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## Action Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow: The Energy Strategy for Cornwall *Cornwall Sustainable Energy Partnership, England, UK*

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### Summary

Cornwall is a rural peninsula in the south-west region of the UK, which is leading the way on partnership-delivery of energy initiatives. In 2004, **Cornwall Sustainable Energy Partnership (CSEP)** published the UK's first sub-regional sustainable energy strategy and action plan. The document, entitled, '**Action Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow — The Energy Strategy for Cornwall**', was developed through an open consultation process by an active multi-sector partnership. It was launched on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2004 by the UK Energy Minister at a capacity event attended by 160 strategic-level delegates. The government-funded strategy has received plaudits from energy experts, European Commissioners and MPs as being a holistic, realistic and effective approach that places energy at the heart of achieving local sustainability.

#### End-user area

- New buildings
- Refurbishment of buildings
- Transport and mobility
- Financial instruments
- Industry
- Legal initiatives (regulations, directives, etc)
- Planning issues
- Sustainable communities
- User behaviour
- Education
- Other

#### Target Audience

- Citizens
- Households
- Property owners
- Schools and universities
- Decision makers
- Local and regional authorities
- Transport companies
- Utilities
- ESCOs
- Architects and engineers
- Financial institutions
- Other

#### Technical

- Energy efficiency
- Heating
- Cooling
- Appliances
- Lighting
- CHP
- District Heating
- Solar energy
- Biomass
- Wind
- Geothermal
- Hydro power
- Other

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### Context

Cornwall is a rural sub-region in the far South West of England. The county's peripheral location, exposed coastal geography, high levels of deprivation, poor housing and limited access to mains gas makes its people particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, rising energy prices and security of supply problems. Yet Cornwall has sufficient renewable energy resources (solar, wind, marine, hydro and biomass) to supply and even exceed the county's energy demand. Currently 6% of local electricity demand is supplied by renewable energy. Since its inception in 2001, CSEP has been working to raise awareness at a strategic level and to bring different sectors together to ensure Cornwall's energy issues are addressed in a cohesive, joined-up way. *The Energy Strategy for Cornwall* marks a major milestone in the partnership's work and establishes a locally-relevant strategic framework to enable the vision of a sustainable energy future for Cornwall to be achieved.

### Objectives

The strategy's 32 point action plan aims to: Provide healthier, warmer homes for Cornwall's communities; Reinvest in the local economy; Aid economic development through support for cutting edge technologies; Reduce carbon emissions; Help deliver local, national and international renewable energy targets; Incorporate greater energy efficiency & renewable energy in buildings; Support the use of natural resources whilst minimising negative environmental impacts; Provide energy awareness and training programmes and



incorporate sustainable energy considerations in all policies and strategies. Key actions include the formation of an ESCO, implementation of domestic sustainable energy programmes, exemplar projects, model planning policies, a wave power generation test bed, training and education programmes, public and private sector renewable vehicle fleets and a single-gateway advice service for businesses.

## Process

Whilst other parts of the UK are producing renewable energy strategies, the Cornish strategy promotes a more holistic approach where energy conservation and renewable energy generation are considered as mutually inclusive. It is also the UK's first sub-regional energy strategy to include cohesive actions to address social issues (e.g. fuel poverty), economic issues (e.g. local electricity generation) and environmental issues (e.g. climate change). The key focus of the strategy is the incorporation of energy into sustainable development and in this way it pre-empted the UK Government's own sustainable development strategy, which was under national consultation at the time the strategy was launched.

### The Process

The process started in August 2003 with an initial 3-month consultation period to develop the project brief. *CAG Consultants* was appointed by competitive tender in November 2003 to produce a draft document for discussion in consultation with CSEP partners. The first draft was released for a 2-month open consultation period in January 2004 via the CSEP website, correspondence and partnership meetings. Consultees were asked to submit their responses separately (in electronic or paper format), rather than within the text of the draft strategy. In March, the CSEP office spent a week analysing and incorporating the many comments received, discussing issues raised with respondents where necessary. A second draft was released for minor comments in March and final alterations were completed in April. Key partners were then asked to sign up their agreement to work together to deliver the strategy and 32 point action plan, through their role in the Partnership. Over 70 strategic level signatures were obtained before the strategy was launched by the Energy Minister at a celebratory event on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2004. The consultation process generated over 100 responses from a wide range of organisations, businesses and individuals, demonstrating an impressive level of interest and support for the Partnership's work.

The strategy is a living document that is monitored on a quarterly basis by the CSEP Steering Group and Task Groups. Regular updates on progress are posted to the CSEP website. It will be reviewed and revised as necessary by the whole partnership every two years.

### End Users

The main end users targeted are the CSEP partners involved in delivery of the 32 point action plan. They include strategic level decision-makers, elected members, managers and officers in the public, business, education, transport, energy and health sectors. CSEP is now seeking a small amount of funding to produce a children's' version of the strategy in partnership with local education providers.

## Financial resources and partners

The development, design, printing and launch of the strategy cost a total of 32,153 Euros (£22,500). Funding for the development and production of the strategy came from:

- Cornwall County Council and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) as part of a funding allocation awarded through an Energy Deprivation Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA), which was prepared by the CSEP office.
- The Energy Saving Trust, through its part-funding of the consultation process and the Local Authority Support Programme.

In addition CSEP partners (particularly Community Energy Plus) contributed substantial in-kind support in the form of staff time.

*The 72 signatory partner organisations include:* Cornwall County Council, Caradon District Council, Carrick District Council, Kerrier District Council, North Cornwall District Council, Penwith District Council, Restormel Borough Council, Community Energy Plus, Cornwall Enterprise, Cornwall Chamber of Commerce and Industry,



## Case Study 192: Cornwall Sustainable Energy Partnership, UK

Cornwall Agricultural Council, CPR Regeneration, Cornwall Partnership NHS Trust, Royal Cornwall Hospital Trust, Housing Associations, Cornwall Rural Community Council, Voluntary Sector Forum, Age Concern, Combined Universities in Cornwall, English Nature, Eden Project, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, Friends of the Earth, South West Regional Development Agency, Regen SW, Government Office of the South West, Geoscience, Solar Flair Renewable Energy Ltd., Wind Electric Management Ltd., Kensa Engineering Ltd., Western Hydro Ltd., Compact Power Ltd., Cornwall Sustainable Building Trust, C.A.D. Architects, and CoaST sustainable tourism project.

The CSEP office sourced funding, managed the project and facilitated the consultation process.

## Results

Since the strategy was launched in July 2004, progress has already been made on many of the actions. For progress updates please refer to the individual Task Group and the Steering Group pages on the CSEP website: [www.csep.co.uk](http://www.csep.co.uk)

The strategy commits the partnership to doubling Cornwall's current renewable electricity generating capacity to achieve a sub-regional target of at least 93 –108 MW by 2010 (this is derived from the South West region's target of 11-15% by 2010). It also commits the partners to rolling out CSEP's domestic energy efficiency programmes across the whole of Cornwall by 2010.

In November 2004, Cornwall's seven county and district/borough councils jointly won the *SW Green Energy Award for Most Proactive Local Authority* in recognition of their outstanding partnership working on the Energy Strategy for Cornwall.

As a result of CSEP's work in Cornwall, sustainable energy has now become a standard element of the strategic, policy and practical work of many partner organisations. Partners are now more aware and informed regarding the social, environmental and economic impacts of energy supply and demand. They have learnt from each other and have received training organised by CSEP. Through working in partnership they have also been able to access major grants that would not otherwise have been forthcoming.

## Lessons learned and repeatability

Factors for success: Coordinating multi-sector consultation exercises and projects where several partners are responsible for delivering key milestones requires inspiring leadership, careful planning, flexibility, openness and good communication networks. CSEP believes partnership working is the best way to ensure sustainable energy targets are met in the most inclusive, informed and holistic way.

Benefits: The consultation process helped to *raise awareness* of sustainable energy issues amongst a diverse range of organisations, helping them to understand the role they have to play, establishing a dialogue between partners and enabling collective knowledge and expertise to be shared. Partners were given an opportunity to communicate their concerns and ideas, helping to avoid potential conflicts of interest and duplication of effort at the delivery stage. Involving partners in the strategy development has also given them a *sense of ownership* that encourages participation in its delivery.

Problems: With so many public and private sector organisations and issues to consider, it was inevitable that agreement could not be reached on every issue, which means that the end product is sometimes a compromise. This is widely accepted as a consequence of partnership-working and helped to secure greater sign up to delivery of the strategy, even by partners with differing views. Developing strategies in partnership takes longer and involves more processes than a top-down only approach. The timescale, budget and staffing for such initiatives needs to take this into account.

### Replication:

CSEP has already received numerous requests from energy agencies and local authorities in the UK interested in replicating this approach. The CSEP Steering Group has signed a memorandum of understanding between the London & Cornwall energy partnerships to share information and work together. A similar arrangement is being considered between CSEP and the Orkney Renewable Energy Forum and ISLEnet (European Islands Network on Energy and Environment). Together this forms a triumvirate of energy partnerships working



## Case Study 192: Cornwall Sustainable Energy Partnership, UK

together on common issues and goals. Other parts of the UK are using CSEP as a template for partnership working, from Devon in the south of England to Fife in Scotland.

**Contact for more information:**

## Project Websites:

Strategy download: [www.csep.co.uk/page39g.html](http://www.csep.co.uk/page39g.html)

Press release: [www.csep.co.uk/downloads/040726\\_press\\_release\\_\(post\\_launch\)\\_no\\_logos.doc](http://www.csep.co.uk/downloads/040726_press_release_(post_launch)_no_logos.doc)

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## Printed reports or other literature available:

Title: 'Action Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow – The Energy Strategy for Cornwall' (CSEP, 2004)

Cost: Free download available from the CSEP website.