

# The Cosy Keith Project

## Spring Newsletter 2009

Welcome to the first Cosy Keith community newsletter. In this issue:  
*Thermal Imaging*    *Village Hall Survey*  
*Permaculture Success!*



### *Making a wee carbon footprint!*

Part of REAP's Cosy Keith Project is to work with community groups to reduce their carbon footprint the first of which was Newmill Hall. This is a well used hall at the south end of the village which was built in 1905 and has more recent flat roof extensions for a kitchen and toilet facilities.



The Hall is owned by the Moray Council and managed by a voluntary committee who are keen to make the hall warmer, more welcoming and more economical to run. The hall is very typical of those in Moray where the main user is a playgroup with other intermittent usage for events and evening meetings.

Staff from REAP met committee member Fiona Lovie to complete a walk-through energy survey to catalogue insulation, heating types, water heating and draught proofing. Finally, energy bills were examined to calculate the hall's present carbon footprint.

REAP contacted Community Energy Scotland (CES) to see what they could offer Newmill

Hall committee. CES also surveyed the premises and produced an easy-to-read, informative report which focussed on the energy saving priorities of the hall. In the near future the committee will be working with CES to install solar water heating panels and extra insulation. Altogether a good result for Cosy Keith and a good result for Newmill Hall which is looking forward to reducing energy costs and having just a tiny carbon footprint.

### *Save Cash And Reduce Fuel with Eddie!*

REAP is delighted to be working in partnership with the Energy Saving Centre who are ready to offer advice and assistance to reduce your energy costs and carbon footprint. Regular drop-in days are planned with expert Eddie Brown and will be held at the REAP office in Mid Street.

In addition to advice and fuel saving tips Eddie can help with grant applications for the senior members of the community.

*The Cosy Keith Project*  
is part of the  
**Community Carbon Challenge**  
and is organised by **REAP**  
with financial assistance from  
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## SMILE! You're on Thermal Camera!

REAP's recent innovative purchase of an infrared camera will make it possible for homes and other buildings in the area to be inspected for heat loss, insulation deficiency, air tightness and moisture problems. The improvements which this technology suggests can lead to substantial financial savings and a reduction in CO2 emissions.



image courtesy of Flir Systems

REAP has appointed Wilf Shenk who is presently being trained in Berkshire and Orkney and will be ready to take on the first building surveys by the beginning of April. The camera is funded by the Climate Challenge Fund on condition that home surveys be offered free of charge to individuals and families on certain benefits or with limited incomes and for community groups. For other householders a charge of £60 will be made for the survey. Part of the survey will be the calculation of the CO2 reductions from the suggested improvements and offering help to find insulating grants available.

REAP is hoping for a good response from folks in and around Keith and is later hoping to expand the infrared survey service throughout the Grampian region. Wilf is convinced that the outcome of the thermal surveying activities will be a greater understanding of the climate change and sustainability issues by the local community.

If you would like your home to be inspected phone REAP on 01542 888070

## Making it First and Last!

As part of the CCF funded Cosy Keith Project a series of training opportunities is planned in and around Keith. All of these courses are based on the theme of energy efficiency and reducing our impact on the environment. Recently an *Introduction to Permaculture* residential course was held at the Bunkhouse in Drummur where attendees learned about the principles of permaculture.

This is all about how to consciously design systems that are sustainable rather than the temporary, short-term solutions that are so often employed today. Permaculture also looks at how communities can move into a zero waste, low energy future by mimicking ecosystem design and adapting it for human needs. The Bunkhouse proved an excellent location as it is within walking distance of the community woodland, the walled garden, the community hall, the hatchery and Lochpark Centre.

In addition to a further permaculture course future training events could include tree planting, historic buildings, renewable energy. For up to date details see the REAP website at [www.reapscotland.org.uk](http://www.reapscotland.org.uk).

