



**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

Brown's Eco-House Programme is 15 years behind Europe

A leading UK regional energy agency, Cornwall Sustainable Energy Partnership (CSEP) has given a cautious welcome to Gordon Brown's proposals to build 100,000 houses in five eco-towns across the UK if he becomes Prime Minister. But they stress concern that it only means we are playing 'catch-up' to Europe.

The plans of the 'Prime Minister in Waiting' reiterate government policy.

However Tim German, Director of CSEP has emphasised that the UK is some 15 years behind such decision making in many other European countries.

“We are delighted that large scale zero-carbon developments are being recognised by most political parties as being an important priority. Gordon Brown's announcement at the weekend hopefully means we can now be hopeful that the UK will be taking the game of catch-up seriously.

The Government only have to look at regions in countries like Austria, Germany, Spain, Holland and Sweden to see that the UK is already far behind many regions in Europe in large scale renewable energy and sustainable building projects”

One of the crucial issues for Cornwall is its total lack of affordable housing. A recent report publicised in the media stated that not one house in Cornwall fits the Government's criteria for being affordable.

There are European examples of whole new towns and suburbs of affordable housing having been built over the past ten years. As with Mr Brown's proposal all their energy supplies are generated locally from sustainable sources, such as solar and wind power.

The towns will have new road and rail links and will include zero-carbon schools and health centres.

The Partnership will be hosting a European conference in Cornwall on the 29th June with examples of iconic projects from across Europe regions in sustainable energy.

One of the European projects to be outlined at the conference with the same criteria to use existing 'brownfield' sites and create affordable housing is the Solar City, Linz, Northern Austria. A stunning development of 1300 homes built to fulfill an urgent need for affordable housing. The new development is built as a hub around an electric tram station, all buildings (including schools, churches and public buildings are built sustainably with solar power, utilising a biomass district heating system.

'Surfbury' near Newquay in Cornwall is one of the new towns recognised to receive support, with up to 20,000 homes and modeled on the "green" developments pioneered by HRH Prince of Wales and Duke of Cornwall.

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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**.

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