

Marches Energy Agency & the Faith Community Past, Present & Future

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The MEA Journey

In the beginning...

- Faith groups identified as major audience for climate change message
- Local community (Shropshire, Herefordshire) predominantly Christian

Why the faith community?

- Individuals (households) committed to care for God's Creation
- Responsible for large number of (inefficient) buildings (churches, clergy)
- Church buildings key role in communities, especially rural
- Established internal communication networks
- Vulnerability to fuel poverty
- International & holistic links

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Stage 1: Feasibility (2004)

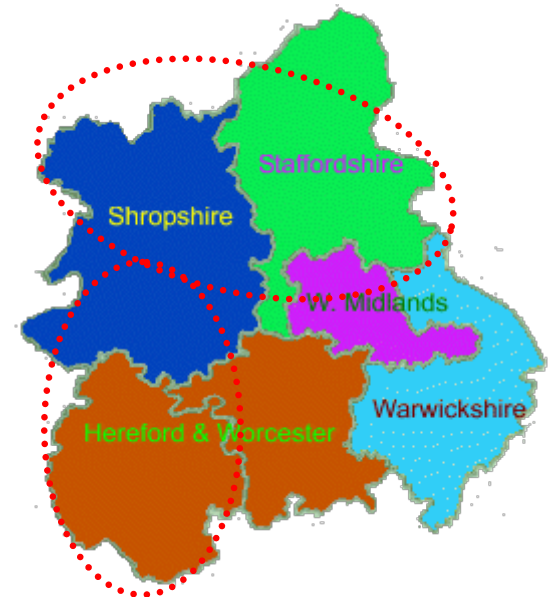
- EST Innovation Programme support
- Rowan Williams 'Changing the myths we live by'

Aimed to...

- Establish feasibility of sustainable energy technologies for faith groups & wider community through a new partnership, including other stakeholders
- Desk-based study into existing activity, identify keen contacts, events, questionnaire to PCCs, clergy & members

West Midlands

Coverage...



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Main findings...

- Receptive: 75% CC demands response from churches & members
- Very few churches exploring environmental challenges
- Latent interest: >33% members & ~50% PCCs wanted advice
- Exemplars? Clergy housing highly inefficient, under-resourced
- Green tariff: 85% members & 75% PCCs would like to switch
- Communication networks: financial savings is strongest message

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Worcester Cathedral, 2002

Lighting potential
5.5 tonnes CO₂
per year & £5.7k



Solar
lanterns to
Tanzania



Presentations,
workshops, displays
e.g. Lichfield 'Whole
Earth' Day 2004



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Stage 2: Implementation (March 05 - March 07)



Aimed to...

- Deliver sustainable energy technologies in households & church buildings
- Support vulnerable in energy efficiency
- Increase awareness & understanding of sustainability issues
- Provide flagship project for replication



Audience...

- Hereford & Lichfield Diocese
- ...into wider West Midlands

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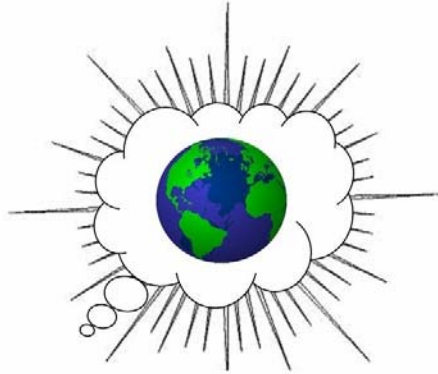
Stage 2: Implementation (March 05 - March 07)

Key features...

- Conferences, presentations, workshops, leaflets, posters, packs, displays, articles, Carbon Shops, website
- Audits & energy efficiency (inc. lighting) in church & clergy buildings
- Innovative financing mechanisms
- Energy 'champions'
- Training on fuel poverty
- Development project
- Relationships with national faith group organisations
- New 'aim': strategic influence



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Think of a World...

Conferences



'Champion Training'

Shrinking
the
Footprint...



Displays



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Light Fantastic
service addressed
lighting in churches &
parsonages



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Insulation of
parsonages in Diocese
of Hereford - tackling
barriers on cavity wall
insulation

331 low energy bulbs for
Lichfield Cathedral &
Diocesan Offices saving
18 tonnes CO₂ per year



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Key outcomes...

- Sustained role for *CC* on Diocesan & District agendas
- Local agendas & awareness
- Proven, replicable initiatives & funding mechanisms
- New relationships - local, regional, national

...and we're still going...!

- SEE House project
- Shrinking the Footprint
- Local group support

