

# LEAF - Seeding The Future Of Community Energy

FOLLOWING the success of the LEAF Programme, both EST and DECC felt it vital for the continued development of community groups to hold a dissemination event. On June 21<sup>st</sup> 140 enthusiastic group members gathered in the lobby of the Albert Embankment Park Plaza for what would be an exciting day full of discussion, networking, and experience sharing.

The groups were welcomed by Andy Deacon, head of delivery for the Energy Saving Trust. The level of enthusiasm within the room was truly inspirational and as a team we felt privileged to have been given the opportunity to work with the groups over what had been the challenge of successfully delivering LEAF within just 12 weeks. The day officially commenced with a review of LEAF by David Wagstaff (Head of Heat Strategy and Policy @ DECC). David recognised the success of the Programme, and congratulated and thanked the groups for their dedication and involvement within LEAF.

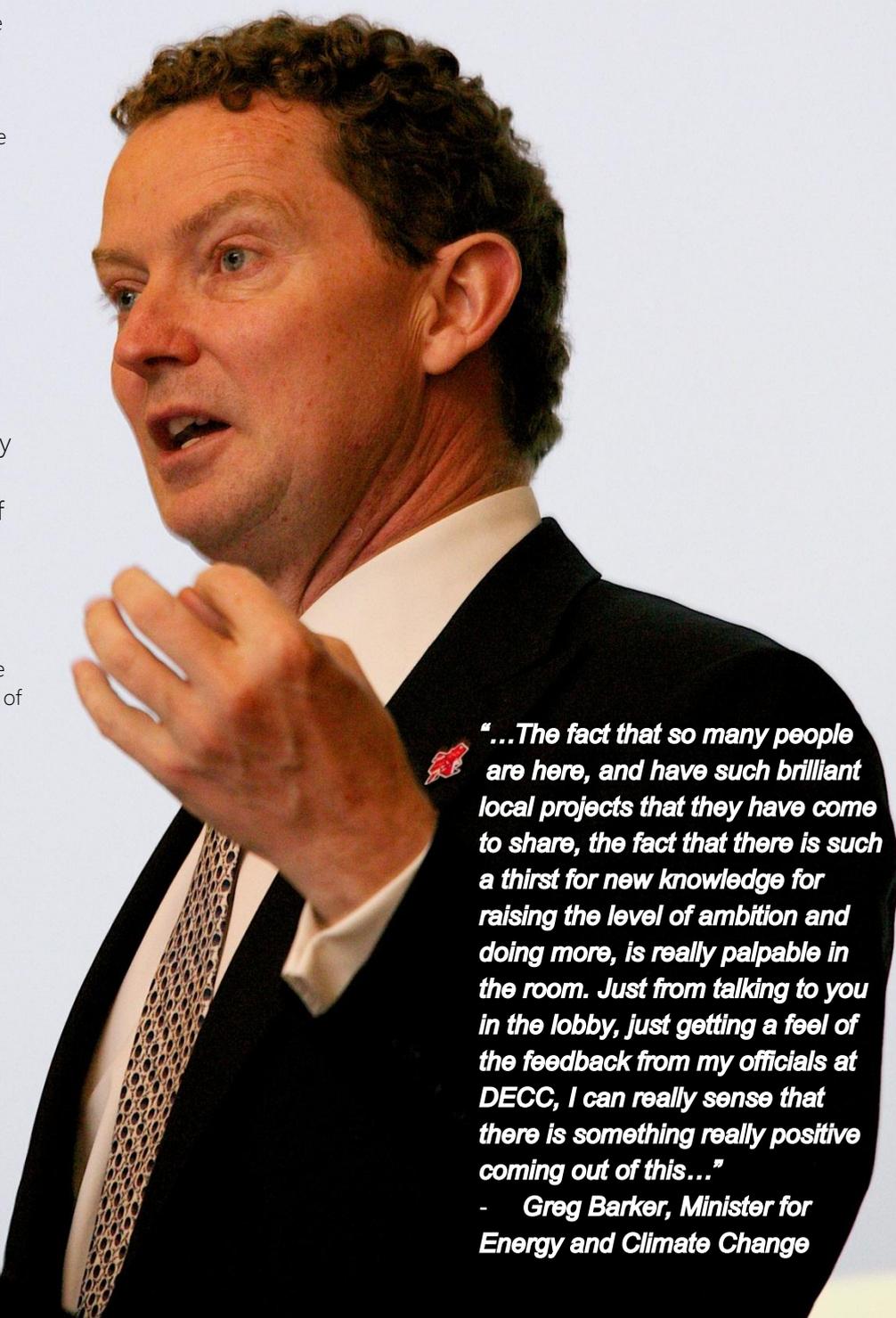
Dan McCallum (AAT and Programme Board) addressed the groups and explained the Boards involvement with introducing and creating LEAF. Dan explained that LEAF was delivered by a partnership of DECC, CCAA and EST. The board included members from Transition Network, Low Carbon Communities Network, Local United, Community Energy Wales, CEF, Community Energy Scotland, Keeping Scotland Beautiful, Carbon Leapfrog and Locality. The Board were there to represent the communities, and were involved in the decision to go ahead, right the way through to the evaluation and reporting of LEAF. All from a communities perspective

A series of Experience Exchange discussions were held throughout the morning. These covered a variety of topics including The Green Deal, Community Renewables and Becoming Self Sufficient. A video summary of the findings, made by Board Member Dan McCallum (Aman Awel Taw) can be found [here](#).

Greg Barker then delivered a speech praising the groups, announcing;

"...to underline the Coalition's focus on community energy, I am today announcing that the DECC will be developing a community energy strategy over the coming months. We are currently in discussions into the scope of the in-depth learning that has already come out of LEAF..."

Following Greg's speech, a Q and A session took place, which can be found starting at 34:00 of the link above. Overall an informative day, with 92% of attendees scoring the day a success. Watch this space!



***"...The fact that so many people are here, and have such brilliant local projects that they have come to share, the fact that there is such a thirst for new knowledge for raising the level of ambition and doing more, is really palpable in the room. Just from talking to you in the lobby, just getting a feel of the feedback from my officials at DECC, I can really sense that there is something really positive coming out of this..."***

**- Greg Barker, Minister for Energy and Climate Change**