

bio-power news

Bio-power network. Mailing to all
February 2003

Things are really taking off!

After what seems to have been a very slow struggle in the dark for the last three years, I can say that over the last three months my phone has not stopped ringing, and I now get nearly 100 e-mails every day. We have over 500 people on our records who are at various levels in getting involved with us as part of the bio-power network in the UK, and about half that again abroad. We have run six **Introductory Seminars** now, and the format of the programme is getting better every time. Remember, it is as much a learning experience for me as for everyone else!

We now have several bio-power companies setting up within the network, the first being bio-power (Manchester), and others coming on stream in Newcastle, Bristol, Dublin, Plymouth, Birmingham, London and Southend. We hope soon to have a mobile processor service, and the means to deliver our bio-power solvents throughout the central UK.

The **Introductory Seminar Programme** will continue to run on average every two weeks throughout this year, and I will be arranging seminars in Essex, Birmingham, Manchester and the South West in the next few months. If you can guarantee at least 8 to 10 people will attend a two day seminar then I will endeavour to come to you. Otherwise it is easier for me to run the programme from the Erw Fair Hotel in Llanberis. I find ten people to be the maximum I can cope with, though I often include people who have done the seminar before. The average group size is therefore between ten and sixteen.

SUBMISSIONS TO THE BOARD MEETING

We will be holding the first meeting of the founder directors of bio-power (UK) in Manchester on 15th February, and we welcome any issues for discussion from members or potential members. Please send any issues for consideration to me as soon as possible as an e-mail with the subject line 'ATTENTION the Bio-power board', with your name, address and telephone number included, and I will circulate the material to the board members. The agenda and minutes of the board will be made available on the closed bio-power web site which is accessible by full members.

SUMMER CONFERENCES

We will be arranging a series of events through the summer which will include larger scale open conferences. One event will be the **First Bio-power AGM** which will be held at the 'Power of Wales' conference centre Llanberis. It will be a weekend event and will include workshops for all the related activity groups, as well as a public conference on the development of bio-fuels with guest speakers. I very much hope there will also be a programme of social and cultural activities including sailing on the lake, walks in the woodland of Padarn park, a visit to the Llanberis Slate Museum, and also guided tours of the subterranean electricity generation plant that is known as 'The Electric Mountain'.

Please send me any ideas or suggestions for this event. It is intended to be both a social and a business event, that will enable people to participate with their families. It would be useful to know how many people would be able to camp alongside the lake in the summer. Also how many people have their own sub-aqua, sailing boats, also hang-gliders or 'wings'. Yes, Llanberis has facilities for all of these pastimes and many more! I would also like to know if you or your partners can help with running workshops, looking after children, stewarding, hosting, or running children's events for all ages. This event could easily involve over 500 people, and will require a lot of planning.

In addition to our Summer AGM, we are proposing to run similar **Open Conferences** in Manchester, Bristol, Birmingham and maybe in London during the year. Again these events will include Activity Workshops and Introductory Seminars as well as the main programme of speakers aimed at local

authorities, potential funding agencies, and environmental groups who may share our ethical aims. There will not be a programme of social activities at these events.

Get involved

We are now forming a number of **Activity Groups** within the bio-power network. These groups are to enable people to work together with a common shared interest. A copy of the questionnaire called Groups is attached to this e-mail message. Please print and complete the form and send it to us by post if you wish to become involved in any activities.

Keep us informed about your work

If you have been on a seminar or are already working towards the setting up of a bio-power fuel processing plant, then keep us informed of your progress. This is a two way process, and it is essential that we are able to help through networking between everyone.

Use of the name 'Bio-power'

Do be aware that you must not trade as a bio-power company or use the bio-power logo or formula without first being admitted to the group formally as a member of the company. We do provide full company registration and documentation as part of the service to new members, but it is essential that the trading partners all attend at least one Training Seminar before approval is considered.