

Transition Town Clitheroe

Reducing oil dependency, creating resilience

Whalley Community Hydro Project

This is a community project, initiated by Transition Town Clitheroe, to install a 100kW hydroelectric generating plant on the south side of the River Calder at Whalley, Lancashire using a weir which has been in place for around 600years. The scheme will be designed to protect and enhance the river, its environment, biodiversity and appearance.

A feasibility study has demonstrated that the River Calder provides an excellent local resource of renewable energy ready for development. Electricity will be exported to the national grid with the benefit of the Feed-in Tariff. We anticipate the annual energy capture to be in the region of 380,000 kWh.

We plan to use any surplus income, after paying a reasonable return to debt and equity holders, to promote other schemes that reduce carbon emissions and reduce our dependence on fossil fuels; and to invest generally for the benefit of the environment in Whalley and the surrounding area.

Other key objectives are to educate and inspire people in the use of renewable energy and to foster an increased sense of community.

The project team will set up a Community Interest Company, raise funds and work with a developer to arrange the installation of equipment to generate electricity at the weir.

The Naturesave Trust grant has enabled us to commission an ecological survey required by the Environment Agency and the local authority for planning permission. We are extremely grateful to the Trust for their support. The next stage in the project is the design study which will provide the basis of our submissions to the Environment Agency and the local authority. Construction and installation will take place from spring 2012 with completion by the autumn of that year.

The project is proving very popular with local people. We have had expressions of support from local parish and borough councillors, Whalley Chamber of Trade, Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, local Strategic Partnership and many residents.