



Ashton Hayes Parish Council

Going Carbon Neutral Project

c/o Lane End Farm

Kelsall Road

Ashton

Chester CH3 8BH

UK

27 October 2009

Dear Mayor Jonstang

Re: Ashton Hayes and Nøtterøy – linking forces to tackle climate change

On behalf of Ashton Hayes Parish Council and the residents of our village, we are delighted to be forging links with the community of Nøtterøy and look forward to sharing ideas and best practices in order to combat climate change.

We believe that the dangers posed by climate change can be mitigated more effectively when like-minded communities like ours work hand-in-hand. We are already working with over 100 communities across the UK but this link represents our first formal engagement with Norway.

In 2006 the inhabitants of Ashton Hayes voted to set out on a journey to see if we could reduce the amount of energy we use and carbon emissions we produce by changing our behaviour. Our long-term aim is to be carbon neutral and to share our experiences with everyone. In the past three years we have cut our community emissions by 23% and are now looking at ways of reducing our footprint even further by setting up our own community renewable energy generation.

Our idea is to not only use Ashton Hayes as a test bed for the research but to use the knowledge gained to share with other communities, such as Nøtterøy.

Our programme is actively supported by the University of Chester team, led by Professor Roy Alexander, residents, business leaders and local councils. We have also had considerable support from the world's media and UK Government.

We are delighted to be invited to share our experiences and look forward to learning more about your activities in Nøtterøy - and having fun working together with all your supporters.

Yours sincerely

*Garry Charnock
For Ashton Hayes Parish Council*