends up in the Pilot Project, we certainly won't be!

- The UK's largest Community Solar PV Buying Group

- Community OIL Buying Groups - The HUB
- Energy saving - a new relationship with energy waste
- Buying Groups become Selling Groups

The UK's largest Community Solar PV Buying Group

Why are we launching this...? Because we cannot believe what a huge mess our government, many suppliers and lots of community groups have made of something that should be a whole lot more straightforward...and it is CRITICALLY important. So we have:

- a unique package of common sense advice, bespoke to our group lifetime warranties/insurance, a matching service that supercedes the "free" solar offers, the best possible installation prices because of the nature of bulked orders and group prices...and...
- we can map entire communities remotely and produce an interim report on solar suitability for every single property...why?
- so that the community quickly understands its resource and we can work with it to create the maximum number of installations before the next FiTs step down after 31st March 2012
- Costs: the information and advice is free to anyone...we have to make a charge to produce the interim reports, normally £20 per property, however, through August 60% reduction to just £8 per report...we want to create 50,000 installations!

Community OIL Buying Groups - The HUB

Why are we launching this...? Because we believe OIL buying groups have so much more potential than just a system to save some of their community several pence per litre, they can become as important to their community as the shop, church, hall, transport and other support systems:

- every OIL buying group across the UK can have their own bespoke page on the HUB - the perfect tool to build a truly inclusive community group that no longer lets energy just "happen" to them!
- this can be branded to their group and edited to include details specific to their coordinator, ordering dates, past savings, etc. New members can join and orders can be placed through the page
- it can be linked back to any existing community pages
- it acts as:
 - the information hub for the individual group - covering those important elements listed above
 - a confidence builder as it gives enhanced credibility to the group and makes starting so much simpler
 - the perfect marketing tool as the link direct to the page can be used in emails, on flyers and in newsletters, etc., and many who are very remote in the community or rarely there become accessible
- the HUB is also the access route to all the other services we have brought together to enable OIL buying groups to flourish
 - the remote tank monitoring system that means nobody will ever run out again, nobody will panic order again, suppliers will no longer hold their customers to ransom by extreme pricing in severe weather and we will extract thousands of tons of carbon emissions out of the UK economy, simply because all of the groups will coordinate their deliveries to a much more streamlined design...WE ARE WORKING ON A DEAL

TO BE ABLE TO PUT THESE ON MEMBERS' TANKS FOR FREE! That in itself means you want to be registered!

- the tank security system that protects those that have remote tanks
 - the unique energy saving management system that could cut all the members' OIL consumption by 23%! See below for the link
 - the opportunity to access a unique carbon offsetting programme to ensure that once the number of journeys have been cut the remaining ones are offset
 - a professional buying system - if it is good enough for M&S we're guessing it will be good enough for most
- the HUB is rented from us annually and this charge will normally be £500 however for the Pilot Project it will be reduced by 60% - just £200

Jim Pettipher - Co-op Futures - speaker at the Symposium on the 14th:

"I've been reading the stuff from the DVD today and I'm inspired. And guess what, I AM starting a group and I want to join Community Buying / sign up for the £200 deal! How do I do that please?"

Energy saving - a new relationship with energy waste

Why are we launching this...? Because whilst we build this people's movement right across the UK, reducing the energy costs of members and assisting hundreds of thousands to make the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy, we are committed to the dual concept of actually getting serious about energy conservation - reinventing our relationship with energy use which is really energy waste. We have so many ideas, services and products coming on line, however, this is the very first platform from which our members can access an amazing device at a uniquely reduced price - just by being a member. Click the link - it all makes sense:

<http://www.reduceemyheatingcosts.com/>

There is so much more to follow.

Buying Groups become Selling Groups

Why are we launching this...? Because we have learnt that our local community groups and the school, the church, etc., can access really important sources of funds from the one thing that most communities don't even grasp as a resource. Our rubbish is OUR resource. Why do we compliantly collect our resource, sort it beautifully and leave it ready for a third party to take away and sell? If we just redirect that exact same amount of preparation and get just a little bit organised then every single community can process its own recycling - maybe even its own waste and go to a zero waste community. ANY buying group already has the skills to organise and negotiate great deals to sell this resource. Or they can just jump on the UK-wide model and collection service we are launching in the Pilot Project! It's simple...everything has to be redesigned!

Who is this Pilot Project for?

- **you and your community** - "Inspirational stuff! Am going home to tell my upper-middle-aged and upper-middle-class Parish Council what's what! Would appreciate some links to know 'how to'. Many thanks for the invite"
- **your organisation** - "Thanks for pulling this event together. I already have an oil group and would like to get involved asap"
- **the company you work for** - "I am interested to know whether my company's 2500 employees could be considered a group for this project - solar PV/thermal"

It is as simple as this: if you have access to a group of people - formally or informally - we can find a way to

work with you to save everyone a huge amount of money on things that they need to make for more sustainable communities.

What to do NEXT

Simply whizz your name and the organisation you represent to us at:

thinking@community-buying.com

please include a brief outline of what the organisation is, how many members or clients in your organisation or the number of residences/houses in your community and the areas of particular interest listed above...you are then registered and you'll receive a confirmation email.

Let's explain a little more:

Who are we? Community Buying unLimited is a free thinking, ethical, sustainable business designed for the first half of the 21st century - the transition to a low carbon economy period. That means we are run to make a profit, but we make it whilst enhancing the social fabric of the communities in which we work and reduce negative environmental impact through simple redesigns of old century businesses. Let's put that another way: we do the right thing by both people and the planet whilst we make a profit so that we can do more of the same – doing right by more people and more of the planet!

Open plea: we are growing quickly, we haven't got everything right so far, but we are getting there - all feedback is valuable you can call us for a chat for free: 0808 1080838 or VISIT us at:

www.community-buying.com

How do we work with organisations?

The ORCC is a wonderful and critically important charity working on all things rural in Oxfordshire. Our synergy was obvious and we wanted to work together. So we designed a concept based on Community Buying unLimited's model and harnessing the ORCC's huge community credibility. The result has been lots of new OIL buying groups in Oxfordshire - where the ORCC recruit and Community Buying unLimited advise, consult and do all the buying. We chose to do this entirely pro bono for ORCC - it is important to us. However, we have now launched the model across the RCC network and both ORCC and Community Buying unLimited generate funds from this licence. It is a relationship that has a huge win-win outcome: thousands of communities will become more inclusive, more connected and just that little bit more sustainable; the ORCC are on the way to generating a six figure income. We may roll the Solar PV idea out through the same network but at present that is simply a Community Buying unLimited group.

This is a perfect example of how an ethical company can find a way for a group to generate an income and much more besides.

And finally,

if you are still reading I guess you are going to register or you are going to forward this to any group, organisation or company that you think would like to register. IF you really do NOT want to hear from us again then please email us: Go Away! And we'll do just that!

It really is as simple as this: a buying group is good for your pocket, good for your community and good for everyone's environment. It is the power of the group that makes it work for everyone - so let's do it, let's get urgent, let's join up the dots, create a real surge of humanity and stamp an indelible mark across our fabulously beautiful country that ensures it stays so for as long as we are here to make an impact.

"be the change you want to see in the world" Mahatma Gandhi

With very best wishes

Chris Pomfret
Founder
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The greatest danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it but that our aim is too low and we reach it

Anon