

# Cornwall Sustainable Energy Partnership

## Spring 2004 NEWSLETTER

### Introduction

This year has been one of consolidation and progress for CSEP. Being one of the original three LASPs, CSEP is now actively demonstrating what can be achieved through programme longevity. In a place like Cornwall, long-term effect cannot be achieved with short-term programming. Successful Partnership building is never easy.

Through the work of the LASP acting as the managers and secretariat for CSEP, Cornwall is now on the brink of achieving the UK's first holistic county-based Sustainable Energy Strategy & Action Plan, to be delivered through a public and private sector partnership.

This report demonstrates the extent of work that can be achieved in a programme that started in August 2000. CSEP has generated approximately £4million of funding for a successful domestic energy efficiency/ fuel poverty programme. It has brought together all the local authorities, importantly including the County Authority as a key player (although not a housing authority), in a partnership with all housing associations, health trusts, business organisations, community organisations, renewable energy and energy efficiency organisations. CSEP has achieved a Public Service Agreement with the County Council and ODPM that brings a further £100,000 pump priming for projects as well as the possibility of a further £750,000 as reward funding to continue its domestic programme. Its work has impacted on national government, regional assemblies and Europe as well as other counties of the UK.

Most importantly however, the culmination of what is regarded as just the first stage of its programme has neared its finalisation in this year through the work that has been developed in the creation of the Strategy and Action Plan to be launched in July 2004 by the Energy Minister.

None of this would have been possible without the cohesive support of the various teams of Community Energy Plus, including the EEAC, who have worked together with the LASP/CSEP acting as the policy drivers.

### Main Areas of Activity

#### Working With Others

- Working with RegenSW to deliver regional RE strategy and implement policy across Cornwall.
- CSEP continue to be involved in the work of the Sustainable Energy Partnership (SEP) and CSEP assisted with the successful passage through Parliament of the Sustainable Energy Bill. SEP (Previously known as the 'HECA partnership from 30%') is a national partnership that changed its name and direction following a recommendation from CSEP.
- During this year CSEP began working with Urban Regeneration Company for Camborne, Pool & Redruth. URC have agreed that CSEP will be the medium for

discussions on issues on sustainability and particular the energy infrastructure including 1,500 new homes.

- CSEP has been working with CCC on the development of local Planning Guidance, in addition to the Strategy work, and this fed into the Structure Plan. This document is in effect an annex to the Cornwall Sustainable Energy Strategy.

### Projects

- Through the Bio Energy sub group CSEP successfully received Objective One funding for a feasibility study for a biomass plant generating heat into an acre of glasshouses to produce salad crops (not normally known in Cornwall) for local use. The 'Renergy' project is currently looking at a mix of miscanthus, forest residues and SRC. It will provide 1 mega watt of energy via gasification in its first stage with 5 mega watts over 20 acres as the future aim.
- CSEP has been developing a project concept for £1.9m for Objective One funding called "Envision Cornwall". The service will provide a free environmental advice / support service for Cornwall's SMEs and it is now in its final stages.

### Consultancy

- CSEP used the consultancy funding for two projects: To work with Trevor Houghton on the strategy and Eoin Lees. Eoin assisted CSEP on working to provide recommendations on European funding routes and liase with DG Tren (Director General of Transport & Energy) in Brussels.
- CSEP worked very proactively with the consultant to keep costs to a minimum. The remaining costs were covered by Cornwall County Council (CCC) and via some of the PSA monies.
- The remaining PSA monies will be used to produce a Fuel Poverty Action Plan and progress GIS mapping of fuel poverty in Cornwall. The Fuel Poverty Action Plan and will be a key action within the Strategy.

### Meetings, Seminars & Workshops

- In October 2003 CSEP held a "Government Resources for Domestic Energy Efficiency - Informing the Treasury Consultation Process" seminar supporting a campaign to achieve greater Treasury help for domestic energy efficiency programmes. Discussions on lobbying for appropriate measures to be considered. This resulted in letters being sent to the OPDM from representatives all across Cornwall.
- During October 2003 Tim German was pleased to be able to accept an invitation from the Prime Minister to attend a reception at Downing Street on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October, in 'recognition for CSEP's work in sustainable development and the environment'.
- In December 2003 some 80-partnership members attended the CSEP Annual Meeting of the partnership. Charles Secrett, ex-CEO of Friends of the Earth addressed the partnership on the subjects of sustainable energy & sustainable communities.
- In January 2004 a stakeholder meeting was held to discuss a proposal called 'BARK' (*Biomass Agricultural Revival in Kernow*) to explore ways of informing the

relevant sectors about the potential and practicalities of using bio energy to meet their specific needs. It was agreed that a PR/ educational event built around a bio energy installation should be arranged. Follow up from the meeting is being made through the Bio Energy Working Group.

- The work of the partnership has been recognised through presentations at various conferences and events across the UK and in Brussels; including conferences in London (including the Parliamentary Warm Homes Group Conference & London Assembly), Edinburgh, Cardiff, Birmingham, Cheshire, Harrogate, Llandrindod Wells, Exeter and Torquay as well as the NEA National Conference in Derby, the national UKPHA conference in Brighton, and numerous events in Cornwall.
- CSEP has been working with Cornwall County Council and district councils to influence the OPDM to mention fuel poverty within the Indices of Multiple Deprivation.
- CSEP has fed into and been official respondents for the Examination of Public (EIP) and were directly questioned by the government appointed team of examiners. Following CSEP's input EIP altered the Plan to take a more cohesive approach to energy efficiency.
- Some of ESTs senior management team visited CSEP to discuss partnership working in preparation for the creation of Sustainable Energy Centres.
- Tim has met with all Council Chief Executives across Cornwall & IOS and given presentations to councils throughout the year.
- CSEP has also hosted series small-scale workshops on a variety of technologies across Cornwall.
- Meetings with local authority IT departments have been held to discuss GIS mapping and the team have attended 'LINC' meetings to discuss their data warehouse. Discussions continue and work will be progressed during 2004/05 using some of the PSA monies.
- Tim recently held a meeting with the Cornwall County Council Chief Executive and his senior management team also attended by Jim McKenna, Chief Executive of Penwith DC & Chair of partnership to discuss financial support. These discussions are still ongoing.
- Since October CSEP has worked closely with regional organisations on the development of wave power of the coasts of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. CSEP acts as the facilitator of these projects and in Cornwall have been instrumental in pulling together a stakeholder group and Wave Power Working Group to work alongside the Renewable Energy Task Group.

#### Task Groups

- Steering group extended to include a senior officer from the CCC to sit on behalf of the CEO. His work has been crucial to the development of the work progressing.
- CSEP failed in an EPSRC bid, working with University of Exeter to fund an energy education advisor.

#### Personnel

- A change of personnel occurred this past year. Sally the LASP assistant left in July 2003 and Abi was appointed in August.

### Website

- The CSEP website has been re-launched in a new improved format with more pages and new information. The CSEP domain name has changed to [www.csep.co.uk](http://www.csep.co.uk)

### Other Points of Note

- A mail out to all parish councils within Cornwall was distributed to obtain information regarding their knowledge of energy efficiency and renewable energy and what areas would be of interest to them. A database was formulated and in early 2004 work has begun within the several Parish Councils including the organising of renewable energy installations.
- The development of a hydrogen bus scheme failed due to Ford Motor Co removing support following a change of its priorities.
- CSEP assisted with the development of a sustainable tourism project that is now up and running. CSEP has raised the issue of polarisation between the tourism economy and the poverty of residents.
- Work has begun on CSEPs facilitation of the 2006 IEE Faraday Lecture that will need a budget of over £0.5million, discussions continue.

### **Notable achievements in 2003/04**

- The Cornwall Sustainable Energy Strategy will be the first in the country to holistically address the economic, environmental and social needs of a county there has been a good deal of interest in the leadership demonstrated by Cornwall. The strategy takes into account the particular energy needs of Cornwall's businesses and communities. It addresses energy efficiency, addressing fuel poverty, the need to utilise renewable energy generation, security of energy supply. Importantly aims to stop the leakage of the £580million energy bill, of which only 2% remains currently within the Cornish economy.
- The Cornwall Sustainable Energy Strategy, which is also an Action Plan will be the result of over a year's consultation (Autumn 2003/Spring 2004 totalling 100 detailed responses) and is the culmination of the first three years work of CSEP in conjunction with all its partners, particularly the County Council. CSEP's work has been dominated by the Strategy throughout the year. The final seminar was held on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2004 and was attended by 60 partnership members. During the early part of 2004-2005 the Strategy will be finalised, printed and launched on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2004 by Energy Minister Stephen Timms and European Commissioner Margot Wallstrom. (The Minister of Energy Stephen Timms visited CSEP in February 2004 to discuss partnership working and the Strategy and following that meeting he subsequently agreed to launch the Strategy in July 2004).
- We assisted one of our members, a local housing association, to gain Clear Skies grant to undertaken the first retrofit ground source heat pumps into social housing. This is a UK first.
- London Energy Partnership using CSEP as an example of best practice.
- Directly involved in the work of LSPs including the fact that Tim sits on the boards of two LSPs as the environment representative – Caradon & Carrick. Tim feeds into the other groups via the Environment Action Groups.

- CSEP held in October 2003 a Wave Power Seminar that was attended by 78 key stakeholders from local authorities and key organisations such as tourism, fishing, conservation interests, economic development and business interests etc. The event provided an up-to-date picture of wave power technologies and resources off the coasts of Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly. One of the actions agreed as most needed by the attendees was the need to lobby for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).
- In July 2003 CSEP held a major strategic conference entitled "Towards a Sustainable Energy Future - Integrating Social, Economic and Environmental Policy". The main speakers were Knud Pedersen, Dep. Director General of Danish Energy Authority, Philip Sellwood, Chief Executive of EST and Prof. Martin Fry, President of Institute of Energy. Unfortunately, Brian Wilson, then Minister of Energy, resigned 2 weeks before the event but a senior DTI representative attended in his place.

#### HomeHealth

- Following on the success of the three *Home Health/Here to HELP* zones in parts of Redruth, Camborne and Porthleven (*Home Health 2*) in 2003, CSEP was awarded a £500,000 Single Regeneration Budget Grant (SRB6) by the SW RDA to deliver the next phase of the project - Home Health 3. This will take the project to a further seven zones in St Ives, Newlyn, Penzance, St Just, the Lizard, Hayle and St Day between 2004 and 2006.
- CSEP has also secured £1.62m Private Sector Renewal funding on behalf of 5 of Cornwall's 6 District Councils, to deliver a new version of the project - Home Health Plus. It combines fuel poverty and energy efficiency measures with local authority loans and grants for repairs and heating. The project will help to bring private sector properties up to the Government's Decent Homes Standard. Ten zones will be created between 2004 and 2006 in deprived parts of Carrick, Caradon, Restormel, North Cornwall and Penwith.
- Tim has also met with practice managers to involve them in the referral network. This has been highly successful.

#### Public Service Agreement (PSA)

- Cornwall County Council and the Government made a Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA) with the intention of further improving services to local people. The agreement is comprised of 12 performance targets to be achieved during 2003 - 2006. Target 8 'Energy Deprivation' was prepared by CSEP/CEP on behalf of Cornwall County Council and in negotiation with ODPM. It is comprised of 4 sub targets: No of homes assisted, CO2 savings, energy savings and % fuel poor assisted, each of which will attract substantial reward funding if achieved by March 2006. Cornwall County Council is one of the UK's first pioneering councils to set a fuel poverty LPSA target. Initially this agreement has released £115,000 to deliver Home Health projects, the Cornwall Sustainable Energy Strategy and a Fuel Poverty Action Plan. As of March 2004 CSEP have achieved 74% of the projects overall target and reached 91% of the CO2 savings.

## Staff employed within your LASP

Name of staff	Job title	Main responsibilities
Tim German	Manager	Managing CSEP and taking a proactive role in furthering the aims of the partnership. Develop policy for the EEAC and work to embed sustainable energy into policies, and turn strategies into action.
Abi Hooper-Brown	Assistant	Liase and coordinate the work of the Manager. Coordinate CSEPs task groups, LEEP reporting and manage the LASP team budget as well as general administration duties.
Dionne Jones	R&D Officer	Produce data to assist project delivery. Carry out research and formulate information to secure funding directed by the task groups. Develop new projects and team working.

## Plans for 2004/05

Good progress has been made in the last year in raising awareness and to encourage local authorities and other relevant organisations to include energy efficiency and sustainable energy in policies and strategies. This work will continue and throughout the forthcoming year CSEP working as the principal deliverer of the Cornwall Sustainable Energy Strategy.

Leading up to the launch of the Strategy in July CSEP will also develop its business plan and begin work on the Fuel Poverty Action Plan and GIS mapping project.

CSEP will continue to facilitate all the task groups and working groups and this workload will increase significantly as the groups work to achieve the Strategy actions. For example key task group work will include:

- Wave Power Working Group and stakeholder group pushing for an S.E.A and CSEP will also be facilitating the furtherance of energy sustainability via wave power for the Isles of Scilly.
- CSEP will also be assisting the Bio Energy group to promote the development of small-scale biomass plan and markets for biomass energy and developing our work with URC regeneration.
- The Domestic Energy & Health Task Group will be busy monitoring and assisting the community team as work within the new Home Health zones progresses.

During the coming year marketing and PR activities will increase:

- The new website's in-house management system will allow instant updates for example within the news sections.
- New press releases created each month will improve our coverage within the local press and the regularly of newsletters to the partnership will also increase to cover progress of the strategy implementation.

- CSEP will also for the first time host a partnership stand at the Royal Cornwall Show in June 2004 to promote the work of CSEP and the EEAC.
- To build upon it's national presence CSEP will be working with national organisations to present Cornwall as a national leader in the promotion of the Local Communities Sustainability Bill. Due to the interest already shown in this initiative this will involve CSEP holding events across Cornwall in conjunction with the local authorities.

**Any other comments**

CSEP has progressed and incorporated so much into the local networks that our human resources are now extremely stretched and the work involved in delivering the strategy will continue to stretch our resources.