



Cornwall Sustainable
Energy Partnership

CSEP is a public & private sector partnership working to achieve a sustainable energy future for Cornwall, its communities and businesses

PRESS RELEASE

Wednesday 4th April 2007

For Immediate Release

New proposals to relax laws around the installation of small scale green technologies is welcomed by Cornish energy partnership

The Cornwall Sustainable Energy Partnership (CSEP) welcomes proposals to relax planning restrictions surrounding microgeneration technologies launched today, at a meeting of the Green Alliance by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government Ruth Kelly.

If the consultation is approved, the proposals to make it easier for householders to install small scale technologies from solar panels to ground source heat pumps, will be included in the planning white paper this spring. Some small scale technologies will be exempt from planning permission, however applications will still be needed where neighbours will be affected considerably.

Tim German, Director of the Partnership said, ***“Any reduction in bureaucracy has got to be good news. We’ve been waiting some time for news that will reduce the time taken for planning consent. It is essential to the economic growth and carbon reduction targets of the county to ease the way for small scale renewables. Embracing Microgeneration is key to creating a sustainable energy future for Cornwall.”***

The relaxation of microgeneration planning laws will not just benefit householders but the industry as a whole. CSEP is leading on delivery of a Local Area Agreement (LAA) Stretch Target to support the growth of Cornwall's sustainable energy business cluster by increasing the take-up of low and zero carbon microgeneration measures in domestic and community buildings. Stretch targets attract about £100k pump-priming funding over 3 years and on successful achievement of the target in 2009, £1m reward funding.

“The number of microgeneration companies in Cornwall has quadrupled in the last year, showing a strong sign of the increased interest and uptake in renewable energy,” said CSEP Renewable Technical Officer Will

Wason. ***“The capacity for householders to install wind and solar technologies is there, but the bureaucracy surrounding planning can be off putting to potential customers and in some cases entire projects are sidelined as a result of planning restrictions. If the government are to meet their carbon reduction targets, there must be mechanisms in place to tackle household carbon emissions, which one of the largest contributors to CO2 emissions.”***

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Notes to editors

- **Community Energy Plus (CEP)** is a registered charity (Number 1068990) and profit-recycling company. Established in 1998 with financial support from Carrick District Council, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Health Authority and the Energy Saving Trust. CEP manages the international award-winning* Home Health project which was developed by the 72 members of the Cornwall Sustainable Energy Partnership.
- The **Cornwall Sustainable Energy Partnership** (founded in 2001) and managed by CEP, is a consortium of 72 organisations from the public, private and health sectors that are committed to a multi sector approach to a sustainable energy and low carbon competitive future for Cornwall. It is the first partnership of its kind in the UK and is providing a model for other parts of the UK. www.csep.co.uk
- CEP manages the **Cornwall Energy Efficiency Advice Centre** supported by the Energy Saving Trust (EST) and the County and District Authorities of Cornwall. It is one of 52 independent centres across the UK, providing free, impartial and locally relevant advice to households. Please call free on **0800 512012**.

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