



Community Energy Plus is a registered charity and profit-recycling company which hosts the Cornwall Energy Advice Centre and the Cornwall Sustainable Energy Partnership.

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Government Energy Saving Advice Service delivered by local charity – Business support

Does your business utilise lots of energy? Do you want to increase your customer base through green credentials? Are you generally keen to do your bit to reduce the counties industry environmental impact whilst contributing to the local economy?

The Cornwall Energy Efficiency Advice Centre (EEAC), part of a national government service and managed by Cornish energy charity Community Energy Plus, can connect you to the best person in the CEP Business Advice Team to deal with your business needs.

Community Energy Plus has been providing advice since 1998 providing a 'one-stop-shop' for environmental business support and accreditation. Business advisors deliver a selection of environmental schemes which include; Envision, Environmental Management Training, Green Tourism Business Scheme and Wood Fuels South West Advice Service.

The different schemes are based around training, accreditation and consultation services:

- Envision Cornwall is a group of Environmental Business Mentors providing advice to small and medium enterprises on ways to reduce energy, waste, water usage and costs and improve the companies environmental credentials. The mentors visit your company, discusses your individual needs and look for potential areas for savings.
- Environmental Management Training scheme is a 5 day course run in partnership with Cornwall College Business to improve environmental management within the work place and work towards an ISO1400 international accreditation standard.
- The Green Tourism Business Scheme (GTBS) the largest and most successful environmental accreditation body of tourism related businesses in Europe. Mentors assist businesses to reach the levels to gain bronze, silver and gold awards.
- The Wood Fuel South West Advice Service is a new initiative to provide free technical advice, support and grant aid to householders, communities and businesses for smaller scale wood heating proposals in the SW region.

As well as bio-energy, the EEAC can provide free information on other renewable energy technologies including; small scale wind turbines, ground source heat pumps, solar hot water and electricity plus information on the grants available for installing these technologies.

Case studies

Bosinver Farm Cottages, St Austell

Pat Smith, Director

"We have 19 individual detached cottages on our small farm between St Austell and Mevagissey. We were voted 'self catering establishment of the year' in 2005 and 2006 in the Cornwall Tourism Awards and Silver winner for the whole of the SW region 2006."

"We are passionate about the environment and do our utmost to reduce landfill by recycling and composting. Our cleaning materials are low phosphate, low energy bulbs are used and we promote car free days out to our guests. We have also carried out a water audit with SW Water to instigate some water saving measures. We were one of the finalists in the Green Tourism Initiative in 2003."

"I attended a COAST seminar in St Austell based on criteria and useful suggestions for businesses considering entering the GTBS. At that meeting were several COAST ambassadors and Andrew from Envision was a guest speaker. I learned such a lot that day – really useful tips plus names and contact numbers for practical help. Andrew volunteered to do an energy audit and with his help and advice Bosinver is becoming greener by the minute!"

Learn English in Cornwall, Lostwithiel

Julie Tamblin

"Learn English in Cornwall is a new venture where eco-linguistics meets biodiversity. The school promotes the endangered language of Cornish and at the same time helps people to value the unique environment of East Cornwall. It has take me five years to set-up and get going with what is (as far as I know) the only residential Cornish course in the world, in addition to her French and English courses

I run the language courses from my home in Lostwithiel, offering residential learning experiences. My house, which runs as a green B&B out of course time, is a haven of ecological responsibility. It is completely free of any of the toxins of modern life and lucky clients who stay with her even sleep in organic cotton sheets. For people who care to make a difference, this is the place to be.

Just this January I received a 'Gold' award from the Green Tourism Business Scheme (GTBS) for commitment to environmental concerns. Also, at the end of last

year at an award ceremony held at Trerice, Learn English in Cornwall was highly commended, picking up a third place for the best small business in Cornwall for reducing environmental impact.

Most of these changes have been made possible thanks to help from COAST and Community Energy Plus business mentor Andrew Walters, on behalf of the Green Tourism Business Scheme.”

Falmouth Town Council

Mark Williams ACIS

Town Clerk, Falmouth Town Council

Falmouth Town Council serves the south coast resort town from Maenporth to Ponsharden incorporating the urban area, dockyard, Pendennis headland and coastline, with a resident population of 20,000, increasing student population and huge influx of visitors during an extending holiday season. There are 16 Councillors serving four Wards. There are 12 staff and numerous contractors and volunteers.

“The Town Council has been assisting community work on becoming a transition town and, as it is recommending environmental best practice, felt it was incumbent to have an environmental audit undertaken on its main building.

We contacted Community Energy Plus to help us achieve this. Following a site inspection by a business advisor an environmental audit report was prepared. The report recommendations were adopted formally by the Council and will be actioned where and when appropriate by the Building Committee.

These practical changes will reduce energy consumption and emissions and make the Council’s main administrative function and the Art Gallery more sustainable. The Council would like to thank Howard Martin of Community Energy Plus for his assistance with the report.”

Budock Vean Hotel

Martin Barlow, Director

Budock Vean is a 4-star country hotel set in 65 acres in the Helford Estuary catering for 130 customers. A Family run business, the company employs up to 80 employees and is engaged in ‘high-end’ and ‘sustainability’ led tourism activities.

“The hotel has been put through environmental schemes Envision and GTBS. The mentor provided a baseline audit and highlighted potential financial savings in terms of energy, water and waste. The company provided BS8555 environmental training and assisted with the Green Tourism Business Scheme (GTBA) accreditation. The mentor developed an innovative in-vessel composting scheme to direct food waste from landfill and advised on possible funding and financial schemes for improvements.”

“All grounds and golf course managed organically using organic fertiliser and mycorizal fungi treatment regime. This has reduced water consumption for irrigation and increased biodiversity of the estate. Water saving measures have been introduced, including rainwater and swimming pool back wash reuse, saving the company up to £4,000 per year.”

“I believe that environmental good practice can and should go hand in hand with growing profits and the best way to achieve it is to take it in small incremental steps, involving as many of your staff as you can so the task is shared and becomes imbedded in everything your company does, and is not seen as some special, discrete project.”

Halvasso Tea Rooms, Constantine

Lionel Mann

“A few years ago I realised that the size of my farm was uneconomical. I therefore applied for planning permission to build a Tea-room with an associated Nature Trail, as a farm diversification. At that time global warming wasn't such an issue as it is today.

Having started the build, I thought it important to embrace new technologies to heat the building and produce hot water for the toilets and kitchen. I understood that there was grant aid available to help fund the purchase of new technologies, and in my case solar panels and a wood pellet boiler. I contacted an Envision mentor, who suggested I would be better served by the Green Business Tourism Scheme, and put me in contact with Andrew Walters who has helped me with completing grant aid forms.

I'm currently waiting to hear the decision from Low Carbon Buildings Program (Fingers Crossed), but in the meantime I have already decided to use LED lighting in the floor and elsewhere to highlight the architectural features of the building. The intention is to set it apart from other builds in style as well as with "Green" credentials.

I feel grant aid is important as it's so easy and cheaper to use traditional (high carbon) sources. It's also important to have a nil/low 'carbon foot print'.

Crepe Cuisine, Penzance

Tim Bartlett, New Product Development Controller and Purchasing Officer

“As our name suggests, we are a business primarily concerned with making crepes and pancakes and have been doing so since 1982. We make frozen crepes and pancakes for the food service industry, and chilled Blinis for a variety of retailers. With 5,000 square metres of production floor space and around 30 staff members working each we have the flexibility to deliver large product volumes within a short lead time.

We got involved with Envision to try and reduce our energy and production costs by both recycling and reducing our waste. We have no specific targets with regards to what we want to achieve, but a report on where we are, with pointers on how we can do better, would be a good place to start.”

Call the Cornwall Energy Efficiency Advice Centre free on 0800 512 012 who will put you in touch with Business Advice Team to help your business save money and the environment.

-ENDS

Notes to editors

Photos:

1. Pat Smith – Bosinver Holiday Cottages
2. Julie Tamblin – Learn English in Cornwall

- **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.
- CEP, the lead partner of the **Cornwall Sustainable Energy Partnership** (founded in 2001), 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**.
- * On the 30th June 2005, Community Energy Plus was recognised by the prestigious international **Ashden Awards** in the UK Energy Efficiency category for its Home Health project, which has installed nearly three and a half thousand energy efficient measures into Cornish homes.

For more information or to arrange an interview please contact:

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