



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

PRESS RELEASE

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Cornwall's European Energy Conference will demonstrate why the UK is playing 'catch up' to many parts of Europe.

The UK may be as much as 10-15 years behind much of Europe in Climate Change and Energy Sustainability actions. This is an issue to be debated at a conference that will showcase iconic sustainable energy projects across Europe for 200 UK and European decision makers.

The '*Energy in Regional Development - Learning from European Best Practice*' conference on 29th June will showcase six major energy projects which are being very successful in supporting their regional and local economy and have been chosen by the European Commission as best practice.

The event is being organized by the Cornwall Sustainable Energy Partnership (CSEP), a partnership of 72 organisations including the local authorities of Cornwall, health and private sector representatives, to create a sustainable energy future for Cornwall's communities and businesses. The conference is being sponsored and funded by EDF Energy.

Delegates will learn from the leading players in these projects and debate how European best practice can help with their own aspirations of achieving a low-carbon competitive economy for our regions. The morning session of the conference will involve learning from these iconic European projects. The afternoon will involve facilitated discussion with the speakers as to how regions from across the UK and Europe can emulate their examples.

Tim German - Director of CSEP

"We have known for some time that the key solution to climate change is to move away from a fossil-fuel-based energy economy to one based on renewable sources of electricity and heat. It is, therefore, hard to comprehend why the UK has been so slow in delivery in both its energy efficiency and, in particular its renewable energy programme. The UK has been following in the shadow of Europe where appropriate and effective decisions have been made up to twenty years ago."

European speakers will present the following iconic Energy Projects:

- Navarra, Northern Spain: Navarra has 600,000 residents, 6,000 jobs in renewable energy and produces 65% of its own electricity through a variety of renewable sources.
- Güssing, South East Austria: Güssing was once regarded as one of the poorest cities in Austria. In 1991 an economic decision was made to

resource its own energy and now is the European best example of a 'Sustainable Energy Community'.

- Samsø, Denmark: This small island of 4,500 residents is Denmark's '100% Renewable Energy Island' with small community owned wind-farms plus other renewable energy technologies.
- Apeldoorn, The Netherlands: Though a mixture of technologies the town of Apeldoorn is well on its way to achieving its aim of being a 100% sustainable energy town. Streets of housing have been turned into a power plant using photovoltaic arrays.
- Göteborg, Western Sweden: Göteborg leads the world in the use of 'green' vehicles and has more biogas and natural gas-powered vehicles than any other city.
- Linz, Austria: The Linz Solar City project is an integrated solar village that supports just over 1300 households, shops, schools and 7-km tram rail line into the city centre.

The conference will use the examples to debate what are the issues that seem to prevent these highly successful projects being replicable in other parts of Europe and, in particular, in the UK.

Continuing Tim German added, "With the eyes of the European Commission looking to Cornwall and the South West of the UK for innovative leadership through the Convergence Programme, the conference will be particularly timely within the framework of the new European Structural Fund programmes, and will also present an opportunity to learn how the new funding streams can assist us in achieving these goals".

An account of the debate will form part of a wider report being produced by CSEP for DTI, CLG, DEFRA and DfT.

Other speakers include Professor Tim Jackson, Commissioner of Sustainable Development Commission UK and Director of RESOLVE, University of Exeter, Tim Smit, Co-founder and Chief Executive of The Eden Project, and Mme Claude Nahon, Senior Vice President of Development and Environment for EDF Energy

UK Sustainable Development Commissioner, Professor Tim Jackson:

"Responding to climate change is one of the most serious challenges we face. Government has finally recognised this and the Climate Change Bill will put in place a framework to cut carbon emissions by 60% by 2050. However, the UK still lags behind European countries in key respects. Big increases in building energy efficiency and a radical improvement in public transport are vital to meet the climate challenge."

Claude Nahon, EDF senior vice-president for sustainable development and environment, said:

"I'm delighted to be speaking at the conference in Cornwall. Organisations must work together to learn and share best practice, and this conference is very much part of that. The EDF Group has by far the lowest carbon dioxide emissions among all the major European energy companies and we are determined to play our part in reducing emissions and improving energy efficiency.

"Whilst we are a major energy provider we must never forget our local roots. We are a local employer, with more than 1500 staff in South West England for example, and are committed to supporting local communities and regional economic development."

- ENDS

Notes to editors

- **All Press and Media are invited to attend, interviews to be pre-arranged with Jasmine Reilly on 01209 614 974 or 07811 191 696**
- **Detailed descriptions of each of the European projects and pictures will be available after the event.**
- **The conference is being held on Friday 29th June from 08:45 till 17:00 at the Combined Universities in Cornwall, Tremough, Penryn, Cornwall, TR10 9EZ**
- **The conference will be the final feature for Cornwall Business Week 25th – 29th June, organised by Cornwall Pure Business. For more information on other events during the week please call 01872 322814. For media information please call Kate Woods on 0117 922 7799.**
- **Exhibitors:**
 1. **Environment Agency – Promotion of recently launched ‘Guidance on integrating the environment within regional development programmes and their projects’.**
 2. **Wave Hub Exhibition**
 3. **Kensa – Heat Pump Technology**
 4. **Camborne, Pool and Redruth Regeneration programme**
 5. **Capture (Microgeneration company) Nathan Billings and recent graduate of the Combined Universities of 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.
- 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**.

For More information or an interview please contact:

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