

Howard Johns and Chris Rowland – Directors, OVESCO (Ouse Valley Energy Services Company Limited)

OVESCO was set up in 2007 and is an Industrial & Provident Society for Community Benefit. The organisation works closely with Lewes District Council. (Further information about OVESCO is attached.)

Both Howard and Chris are members of Transition Town Lewes (Energy Group) and in addition, Howard is a chair of the Solar Trade Association and a director of Southern Solar. (Further biogs requested)

Suggested Themes and Questions (these have been sent to Chris for approval 7.5.10)

1. Could you please tell us about OVESCO, how it was set up, its financial arrangements and the way in which you work with Lewes District Council.
2. Grants have been available under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme to help with financing energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies – now that these schemes are being phased out what, in your view, is the effect on consumers? Are any measures in place nationally or locally which specifically target the fuel poor?
3. Has this change in funding arrangements also affected suppliers? If so what is being done, or could be done to ensure that businesses remain strong and are able to thrive?
4. What alternative methods of funding might be available to organisations and householders to help with the capital costs of installing both energy efficiency and renewable energy systems?
5. Please could you tell us about your scheme to seek industrial roofspace on which to install community PV systems; how does this scheme work, what are the criteria and the financial arrangements for the scheme?
6. Could you tell us how your work with the Transition Towns Energy Group integrates with the carbon reduction aims of your District and County Councils?
7. In your view, what could be done to raise awareness of energy efficiency and renewable energy issues – and who should information/training/awareness-raising be aimed at (e.g. planners?, householders?,) What form could this awareness-raising take?
8. In your view, what are the key areas that the public sector need to focus on in order to promote local resilience in terms of reducing reliance on fossil fuels and achieving carbon reduction aims in Kent?