



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

Date 10th January 2008

For Immediate Release

Cornwall Energy Partnership Greet Inevitable Nuclear Power Announcement with Scepticism

Yesterday's Nuclear Power announcement by Secretary of State John Hutton has been greeted with scepticism by the award winning Cornwall Sustainable Energy Partnership (CSEP). It is the very same minister who, in the Autumn, was recommending to Gordon Brown that the UK should renege on European Renewable Energy Targets. However, within weeks the Prime Minister was announcing that the UK will meet its target of 20% renewable energy by 2020.

The Government have announced that the new Nuclear Power Stations will not use public money in their construction running or decommissioning..

'But' says CSEP Director, Tim German 'In addition to the ongoing environmental issues associated with the development of nuclear power technology, resource extraction, waste handling and subsequent decommissioning there is the significant issues of long term finance. Recent history has taught us that the nuclear industry is consistently having to be bailed out with public money in the UK. It is our concern that any money designated to assist with the UK renewable energy target will be diverted. I am not convinced by reassurances from government ministers.'

In a detailed response to the Government's consultation on Nuclear Power the Cornwall Sustainable Energy Partnership incorporated the skills of two nuclear engineers. The Partnership told the Government that nuclear technology could not be considered as a renewable energy resource and that has since been accepted by government ministers.

There has been a long build up to this announcement.

.Tim German continues:

'We have a pragmatic approach to this announcement but there is a certain amount of inevitability. However, should successive UK Governments have acted more bravely and invest in renewables 15 years ago, as did many of their counterparts in Europe, we should not have had to go down the new nuclear route in the UK'. 'Increasing nuclear capacity will not address the foreseeable energy gap or climate change. Electricity accounts for only 16%

of the UK's CO2 emissions with the majority of gas and oil being used for heating and transportation – neither of which can be replaced by nuclear.'

- 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 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:
Sophie Acklin
CSEP Partnership Officer
Tel: 01209 614974**