



**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

Cornish Partnership Campaign for Single Energy Department being considered by Government

A Cornish energy partnership is delighted to hear that Gordon Brown is considering the possibility of having one government department to deal with energy issues within the midst of growing concern over climate change.

The Cornwall Sustainable Energy Partnership (CSEP), a consortium of 72 public and private organisations, including Cornish local authorities, health, community and business sectors, has been lobbying the government for a more joined up approach to energy to ensure smooth delivery of policies at a local level.

Currently energy comes under the remit of several Government departments that lead on different aspects of energy policy:

- The **Department of Trade and Industry** (DTI) leads on national policy for energy supply, competitiveness, innovation, business resource efficiency and emerging sectors like renewable energy.
- The **Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs** (DEFRA) leads sustainable development (reducing energy demand inc. domestic energy efficiency & fuel poverty, environmental protection (inc. climate change), wildlife/countryside, agriculture and waste.
- **Communities and Local Government** (CLG) leads national policy on regeneration, local and regional government, housing (Decent Homes), planning & building control, neighbourhood renewal, social inclusion and sustainable communities.
- The **Department of Transport** (DfT) leads on transport and biofuel policy.
- **Treasury** – funding and taxation

In 2006 CSEP was commissioned by the DTI, DEFRA, DCLG and the DfT to help government departments find ways to improve the alignment of national

policies with local delivery of climate change mitigation and sustainable energy priorities.

This work was a direct consequence of all eight local authorities within CSEP achieving Beacon Council status of Sustainable Energy in 2005-2006 and the Partnership's reputation for joined-up policy delivery.

A key issue raised by CSEP and the Beacon Councils is that the spread of sustainable energy and climate change responsibilities across several Government departments is leading to policy contradictions, duplication and confusion.

“CSEP has been lobbying the Government to bring energy and climate change policy into one department for some time,”
said Tim German, Director of CSEP. “

“Energy Sustainability & Climate Change are the biggest issues of our time and it needs to be handled in a coordinated way. Because of the cross-cutting nature of energy there will always be a need for inter-departmental coordination, at a national, regional and local level.”

In the first of a two part report for joint officials of all four government departments affected, CSEP recommended to Ministers that greater alignment and coherence could be achieved if one department had overall responsibility for leading on and coordinating sustainable energy and climate change policies.

Although pleased with any proposal to bring climate change and energy under one ministry, the Managing Director of energy charity, Community Energy Plus, Ian Smith expressed caution:

“If DEFRA takes responsibility for energy, thought needs to be given to how the department will support the UK's growing renewable energy business sector. Saving energy and reducing carbon emissions can increase competitiveness, keep more money circulating within the UK economy, and support an emerging new business sector based upon the sustainable use and supply of energy.”

Since 1997, eight ministers have had control over the energy portfolio for the government; John Battle, Helen Liddell, Peter Hain, Brian Wilson, Stephen Timms, Mike O'Brien, Malcolm Wicks, and now Alasdair Darling who covers energy as part of his wider portfolio as Secretary of State for Trade & Industry, but there has not actually been a Secretary of State for Energy.

- ENDS

Notes to editors

- For more information on the Aligning Policy report please visit the CSEP Website at <http://www.csep.co.uk/page105g.html>

- 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
- **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 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:

Jasmine Reilly

Press and Publicity Officer

Tel: 01209 614974

Mob: 07811 191696