

St Breock Community Fund; Energy efficiency of rental properties; Smart Metering Forum; and more...

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Newsletter of the Wadebridge Renewable Energy Network

December 2017

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Happy Christmas  
and a successful  
new year to all

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St Breock Community Fund

There is still time to apply for grants from the St Breock Windfarm Community Fund, with over £54,000 available. The fund opened for applications on 1st December, but doesn't close until 16th February 2018.

The Fund is for not-for profit organisations in the parishes of St. Breock, St Wenn, Withiel, Egloshayle, St Issey, and St Columb Town and Wadebridge Town. Parishes and Town Councils can, if they wish, pool their funds to develop joint projects.

If you applied for the fund last year you may apply again now, regardless of whether or not you were successful last time.

Projects with “environmental, socio-economic and educational purposes” are eligible to receive funds. Precedence will be given to, but not restricted to, priority projects - those concerned with either energy conservation, the installation of renewable energy generation, or renewable energy related education initiatives.

There is no maximum or minimum size of grants for the funding round. Having said that the Committees are keen for the funding to be spread out among as many groups as possible.

If you are not involved in a community project your self, but know of one that could use some financial help, tell them to get in touch.

For an application form and further details:

- click <http://www.wren.uk.com/community/apply-for-funds> to go to WREN website
- email [communityfunds@wren.uk.com](mailto:communityfunds@wren.uk.com), or
- phone 01208 622123.

Completed forms must be received by 5pm on Friday 16th February 2018. Decisions on grants will be made during March 2018 and the money released soon afterwards.

## Energy efficiency of rental properties

It will be a legal requirement for any new private rental tenancies starting after 1st April 2018 to have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of E or above. This law will also come into effect to all private rental agreements from 1st April 2020. In Cornwall there are an estimated 30,477 homes that have an EPC rating of less than E.

Cornwall Council will be launching the ECO2 programme next year that will provide energy efficiency grants for anyone who spends more than 10% of their disposable income on fuel bills, are on a low income, or are vulnerable to the cold.

Currently the Council is running the Winter Wellbeing programme - a free resource of advice and access to heating and insulation grants. If you spend more money than you think you should on heating your home please contact the Winter Wellbeing team on 0800 954 1956 to find out how they can help you this winter.

# Smart Metering Forum - Sunshine Tariff

WREN director Kevin Smith was a speaker at the Smart Metering Forum, held in London 27-28 November. Kevin presented the Sunshine Tariff as a case study, focussing on consumer response to the tariff and outlining the lessons learned and implications for future tariffs.

The forum itself was billed as addressing the nationwide roll-out of smart meters and the potential for the programme to transform the energy system. It addressed a variety of mainly technical issues ("combining smart meters with blockchain to facilitate peer-to-peer energy trading", anyone?) so it was very pleasing that WREN had a contribution to make and that the Sunshine Tariff trial is still making waves in the industry.

The conference producer wrote to Kevin afterwards: "The Sunshine Tariff is a really interesting case study and I thought its parallels to the large scale difficulties of the smart meter roll-out were quite profound."

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## Cornwall New Energy Research

WREN has commissioned Cornwall New Energy to carry out research to identify the most useful and appropriate projects for us to develop. We should have the research findings by April and will then evaluate them. We'll let you how things are going when we know more.

Cornwall New Energy provides carbon and energy-related consultancy and other support to small and medium sized enterprises in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, including community groups, such as WREN. It is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund and therefore eligible businesses receive their support free-of-charge.

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## Cornwall Sustainability Awards

The Cornwall Sustainability Awards were announced on the 1st December at a ceremony at the Headland Hotel, Newquay.

The most local winner to us was **Camel Valley Vineyards** in the Best Managed Small Business category. We should also point out the Best Managed Micro Business,

a category won by **Keep Cornwall Fed**, who provided the catering at our Sunshine Tariff Wrap-up event in February and give a free meal to someone who needs it for every meal they sell at events like ours.

Click [here](#) for a full list of the winners and highly commended, and other information.

# Electric Vehicles

We were very pleased to hear from Peter Brown of Yealm Community Energy who wrote in response to our piece on electric vehicles. He is a Nissan Leaf owner and bemoaned the lack of charging points in Wadebridge on a recent visit (WREN has taken a look at this, but it is proving problematical). He is trying to get a double charge point installed in his village.

He said: "If you have an EV it is essential to have at least 1 app and the cards to go with it for payment. We are at the 1909 petrol stage of evolution with EVs as you allude to in your blog.

But there can still be problems. I went to Bristol the other week and planned my coffee and charge stop at Bridgewater when I calculated I would still have a some charge left. However on arriving at Bridgewater Services I found that the solitary charge point was not working, and was forced to try to get to the next services 13 miles further on. The battery died as I came in on the slip road, and I had to be “recovered” for the 200yd journey to the multiple charge points at Sedgemore. Very tedious until the infrastructure is properly in place.

I think this will happen much quicker than you think. It is worth watching Tony Seeba’s brilliant talk on electrical disruption see - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2b3ttqYDwF0> "

*(Editor's note: I thought I'd better take a look at this before including the link. I saw it was just over an hour long and thought maybe five minutes would give me the flavour. An hour later... **Definitely** worth watching.)*

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# New Board Members

We are pleased to welcome two new board members. Eric Gill (left) is also a Wadebridge Town Councillor and was elected at the AGM. Rick Johnson (right), a

long-time volunteer who spent many an hour in the Energy Shop, was co-opted at the first board meeting following the AGM.



We'd also like to thank the board members who stepped down at the AGM for all they have done for WREN over the last several years: Richard Alexander, Bill Box, Peter McGregor, Caroline New and John Catchpole.

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## M&S Energy Fund

The Marks & Spencer Energy Fund 2017 has now closed. There were over 130,000 votes in total and the winners can be found on [this link](#). The fund will be back again in 2018 and they will be looking for more amazing projects to support across the UK. If a project you know of would like to register for the fund for 2018 they can pre-register [here](#)

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