

Summary

361 Energy in North Devon hosted an Energy Safari for the public which was funded by the SEACS project. The safari involved visiting numerous large scale renewable energy installations in North Devon with an organised minibus.



Methodology/approach

Members of 361 Energy visited numerous renewable energy installations to devise a programme of visits for the day. The sites that were scheduled to be visited included:

- Ilfracombe Junior School, 33kW solar PV array
- Head Office of Philip Dennis Foodservice, 800 kW Enercon E-48 turbine
- Fullabrook wind farm, 22 3MW Vestas V90 turbines
- Calvert Trust, 18.7kW ground mounted solar PV array, a large roof mounted evacuated tube solar thermal system for heating a swimming pool, a biomass boiler and a vertical axis wind turbine
- Glen Lyn Gorge, a hydroelectric 300 kW Pelton turbine, a 300kW Bavarian Cross Flow turbine used as a backup. Also an exhibition about hydroelectric power called 'The Power of Water'. The site also has the turbine blades from the 300 kW 'Sea Flow' tidal stream turbine tested off the coast of Lynmouth between 2003 and 2009.

Objectives

- To engage with members of 361 Energy and the wider public on sustainable energy issues
- To raise awareness on renewable energy technologies and dispel myths
- To host French members of the SEACS project and demonstrate large scale renewable energy installations in North Devon
- To raise the profile of 361 Energy as a Social Enterprise

Relevant permissions to visit the sites were obtained. A programme was drawn up to be used as promotional material. Two mini busses were organised to transport delegates to all the sites.

Tools used, including those to reach target groups

The Energy Safari was advertised to all 361 Energy members via a monthly newsletter, on their website and via twitter and Facebook.

How was the project managed?

361 Energy managed, co-ordinated and hosted the event.

Who were the project partners?

361 Energy-provided unpaid management, co-ordination and hosting of the event

Iffracombe Church of England Junior School-provided minibuses and drivers

Devon County Council and SEACS Project-provided funding

How was it financed and much did the project cost?

The Energy Safari did not cost a considerable amount as costs associated with organising, managing and co-ordinating the event were not charged for. Iffracombe Church of England Junior School kindly donated their minibuses for the day. The only costs payable were fuel for the minibuses and entry into Glen Lynn Gorge for visitors which came to approximately £100 in total.

What were the lessons learned from the project?

This is a summary of the lessons learned:

- Plan early as gaining permissions to visit sites can take a while to negotiate
- Independent regional sector organisations like Regen SW can help getting appropriate contact details for site owners
- Do a dry run to get timings right and take promotional photographs
- Incorporating a 'fun' element into the day was instrumental in attracting visitors with younger

children. This element consisted of a walk up the Glen Lynne Gorge which involves numerous child friendly activities including a beautiful walk

- Use the event to attract media attention and raise the profile of your organisation
- Try to come to a favourable arrangement with a community organisation or school over providing transport
- Other organisations can use the access contacts to arrange selected visits to sites to raise awareness around renewable energy technologies e.g. a neighbouring local authority heard about the event and in particular, the visit to Fullabrook Wind Farm which prompted an elected member visit to learn more about it
- There is a danger of trying to pack too much into an event – organising people and discussions on site can take longer than expected

Contact for further information

361 Energy-

<http://www.361energy.org/2013/06/30/the-361-green-safari/>