

February 2009

PACT (Penrith Action for Community Transition) is a transition town group formed during 2008, aimed at developing a coordinated local community response to the twin challenges of peak oil and climate change.

PACT is made up of an enthusiastic group of volunteers, committed to making a real difference in Penrith and the surrounding area.

Now here's our second *Action Update*:



Buildings & Energy

PACT's **Buildings & Energy Action Groups** have combined forces to focus on encouraging homeowners to install insulation. We would first like to find out about people's current level of insulation and energy use, and we have access to a thermal imaging camera which we would like to use as a publicity tool, to help people to see where heat is being lost from their homes.



Before involving the general public, as a pilot project we have decided to start by asking PACT members about their current insulation. Based on this information we hope to then visit a representative selection of local properties to take thermal images of these homes.

Anyone who'd like to get involved with this activity, please do contact the Buildings & Energy group via the main PACT e-mail ID (on the website – see below).



Resources & Waste

PACT's **Resources & Waste Action Group** is considering a campaign that could see Penrith becoming a plastic bag-free zone. Several UK towns have already achieved plastic bag-free status in response to concerns over the harm which plastic bag waste causes to wildlife, the environment, and sometimes to human health.

Here in Penrith the PACT group is currently busy researching this issue, and is intending holding a public meeting during the next couple of months, aimed at raising local awareness of the problems caused by plastic bags, and what can be done to overcome them.

Anyone who'd like to get involved with this campaign, please do contact the Resources & Waste group via the main PACT e-mail ID (on the website – see below).



Economy

PACT's **Economy Action Group** is beginning to collect some basic data on how much hard-won income is spent by Penrith citizens on local goods and services. This is starting with a small-scale pilot involving volunteers who are willing to keep track of their household's weekly food expenditure.



This may lead to a more detailed audit of how much is spent where on food, and the possibility of creating a 'buyers group' promoting local food suppliers and retailers. Whilst this activity is being approached from the economic standpoint, potentially it may also involve collaboration with PACT's Food Action Group on local food mapping etc.



NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS

PACT recently gave a public talk in Appleby, entitled '**Transition to Sustainability**'. The talk was hosted by South Eden Liberal Democrats, who invited PACT along to explain key concepts such as peak oil, resilience and transition, and to get an update on PACT's activities so far.

From 3rd – 10th March PACT will be putting on a display about transition in Penrith Library, please do drop in and take a look!



During March PACT will also be holding a **Transition Film Night** in Penrith, open to the public and with several films on topics associated with the transition message. **All welcome!** – details will be available shortly, and the event will be advertised locally as well as via e-mail.



www.penrithACT.org.uk

The PACT website continues to develop, and will hopefully become central to communicating and promoting the group's activities – *please do take a look!*



PACT members also continue to regularly litter pick in Penrith (even despite the recent cold weather!), in an effort to improve the image of the town and as one small step on the road to local community transition.

All volunteers very welcome!



PACT needs you! There are many different ways in which you can give your support:

- spreading the word and getting your friends to join so your membership fees (details are shown at the end of this newsletter) help towards PACT's events and promotion of the transition message
- joining one of the specific Action Groups, and giving a little of your time to work on their projects
- offering your time for general administration as PACT develops, including giving out fliers, manning stands at shows, local litter picking, etc.
- and many more.....!

Want to get involved with any aspect of PACT? – a membership form follows, and why not also visit our website to find out more details of PACT's latest activities:

Contact PACT on-line at www.penrithACT.org.uk



Membership Details

Name:

Address:

Phone: Email:

Signed: Date:

This membership will run until end of March 2010

Please give the names of any organisation/s you are involved in with similar aims to PACT

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If you have specific skills or interests, please let us know

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I would like to help in general

Please enclose your membership fee: anything between £3 and £20 per person.
(Please see below for details)

Paid by cheque (payable to: PACT)

or cash:

Amount:

Please send to: PACT, 1 Howard Street, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 9DL

The membership fee is £3.00. This entitles you to:

- Voting rights at the AGM and associated meetings
- Copies of newsletters and other correspondence
- Opportunity to be elected to the Steering Group

If you would like to give more than that, up to £20.00, to support our events: e.g. mailings, publicity, room hire, etc., (all our man hours are given free of charge) it would of course be very welcome.

This initial membership fee will carry through to the end of March 2010. You are entitled to vary your level of fee between £3.00 and £20.00 from year to year if you so wish.