



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

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For Immediate Release

Cornwall's micro-renewable energy sector flourishing

Cornwall's local economy is benefiting from an increase in green energy companies relocating, starting-up and growing in the county.

Micro-renewable companies providing technologies which include small wind turbines, solar panels to capture energy from the sun, and ground source heat pumps are supporting this growth.

The Cornwall Sustainable Energy Partnership (CSEP) which is supporting local renewable energy businesses estimates that the amount of micro renewable energy installed on the last nine months alone has reached an installed capacity of 1Mega Watt.

Will Wason, Renewable Energy Officer at CSEP said, **“The increased up-take in renewable energy technologies is good news for the environment but also has a very positive effect on the local knowledge economy. It opens up new opportunities for people to find employment with companies manufacturing and installing clean energy technologies and supports the renewable energy degree course at Falmouth College of Arts.”**

One company in Cornwall that has grown exponentially since its start a year ago is Plug into the Sun, Cornwall's first solar photovoltaic installation Company to achieve accreditation with the Energy Saving Trust.

“We do exactly what our name suggests! We install solar power installations for households, community groups, businesses and local authorities,” said Andy Tanner Managing Director of Plug into the Sun. **“Business has been increasing steadily over the last year and we are fully accredited with the Low Carbon Building Programme so that all our installations are eligible for a 50% Government grant. With this recent accreditation I believe 2007 will be a very prosperous new year.”**

There are 14 micro-renewable companies that currently operate from within Cornwall and this number is expected to grow.

Mike Field, Director of Natural Generation, a newly formed company based in St Agnes offering solar thermal and small scale wind installations, said:

“There has been so much interest in global warming, peak oil and environmental issues lately that more and more people are looking at the possibilities of generating their own energy using solar and wind power. This has been great for business and is great for the environment. Demand has increased beyond expectations since I set up Natural Generation.”

“Renewable energy is the way forward. I think the people of Cornwall, in particular, are receptive to these ideas because we have such a close relationship with our environment here. I’m a Cornishman and am proud to be doing something which I really believe is important for all of our futures.”

CSEP has a Local Area Agreement (LAA) target to support the growth and development of the sustainable energy sector. This is part of a larger county agreement to deliver 32 outcomes over the next three years with the aim to deliver a better quality of life for people through improving performance and linking up national and local priorities.

To help meet this target CSEP has just launched a new ‘Installer Gateway’ on their website www.csep.co.uk to help people find accredited installers working in Cornwall.

CSEP has helped with the installation of micro-renewable technologies in many community buildings including the installation of photovoltaic panels at the Centre of Pendeen, the first domestic retro-fitting of ground source heat pumps at Ludgvan with Penwith Housing Association and the proposed installation of a wind turbine at Roseland Community School.

Tim German, Director of CSEP said, **“Climate change is not all doom and gloom, things can be done, behaviour can be changed and there are economic opportunities that can be had. Cornwall has the opportunity to become a leader in alternative sources of energy and replicate the local wealth creation of the 19th century industrial revolution through environmental technologies of the 21st Century industrial revolution.’**

For more information on sustainable energy projects in Cornwall visit the CSEP website. Householders interested in finding out about micro renewable energy technologies can call the Cornwall Energy Efficiency Advice Centre in the first instance on free phone **0800 512 012**.

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Notes to editors

- Micro renewable energy refers to small scale energy generating technologies like micro-wind turbines, solar panels, ground source heat pumps, biomass boilers, micro-hydro (energy from water).
- There's a growing movement of people and organisations set up to assist people to become more sustainable which include:
 - Information on grants for renewable energy for householders and community groups via Low Carbon Building Programme www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk
 - Information on grants for energy efficiency and renewable energy for business can be found through the Carbon Trust www.carbontrust.co.uk
 - Advice about projects in Cornwall via Cornwall Sustainable Energy Partnership www.csep.org.uk
 - Information on switching your electricity supply to a renewable source: Cornwall SWITCH campaign www.cornwall-switch.org
 - Info. and training courses on sustainable building techniques: Cornwall Sustainable Building Trust www.csbt.org.uk/
- For more information on the **Cornwall Local Area Agreement 2006 – 2009** see the Cornwall Strategic Partnership website at <http://www.cornwallstrategicpartnership.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=12893>
- **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**.

For More information or an interview please contact:

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