



GreenTech Business Network Event

The renewable energy potential of former coalmines
Featuring a presentation by the CEO of Alkane Energy, Neil O'Brien

3rd October 2011

BioCity Nottingham Ltd
Pennyfoot Street
Nottingham
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<http://www.biocity.co.uk/>

The next GreenTech Business Network event will take place on 3rd October 2011 at BioCity Nottingham. **The renewable energy potential of former Nottinghamshire coalmines** will be discussed. There will be a presentation about the work of one of Britain's biggest companies working in this area, the Edwinstowe-based **Alkane Energy**, which specialises in using coal-mine methane to produce electricity.

Nottinghamshire used to be famous for its coal production. Now only Thoresby is still producing coal and the landscape is dotted with the spoil heaps of former pits. The high profile development of Ollerton pit into the Sherwood Energy Village showed that the large former industrial site could have a second useful life as a sustainable business park. But debate continues into whether other former deep mines can serve any secondary long-term economic purpose. Today, for some of the Nottinghamshire's former coal mines, that purpose may turn out to be the production of renewable energy. Large solar arrays have been mooted for Welbeck and Gedling and Gedling itself is also the subject of a planning application by Alkane Energy, which is seeking to extract methane from the mine and use it to create electricity over at least 25 years. Alkane has already received permission to extract methane from underneath Clipstone pit for a similar length of time. Separately, debate continues into the future economic uses of Welbeck pit, with suggestions including the construction of a 'green energy plant' creating around 130 jobs.

The event will begin with a presentation by **Neil O'Brien, CEO of Alkane Energy**, followed by a panel debate with experts in the coalfield development area. The panel speakers are still being finalised but will include parties involved in the redevelopment of Welbeck Colliery. This will be followed by a Q&A session, followed by networking and refreshments. The event should finish at approximately 8pm.

The format for the evening:

- 5.30pm Registration, SME Enrolment and networking
- 6.00pm Introduction
- 6.05pm Presentation by **Neil O'Brien, Alkane Energy**
- 6.20pm Panel debate
- 6.50pm Q&As
- 7.30pm Networking and refreshments
- 8.00pm Close

The GreenTech Business Network

The network has been established to support the growth of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire's growing low-carbon SME sector through a regular programme of speaker events, business presentations, site visits and seminars.

Although the Network is obviously geared to the needs of low carbon businesses the events will be of interest to all businesses who want to learn more about the opportunities being created by this fast growing sector. Events are also designed to provide time for networking and the contacts and business opportunities that this can offer.

Prior registration is essential

Please register for this GreenTech Business Network event by calling or e-mailing Vanessa Corns at vc@nde.org.uk or by calling 0115 8764501 no later than Monday 19th September 2011.

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