

## ***Effective Sub-regional Partnership working in the UK Cornwall Sustainable Energy Partnership, UK***

### **Summary**

The Cornwall Sustainable Energy Partnership is an innovative cohesive sub-regional approach to addressing the social, environmental and economic issues of energy supply and demand. Since 2001 the partnership has brought together over 50 key organisations to develop policies and active sustainable energy programmes. It has particularly concentrated on promoting the social benefits within an integrated energy policy. Member organisations include all the Local Authorities, Health Trusts and Housing Associations, plus business organisations, community, renewable energy and energy efficiency organisations. Its work covers Cornwall in the South West Region of the UK. The Partnership has four task groups and a strategic steering group and evidences its success through programmes such as the West of Cornwall Home Health Pilot (see results section below) that delivers energy and heating measures to homes in deprived areas. Its main funding source is an allocation of government funding via the Energy Saving Trust.

<b>End-user area</b>	<b>Target Audience</b>	<b>Technical</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> New buildings	<input type="checkbox"/> Citizens	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Energy efficiency
<input type="checkbox"/> Refurbishment of buildings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Households	<input type="checkbox"/> Heating
<input type="checkbox"/> Transport and mobility	<input type="checkbox"/> Property owners	<input type="checkbox"/> Cooling
<input type="checkbox"/> Financial instruments	<input type="checkbox"/> Schools and universities	<input type="checkbox"/> Appliances
<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Decision makers	<input type="checkbox"/> Lighting
<input type="checkbox"/> Legal initiatives (municipal regulations, directives, etc)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local and regional authorities	<input type="checkbox"/> CHP
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Planning issues	<input type="checkbox"/> Transport companies	<input type="checkbox"/> District Heating
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sustainable communities	<input type="checkbox"/> Utilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Solar energy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> User behaviour	<input type="checkbox"/> ESCOs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biomass
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Architects and engineers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wind
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Financial institutions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geothermal
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other - Businesses	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydro power
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other - all renewables

### **Context**

Cornwall's peripheral location and pattern of scattered rural settlements means that many households do not have access to mains gas and so are reliant upon expensive, polluting fossil fuels such as coal, oil and electricity, to heat their homes.

Cornwall's high humidity levels add to the problem of cold, damp housing conditions. Winters are predicted to become wetter in the region as a result of Climate Change, which will increase the need to improve the ventilation, heating and energy efficiency of the county's housing stock.

Although Cornwall currently has seven wind farms feeding onto the UK National Grid, there is a recognised need to ensure that more renewable energy will have to be generated to assist with the sustainability of local communities.

Cornwall is likely to be particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. With the longest stretch of coastline of any English county, even a small increase in sea level would have profound effects and any variance in the Gulf Stream which gives the county its mild climate, would significantly change its weather patterns, possibly within the next 20 years.

- An Objective One, highly rural and peripheral sub-region, Cornwall has been considered to be a scene setter for renewable and energy efficiency projects.
- The sustainability of energy supply is a key issue in a sub-region because of an over dependence on fossil fuels and the lack of an adequate mains gas infrastructure.
- In April 2000, gross weekly earnings for full-time adult employees in Cornwall were 23% below the Great Britain average. Low incomes mean that many households cannot afford to heat their homes adequately or install energy efficiency measures themselves.
- 65% of houses in Cornwall do not have central heating, many houses lack adequate heating and there is a very high proportion of 'old' housing stock. 'Hard to heat' homes (e.g. with solid granite walls/ flat roofs/ in off-gas areas) require measures (such as cladding) that are not covered by the standard energy efficiency grants.
- At 0.48%, Cornwall has a higher incidence of Excess Winter Mortality as a percentage of the population than England and Wales (0.31%). Cold, damp homes can lead to a worsening of potentially fatal health problems such as asthma, cardio-vascular disease and pneumonia.
- The 2002 Fuel Poverty Indicator estimates that there are 45,489 households in fuel poverty in Cornwall, of which 15,717 (35%) are in the Penwith and Kerrier districts.
- Cornwall's Objective 1 area status confirms the county's socio-economic problems. In 1996, the county's Gross Domestic product per head was only 71% of the UK average. Penwith and Kerrier districts are in the top 30% of the English deprivation index.

## **Objectives**

The aims of the Cornwall Sustainable Energy Partnership are to actively integrate sustainable energy into public, private and community sector activities across the Region by:

- mainstreaming sustainable energy in existing partnerships and initiatives
- developing new partnerships and initiatives as required
- providing support to existing and new initiatives
- prioritising activities that explicitly address climate change and fuel poverty issues
- attracting funding for these activities.

## **Process**

Dec 2000 A consultation process began across the whole of Cornwall to confirm that the need for the partnership existed. In Nov 2001 the consultation process was complete. 50 organisations from the public (local authority and health), private and community sectors signed up in support of an *Action Plan for Energy Partnerships for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly – towards well-being in a sustainable energy future*. The Cornwall Sustainable Energy Partnership was launched and its Business Plan was approved by partners. A Steering Group and four Task Groups were established to take forward the Action Plan. Each of these task groups has developed and instigated programmes relevant to its sector. The Cornwall Sustainable Energy Partnership (CSEP) has set itself targets reaching to 2010 and beyond. The CSEP office, based at Community Energy Plus, has 3 full-time staff specifically dedicated to coordinating, developing and facilitating the partnership's work, working in conjunction with CEP's Community Outreach team and Cornwall Energy Efficiency Advice Centre staff.

CSEP's work focuses on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. The CSEP office provides a central link enabling the strategic and grass roots players in **all sectors** of the sub-regional partnership to work together and take a cohesive approach to delivering both the Partnership's Action Plan and their own individual programmes. The establishment of this multi-sector partnership has laid the foundation for ensuring the coordinated implementation of future programmes of sustainable energy work across the sub-region. The partnership enables us to access the maximum possible resources, to share expertise and avoid duplication of effort, thereby ensuring the most cost effective inclusive approach to delivering local, regional, national, European and international targets.

### **Financial resources and partners**

Over 316,479 EUROS (£200,000) has been contributed from government and private funding sources to set the partnership up and facilitate its work (this does not include funding for actual projects).

Cornwall Sustainable Energy Partnership is locally managed by Community Energy Plus, a registered charity and 'profit-recycling' company that also manages the Cornwall Energy Efficiency Advice Centre, a community outreach team and an environmental advice service for businesses. Cornwall Sustainable Energy Partnership develops programmes that utilise each of these teams.

The Cornwall Sustainable Energy Partnership has over 50 public, private and voluntary sector partners including: Cornwall County Council – Truro – England; The Council of the Isles of Scilly - The 6 District Councils in Cornwall – Penwith, Kerrier, Carrick, Restormel, Caradon and North Cornwall; Age Concern Cornwall; Centre for Climate Change Impact Forecasting (C-CLIF); Community Energy Plus – Camborne– England; Cornwall Energy Efficiency Advice Centre – Camborne – England; Cornwall Friends of the Earth – Falmouth – England; Cornwall Rural Housing Association – Liskeard – England; Cornwall Chamber of Commerce – Redruth – England; Devon and Cornwall Strategic Health Authority; Eden Project – St Austell – England; GeoScience Ltd. – Falmouth – England; Gaia Trust – Delabole – England; Groundwork Trust – Plymouth – England; Imerys Minerals Ltd. – St. Austell – England; Royal Cornwall Hospital NHS Trust – Truro – England; University of Exeter, Camborne School of Mines – Camborne – England.

### **Results**

The Four Task Groups have been engaged in the following activities:

#### **Business Sector Task Group**

This group is currently preparing an application for Objective One funding for an environmental management advisory service to be aimed at energy, waste, water and transport and resource efficiency in Cornwall's 19,000 Small and Medium Enterprises, which make up the majority of businesses in Cornwall. Funding has been obtained for a small team of SME energy advisers for Devon and Cornwall. A strategy for business support has been written with the help of key business partners in Cornwall, such as: Cornwall Enterprise, Objective One Business Task Force and Business Link. These, and other partners such as the Environment Agency and Global Action Plan, are part of the team writing the Objective One bid which will be submitted early 2004.

#### **Domestic Energy and Health Task Group:**

This group initiated the Home Health Scheme, a practical programme delivering energy efficiency and cleaner, more affordable heating measures to homes in deprived sub-wards of approx 600 houses across Cornwall. Multiple funding sources and partner expertise have been utilised to: 1) create all-inclusive zones in which every household is eligible for assistance regardless of tenure or means

testing; and 2) to provide additional training, advice and action on benefits eligibility, security, fire safety and crime prevention. A comprehensive referral mechanism facilitated by health professionals and community workers, has increased take up and public awareness of the measures, convincing vulnerable people who would not otherwise have participated, to take part. Project development began in April 2002, household surveys started in October 2002 and completion of two pilot zones was completed in March 2003. The success of the programme so far has confirmed the value of the sub-regional partnership approach. The surveyors reported that the community cooperation and referral system has made this the easiest area in the UK they have ever worked in; participation by GP surgeries is higher than elsewhere in the UK. The Programme is delivered in partnership with the British Gas *here to HELP* scheme.

In the UK the uniqueness of the programme is enhanced by its matching of nationally available funding to local regeneration funding. By 2006 it is expected that the financial investment into the Home Health programme will exceed 6 million euros. The programme has been working in five deprived sub-wards in West Cornwall. It is planned that from 2004 – 2006 another seven to nine sub-wards in West Cornwall and up to eight in Central and East Cornwall will benefit from the scheme.

The Domestic Energy & Health Task Group is made up of representatives from each local authority, Primary Care Trust and Housing Association.

#### **Public Sector Task Group**

This task group has been identifying and promoting good energy practice and a policy within local government, health trusts and other public sector organisations, as well as looking at ways to standardise the performance indicator targets between the organisations. It is developing a programme of training to ensure that energy policy is delivered across all departments of each public sector organisation.

#### **Renewable Energy Task Group**

This group has worked in conjunction with Cornwall County Council to produce a joint brief for a research report aimed at educating and informing planners, elected members, architects and developers on the social, environmental and economic benefits of developing renewable energy schemes in Cornwall. This 'Planning Guidance' document has been used to inform the Cornwall Structure Plan and is now in its final consultation phase. It will be used as a delivery mechanism for the **Cornwall Sustainable Energy Strategy** that is also undergoing an extensive period of consultation and development. Both the Planning Guidance, and other documents that are being used to assist with the completion of the Strategy by Spring 2004, can be accessed on the CSEP website [www.cornwallenergypartnership.org](http://www.cornwallenergypartnership.org). The research will be used to inform other sub-regional policies, strategies and plans and assist with the delivery of the SW Regional Energy Strategy, as well as individual planning decisions.

The Renewable Energy Task Group is made of public and private sector organisations. It currently has two working groups attached to it – 1) The Bio Energy Group & 2) The Education Working Group.

The Bio Energy Group commissioned a research document called *Biomass in Cornwall; an assessment of opportunities*, completed in June 2003. This can also be accessed from the CSEP website: [www.cornwallenergypartnership.org](http://www.cornwallenergypartnership.org).

The Education Working Group has been set up to progress the coordination of energy related educational activities in Cornwall. In September 2003 an application for funding for a full time energy advisor to work for three years in schools alongside the advisory team from the local education authority was lodged with one of the UK's Research Councils. Camborne School of Mines will be launching new renewable energy courses in Autumn 2003.

The CSEP office has been involved in a number of wider activities in addition to coordinating and supporting the work of the four task groups. For example:

- In October 2002 CSEP organised a consultation on the Strategic Framework for the Development of Renewable Energy in the South West on behalf of the RDA.
- CSEP are currently working in conjunction with Cornwall County Council to facilitate the production of an **Energy Strategy** for Cornwall. This will be launched in the early summer of 2004.
- CSEP has written the proposal and set targets up to 2006 for Cornwall County Council's Sustainable Energy **Public Service Agreement**. If the targets are met, this will generate substantial government funding for future sustainable energy work in Cornwall. This target has been accepted by the UK Government
- The partnership was pleased to assist one of its member organisations, Penwith Housing Association, to receive the first grant from the UK's Governments Clear Skies Scheme for the retrofitting of Ground Source Heat Pumps into social housing.
- In May 2003 the Partnership won its second UK national award for its work with disadvantaged communities
- In July 2003 the Partnership hosted an extremely successful conference: *Towards A Sustainable Energy Future for Cornwall – integrating the social, economic and environmental agendas.*
- In October 2003 the partnership is hosting a Wave Power seminar to discuss the use of the huge wave resource off the coasts of Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly
- In October 2003, the manager of the Partnership, Tim German, has been invited by the Prime Minister to visit 10 Downing Street, 'in recognition of work to protect the environment and promote sustainable development.'

**Energy saved** – CSEP has laid the strategic foundation for achieving significant energy savings across the sub-region, as well as achieving actual savings through its project and advice work.

**Energy produced by renewables** – funding applications are in progress. CSEP's policy work will facilitate the future development of renewable energy projects, speeding up the planning process.

**Economic benefits** – the Task Groups' work on improved energy efficiency in the domestic, business and public sectors will save money and stimulate the local economy.

**Environmental benefits** – One of CSEP's objectives is to stimulate the development of cleaner sources of power generation, especially those from renewable sources and combined heat and power.

**Jobs created** – 9 full-time jobs have been created to date.

**Behavioural changes achieved** – CSEP has already changed attitudes and increased interest and knowledge in the area, drawing attention in particular to the social benefits of sustainable energy. Take up of energy efficiency grants by local communities has been increased as a result of the referral and community consultation work pioneered by the partners of the Home Health scheme.

### **Lessons learned and repeatability**

Sustainable Energy has now become a standard element of the strategic, policy and practical work of many of CSEP's partner organisations. Partners are now more aware and informed regarding the

social impacts of energy supply and demand. Partners have learnt from each other and have received training organised by CSEP. Through working in partnership we have been able to access major grants that would not otherwise have been available.

There was an element of scepticism from some organisations initially, but attitudes towards sustainable energy and the partnership approach have grown more positive as a result of CSEP's activities. There was a lack of resources and staff to implement and develop the work of the partnership. In 2002, CSEP obtained funds to recruit 6 additional fixed-term staff, which has increased their capacity in this respect. Sufficient funding will need to be sourced to continue CSEP's work. Staff in partner organisations tend to have a small proportion of their time allocated to sustainable energy work which limits the time input they can make – CSEP have been working hard to keep sustainable energy on their agenda as well as providing practical support to help develop projects (e.g. information & research resource, community consultations, bid-writing).

We feel it is essential that this kind of multi-sector sub-regional partnership approach be repeated throughout Europe if sustainable energy targets are to be met in the most inclusive, efficient, cost-effective way. We would be pleased to see replication of this approach, providing CSEP is cited as the model. Having set the precedent, we can also offer a consultancy advice service for organisations interested in applying the sub-regional partnership model elsewhere.

### **Contact for more information:**

Project Web Site: <http://www.cornwallenergypartnership.org/intro.htm>  
Organisation / Agency: Cornwall Sustainable Energy Partnership  
Main contact: **Tim German**  
Address: 2 The Setons, Tolvaddon Energy Park, Camborne, Cornwall, TR14 OHX  
Tel: +44 01209 614974  
Fax: +44 1209 614838  
E-mail: [Tim@csep.co.uk](mailto:Tim@csep.co.uk) or [Tim@cep.org.uk](mailto:Tim@cep.org.uk)  
Web Site: <http://www.cornwallenergypartnership.org>

Reports or other literature available on the CSEP website:

- 1) Towards well-being in a sustainable energy future: Action plan for energy partnerships for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.
- 2) CSEP Business Plan, Nov. 2001.
- 3) Towards a Sustainable Energy Strategy (August 2003) – a report for consultation leading to the creation of the Sustainable Energy Strategy for Cornwall
- 4) Biomass in Cornwall : an assessment of opportunities report (June 2003)
- 5) The Planning Guidance draft report (July 2003)
- 6) A report from the Towards A Sustainable Energy Future Conference (July 2003)