

Loders Renewables Group

We all know that the climate is changing... and that we need to stop burning oil to heat our homes and switch to filling up our cars with electricity.

But there is a big problem that no-one is really talking about... **the electricity system in our parish can't supply enough electricity for heat-pumps or EVs we would need** - even if we individually had the willingness and the money to do the switch now. And their electricity is **three times more expensive** than locally produced energy.

So the Renewables Group is looking seriously at what we can do to generate our own net zero energy and use it before it hits the grid. We could use it to generate heat and distribute power to every one in the Parish of Lodders.

Our Renewables group is also looking to increase the use by individual homes of rooftop solar generation with batteries and EV charging in homes that have garages or drives. We are seeking funding for experts to advise us all on these solutions and hope some residents will want to club together to do a bulk retrofit and installation solution with improved insulation to make it work. But we realise that this is not a solution for those that have to park in our narrow roads and are working with the Lodders Transport Group to identify suitable EV charging locations across the parish.

But the most ambitious project is to look at a parish wide solution to generate heat and electricity for everybody, harnessing a blend of new technologies in an energy centre which distributes heat to every house, school and business in the parish, enabling us all to part with oil boilers without having to install individually source heat pumps and pay a lot for electricity that is costly. A centralised community solution that sells surplus to the grid could be worked on. There are obviously important options and choices ahead on which your views and opinions are sought.

So come meet the Lodders Renewables Group at the **Lodders fete on 3rd August** and come to the **first workshop on Wednesday 11th September** at the Lodders Village Hall from 6-8 pm to hear what others are doing and what we could do here. We will have a **second workshop on Wednesday 9th October** also at 6-8pm when you come back with your thoughts on what specifically we should be doing and we will develop our plans together with independent expertsto see what we should have and where to put the facilities.

We've been applying for various grants to enable us to pay professionals to help us with feasibility studies and manage this complex project over the coming months.

Our Renewables Group team is still very small and we would welcome anybody in the parish that is interested to join us to help, particularly on local communications and helping with surveys, websites, and marketing. We are also self-funding so far but will

need some financial support to provide our matched funding contribution to the grants that we have applied for.

We have now established a community interest company, Eggardon CIC, which gives us an entity to focus for community activities which is outside the Parish Council, and which will hold assets for the community in the long-term. The CIC was set up to own a share in our Loders Community Energy Project from which the community should derive dividends in future which can be spent only on the community.

If you want more information or would like to be involved – drop us a line at **eggardoncic@gmail.com** to help us on this exciting project.

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