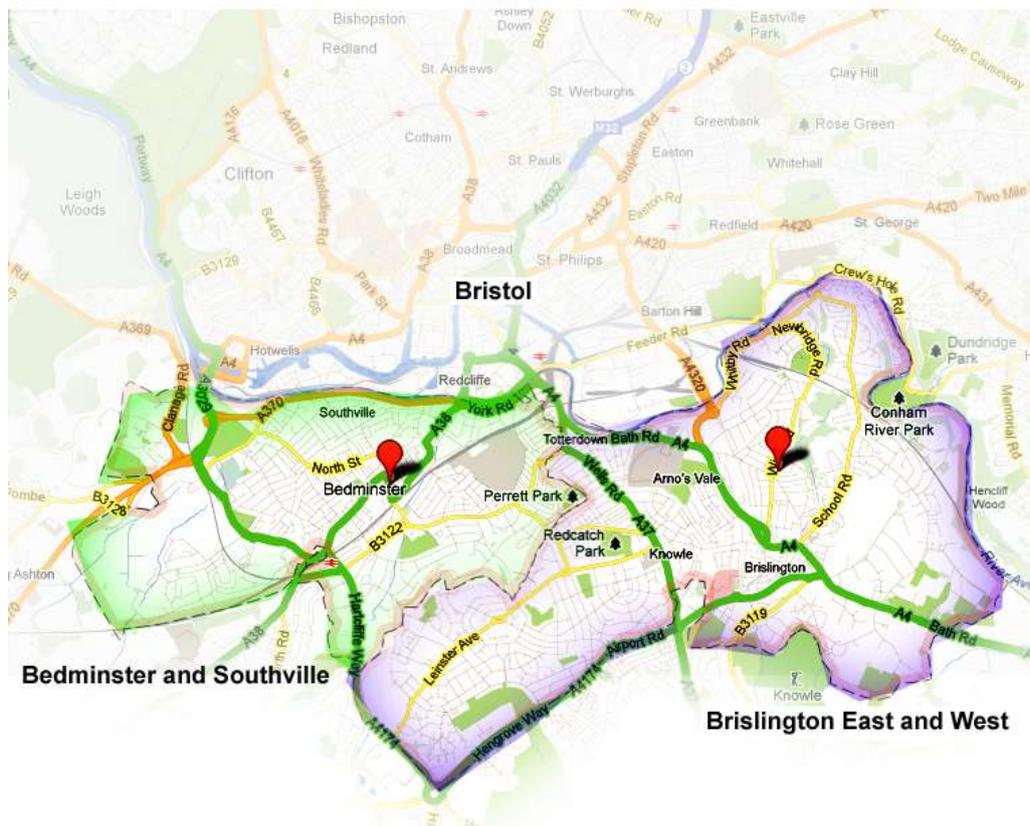


Bedminster Energy Group in the Community

January to March 2013

Back in December last year, the Bedminster Energy Group teamed up with the Centre for Sustainable Energy to prove to the government's Department for Energy and Climate Change, the effectiveness of our community approach to energy within our South Bristol ward (BS3).

The idea was to look at two similar areas (in terms of who lived there and the types of houses they live in) and compare the benefits of having an active community energy group in Southville and Bedminster vs no such group in Brislington East and West. The project ran from January to the end of March this year and we've been working pretty hard to prove to the 'powers that be' that funding community energy groups is an effective way of helping householders use their energy more effectively.



So, 'Powers that Be', by funding a BEG for 3 months, we've been able to:

- Run two stands at consecutive Tobacco Factory Sunday Markets promoting energy awareness including Light bulb swapping
- Run a Film night
- Run a stand promoting energy awareness at the City Farm
- Run a recruitment and promotion night at the Tobacco Factory
- Fund a new website
- Part funded 3 Green Deal training courses for BEG members
- Train all members of BEG in the Green Deal
- Advertised in local monthly magazine, the Pigeon
- Design and post 5000 flyers around BS3 promoting BEG activities
- Put up 9 posters in shops and community centres promoting BEG activities
- Contact 275 households interested in energy efficiency measures
- Built and strengthened relationships at the Southville Centre and the City Farm
- Have many new subscribers to our website and news page
- Visit homes of interested householders wanting bespoke advice
- Attract 8 new members keen on getting involved with BEG
- Help MSc students with research projects
- Agree a method of paying members for their time
- Generate a substantial fund for the group to use for future activities



All this in one of the most prolonged periods of miserable weather on record – imagine what we can do when the sun comes out!!!!



What have we got in the pipeline?

The events and activities that BEG run are entirely dependant on our team of volunteers, so if you want to help take part in any of these ideas, please get in touch. We'll be hosting and partnering some of these activities this year:

- Events for children
- Energy outreach events aimed at a wide range of the local population
- Give advice to tenants, what can they/their landlords do in terms of efficiency
- Partner with events running in the Summer, Upfest Graffiti festival, Best of Bedminster, Big Green Week
- Make energy efficiency appear sexy
- Research dry lining internal spaces with architectural details
- Run line render and straw bale construction courses
- Run hemp insulation courses
- Run DIY Solar PV courses
- Run DIY LED practical night/course
- Run stands at Tobacco Factory, on East Street, Community engagement in different areas of BS3
- Door to door advice and domestic surveys
- Get involved in neighbourhood planning (BS3)
- Strategic campaigning
- Partner with the Bedminster Town Team to promote energy efficiency to smaller businesses
- Film nights and make a bicycle to generate electricity to run the laptop running the film (Dyno Bike/Cycletricity)

Click [**HERE**](#) and let us know what you think