



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

Friday 2nd February 2007

For Immediate Release

Cornwall needs a robust response to today's news on Climate Change

It is vital that Cornwall and the South West responds robustly, effectively and immediately to today's announcement by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that says there is more than a 90% probability of a very significant rise in temperature before the end of the 21st century.

The announcement made following the Paris meeting of the world's leading climate scientists forecast a temperature rise of between 1.8 and 4 degrees centigrade by 2100. The most likely scenario, they say is a 3% rise. Although some of their scientists have predicted a rise of up to 6.4 degrees C. The predications will mean varying levels of severity and frequency of catastrophic tropical storms and sea level rises.

'Cornwall needs to ensure that the implications of Climate Change are at the top of the agenda and the news from the IPCC, combined with the recent Stern Review, must inform all key decisions concerning the social and economic development of Cornwall's communities and businesses.'
says Tim German, Director of CSEP, the UK's leading regional energy partnership.

*'I think it is true to say that currently we have a **rhetoric reality gap** in Cornwall when it comes to strategic decisions about energy sustainability and climate change. The time for talking is now past and the time for delivery is very much here.'*

The IPCC report places the blame firmly at the feet of human activity.

'We all have an important role to play in reducing carbon emissions in the most effective way but it needs appropriate leadership. CSEP is currently co-ordinating high level discussions with strategic Cornwall and South West organisations which we hope will lead to a much more robust and effective mechanism for dealing with the fact the Cornwall is at the forefront of Climate Change in the UK.'

CSEP's warnings don't just stop at the local level, the Partnership believes that Government policies to tackle the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions need to be tougher and clearer.

However, the news for Cornwall isn't all bad. The Cornwall Sustainable Energy partnership believes that if the correct decisions are taken now Cornwall can benefit economically from the tragedy of climate change.

Tim German concludes:

'We have the opportunity over the next 6-10 years of becoming the green peninsula about which pundits have talked for some time. If the agencies in charge of our economic future grasp the climate change nettle in the most effective way by reducing carbon and investing in energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies we forecast substantial benefit to our communities and businesses.'

- ENDS

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 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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