



OVESCO
OUSE VALLEY ENERGY SERVICES COMPANY LTD

Localising energy generation
for Lewes District

Our Vision: To improve energy efficiency and generate local sustainable power in the Lewes District region.

Our current successes:

- **Running the Ri/REG domestic renewable grant scheme** on behalf of Lewes District Council since 2007. Assisting home owners with advice and issuing of grants for technology such as solar thermal, PV, GSHP's and wood fuel. Almost 200 grants have been issued to date many going to the fuel poor and those who could not normally afford micro generation for their homes. Applications include home surveys for the Council to calculate CO2 reduction.
- **Offering local energy efficiency advice** on behalf of Lewes District Council and sign posting the public to schemes for reduced cost insulation for cavity walls and lofts. Directing the fuel poor and elderly to help with boiler repair and home improvements.
- **Supporting Transition Towns Energy Groups** with events such as the Lewes and Brighton/Hove Energy Fairs held in 2008 and 2009. Helping organise the Transition Town Lewes 'Open Eco Houses Weekend' held in June 2009 - see. In addition OVESCO is in contact with other Transition Towns such as Totnes's TRESKO to share good practice and information.
- **Supporting Lewes District Council** at local events such as 'Isn't it Bonkers' in Peace haven in 2008 and Newhaven in 2009. These events raised the public awareness about climate change and positive actions individuals can take to reduce carbon emissions and their effect on the local environment. OVESCO is also working with the council on ways to generate local sustainable power.
- **Supporting the Town Partnership at events** such as 'ENGAGE' at Priory School in 2008 and 2008. This event allowed 1200 secondary school children to meet with local organisations with an emphasis on sustainability and education. To demonstrate the need to cut energy consumption OVESCO takes the TTL energy bike along for pupils to cycle and understand the importance of energy conservation at home.
- **Supporting local business** by encouraging the use of local accredited installers and suppliers. In doing so this strengthens the local green economy for the benefit of the community.

Our future aims:

OVESCO has converted to and Industrial and Provident Society for Community Benefit from a Limited Company by Guarantee. This will allow the company to access grant funding and raise a share issue where by the public can invest in local sustainable power generation. The company is not for profit. Investment will allow OVESCO to progress one or more of the following projects:

- **Install a local community PV array:** OVESCO is now working with local business to install a large community owned PV array in Lewes. The aim is to install a show case scheme and repeat the installation on additional buildings throughout the district.
- **Build a local wind farm:** OVESCO is in talks with a local land owner to install one or more medium size wind turbines in the district.
- **Set up and run a water power project on the River Ouse:** OVESCO has undertaken feasibility studies and initial site surveys to source one or more locations for water power on the River Ouse.
- **Support a local CHP plant:** OVESCO is supporting the Town Partnership with talks to engage with local business and discuss the potential for CHP in Lewes.
- **Setting up a Private Wire scheme:** OVESCO is working on ways to set up scheme to generate heat and power for a group of buildings on a Private Wire.

In addition OVESCO seeks to:

- **Purchase and sell local sustainable power:** OVESCO is working with a number of groups and in discussion with the local Council on ways to manage the buying and resale of locally generated electricity.
- **Setting up a PAYES scheme for retrofitting homes:** OVESCO is working with Lewes District Council and an existing finance scheme to explore the potential for low cost loans to support home owners with costs retrofitting homes to reduce energy consumption.
- **Supporting a sustainable wood fuel industry:** OVESCO continues to work with contacts at the Woodland Enterprise Centre to seek ways to promote the growth of sustainable woodland management as a fuel supply for rural areas.
- **Build strong relationships with other groups:** OVESCO is now part of the Ouse Valley Partnership, which includes Action in Rural Sussex, Lewes District Council, East Sussex County Council, East Sussex Healthy Homes Partnership, University of Brighton, Plumpton College, Villages/Towns in the Ouse Valley. In addition OVESCO aims to support others working to the same goal.
- **Acting as a central hub for community energy projects:** OVESCO's links with the council, Transition Towns and others, allow the company manage projects to generate local sustainable power.

Further information on OVESCO:

The Ouse Valley Energy Services Company was set up in 2007 and has five company directors all members of the Transition Town Lewes Energy Group. The directors are: Chris Rowland, Howard Johns, Liz Mandeville, Dirk Campbell and Nick Rouse. More information on the company can be found at www.ovesco.co.uk. The company has and aims to maintain a good relationship with Lewes District Council, Transition Town Lewes and groups who seek to:

- Move away from reliance on fossil fuels.
- Generate sustainable power.
- Cut carbon and other dangerous green house emissions.
- Assist the fuel poor in reducing their energy bills and achieve a healthy standard of living.
- Engage with and seek to support the local public and the community.
- Seek to fund/support OVESCO achieve OUR VISION for a low carbon future.

For more information please contact OVESCO at the following:

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OVESCO – Energy Efficiency & Sustainable Power

