



Supporting sustainable communities
in Monmouthshire

Community Climate Champions Update—October 2011

The main emphasis I've been focussing on in the last few months is promoting the project. Leaflets have been printed and mailed out to over 70 of the county's village halls. We have also had coverage in local newspapers and the word-of-mouth connections have played an important part in spreading the word.

The promotion 's has worked well, with lots of enquiries and 9 village halls have had an energy survey and report so far. Most of these halls will be applying for the **SEIP (energy efficiency) grants**.

Abergavenny Community Orchard and Gardens will be applying for a grant towards the cost of setting up a community orchard with raised beds on their Mill Street site. This was only one of two applicants for the **CEIS (community gardens) grants**, the other being **Roiget Allotments Group**.

The **RECIF (Renewable Energy) Grants** might prove harder to release as the state aid rules means that they are not compatible with feed-in tariffs or RHI payments. We are currently looking into developing a 'package' on biomass and heat pumps that would be suitable for village halls and make the installation process easier.

The big event last weekend was **Abergavenny Environment Fair** at the Market Hall. This was an event jointly organised by Vital Villages, Abergavenny & Crickhowell FOE and Abergavenny Climate Action aiming to bring together the many community groups in Abergavenny with an environmental connection. In total we had over **800** members of the public coming through the hall. And 21 local community groups showed their talent for putting together creative information and activity stands. We also had a number of guest speakers talking about community renewable energy schemes and the current benefits of installing PV. Richard and Liz also launched the **Eco-Open Homes scheme** and distributed the brochures. There seems to be a general consensus to do a similar event next year.