

Business

News and features for North Devon's business community

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Business writer Robert Zarywicz.
Telephone: 01323 879100. Email:
business@northdevonjournal.co.uk

Boost for business lobbying

MANUFACTURERS' networks from across Devon and Cornwall are to collaborate through a new group to give the sector greater weight when lobbying.

Manufacturing in the two counties represents a vital part of the regional economy with the most recent statistics showing the sector's gross value added (GVA) exceeded £2.5 billion per year in Devon and Cornwall.

Steve Cardew, chairman of the Plymouth Manufacturers' Group (PMG) said: "The new group is an informal association of existing bodies. Each

Homes display green technologies

ON the weekend of September 20 and 21, 15 homes across North Devon will open their doors to the public to show what energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies they have installed.

This is the second 361 Green Doors event to be held in North Devon.

The properties taking part range from award-winning architect-designed eco-homes to retrofits and traditional houses.

Local architects David Gale and Clive Jones are also opening their homes to the public for the event. Technologies on display include solar PV, biomass boilers, external wall insulation, LED lighting and secondary and triple glazing.

Home owner Roy Turner is delighted with his solar PV system installed last December. He has already received payments of £483 from the feed-in tariff and estimates he has saved £350 on his electricity bills.

The introduction of the Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive this April has also made renewable heat technologies such as biomass boilers, air source heat pumps and solar thermal water heating more financially attractive.

Similar Green Open Homes events are taking place across the South West this month and surveys suggest some three-quarters of those attending are considering making improvements to their own homes.

Organisations including the

Energy Saving Trust are keen to support Open Homes events to encourage energy efficiency in UK homes.

This event has been organised by 361 Energy, a social enterprise which promotes energy-saving and renewable technologies.

The group has provided energy saving advice to local households, schools and businesses and is also organising an Energy Fair at Barnstaple Pannier Market on September 28.

361 Green Doors is sponsored by Cosy Home Company with other funding coming from the Energy Saving Trust and the Green Open Homes network. For details visit www.361greendoors.org.



■ GREEN HOMES: Houses with energy-efficient technologies will open up to the public for the 361 Green Doors event.