



**Cornwall Sustainable
Energy Partnership**

CSEP advising DEFRA / DTI / OPDM & DFT

April 2006

Cornwall Sustainable Energy Partnership (CSEP) is pleased to announce that it has been given ODPM funding to provide assistance to DEFRA, DTI, ODPM & DfT in order to align their policies both internally, across government departments and to maximise opportunities through a greater understanding of local delivery. The work is a direct consequence of all 8 local authorities within CSEP achieving Beacon Council status of Sustainable Energy in 2005-2006.

The theory behind the ethos of this work is:

'To align a wide-ranging spectrum of key strategic government objectives more closely with the overlying requirement to realise cost effective methodologies to reduce carbon emissions, increase energy efficiency, maximise development including the use of low and zero carbon technologies and to achieve renewable energy targets'.

The award-winning and internationally recognised work of CSEP is based on the public and private sector delivery of a cohesive sustainable energy strategy. Since its formation in 2001 CSEP has endeavoured to deliver a local strategic approach based on the convergence of actions by over 72 partnership organisations. The Partnership believes that such 'joined-up' delivery of sustainable energy and Climate change projects have been adversely affected by a lack of national and regional cohesion.

In order to maximise the effectiveness of the work proposed under this application, the Beacon Council Partnership of Local Authorities in Cornwall, through CSEP, will compile a comprehensive report over the next twenty four months. The ongoing development of this report will be presented at quarterly intervals to a joint meeting of officials of the four government departments affected – ODPM, DEFRA, DTI and DfT (plus perhaps on occasion the Department of Health). The final report with recommendations should be presented to senior officials and ministers in March 2008.

The **report(s)** will include recommendations on how the Government can align policies, be cost-effective and maximise efforts in areas such as:

- Addressing climate change;
- Regenerating communities and businesses;
- Improving the health of the nation;
- Increasing competitiveness.

by utilising the efforts of effective local sustainable energy partnership working led by local authorities but managed externally from each council.

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The work undertaken by CSEP will inform **DEFRA** as to how:

- Their programmes for increasing energy efficiency and reducing fuel-poverty can be integrated into a co-ordinated programme of sustainable development with a wide variety of delivery partners;
- Using the focus of reaching the ‘vulnerable demographic’, which has been so successful in Cornwall, Defra’s programmes can be delivered cohesively alongside other priorities which are the responsibility of other Government departments;
- Local and regional organisations can work together to achieve heightened effectiveness in the delivery of departmental objectives such as the cost effective delivery of sustainable community and improved well-being programmes that combine energy efficiency with micro-generation (so necessary in areas such as Cornwall where there is a poor gas network); energy programmes within a sustainable development framework;
- How locally managed partnerships can assist in the cohesive delivery of biomass programmes by bringing together all relevant organisations.

The work will demonstrate and inform how such programmes and mechanisms can maximise effectiveness and produce significantly improved results and additional benefits such as reduced fuel poverty in vulnerable communities (reaching the hardest to reach), increased domestic energy efficiency alongside micro-generation and connectivity with the local economic drivers (such as agriculture).

A key element of this work will be to demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of combining programmes such as the Government objectives of community regeneration and sustainable energy programmes utilising energy efficiency and energy generation.

Aligning policies across Government objectives and linking them to local management requires a coordinated governmental approach. Although many of the benefits to each relevant Government department are set out below, the Partnership believes that it is vitally important that the work is reported to all departments simultaneously.

The work undertaken by CSEP will aim to inform **ODPM** in the following ways:

- Linking all theme areas* of the Department’s focus with an overlying climate change and sustainable energy approach/policy;
- Proposing delivery mechanisms which place energy sustainability at the heart of ‘future proofing’ programmes to achieve durable economic growth of communities and businesses.

* ODPM Theme Areas:

Regeneration
Local & Regional Government
Housing (Decent Homes)
Planning
Neighbourhood Renewal
Social Inclusion
Sustainable Communities

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The work undertaken by CSEP will aim to inform **DTI** as to how:

- Micro generation can be a key element of a cohesive sustainable development programme, actively assisting the social, economic and environmental agendas;
 - The local management of energy programmes, bringing the work of Local Authorities and the private sector together, is effective in delivering electricity and heat generation activities and targets;
 - Their programmes can be delivered cohesively alongside other priorities which are the responsibility of other Government departments;
 - Local and regional organisations can work together to deliver departmental objectives.
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The work undertaken by CSEP will aim to inform **DFT** as to how:

- The bringing together of local authorities and the private sector can be an effective approach to the management of sustainably fuelled transport programmes, delivering carbon reduced activities and targets.
- Local and regional organisations can work together to deliver departmental objectives.

Tim German

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