

Top tips on renewable energy in local communities

- In order to manage new renewable energy technology, ensure that your planning department is knowledgeable and up to date with current policies. The Energy Saving Trust can offer assistance with this through its local energy support programme or Practical help service. To find out if you have a local support team in your area call **0870 241 2089**.
- Help to remove barriers to renewable energy within domestic installations by ensuring householders requesting planning permission for renewable energy installations are well advised. Again The Energy Saving Trust is able to offer assistance with this. Best practice guides are available to download from www.est.org.uk/housingbuildings/publications/.
- Provide advice for developers and installers of renewables technologies. The Energy Saving Trust can provide you with a list of accredited renewables installers - www.est.org.uk/housingtrade/installers/renewables/ and you can also find information on how to become an accredited installer and what advantages and benefits this would bring.
- Find out what grants are available for householders, developers, and community groups wishing to undertake renewables projects. Make sure you are familiar with all the grant schemes available in your area so that you can easily signpost potential applicants to them. Visit www.est.org.uk/housingbuildings/funding/.
- Transport – consider the use of alternative fuels for council vehicles, for example, using biodiesel in older 'out of warranty vehicles', these fuels are cheaper and more environmentally friendly. Look out for newer hybrid and electric vans and consider biogas from landfill waste to fuel refuse trucks. For latest details of grants for installing alternative fuels infrastructure visit www.est.org.uk/fleet/funding/infrastructurep/.
- Get networking! Ask colleagues in other councils how they successfully encourage the integration of renewables into their local communities. Look at what initiatives and projects they have undertaken. Case studies can be downloaded from www.est.org.uk/housingbuildings/publications/ and why not make use of the Energy Saving Trust's discussion forum to share your experiences www.est.org.uk/housingbuildings/localauthorities/information/forum/.
- Get trained - The Energy Saving Trust offers seminars and training events for all those involved in housing, planning, design, construction and installation of renewable energy technologies. Visit www.est.org.uk/housingbuildings/events/ for details of upcoming events and seminars.