

Community Funds; New Opportunities in WREN; Reducing Plastic Waste; Media Watch

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Newsletter of the Wadebridge Renewable Energy Network

December 2018

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Best wishes to all our readers for Christmas and the New Year

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Community Funds

WREN has two funds running at the moment. We usually try to avoid having two at once, but we needed to fit in the new WREN fund before the end of the year.

NEW £9,000 WREN Community Benefit Fund

WREN has launched an exciting, new £9,000 community benefit fund to support environmental and sustainability projects, or projects that aim to inform and educate on environmental and sustainability issues. This gives a wide scope, including energy, water, soil, river and ocean, biodiversity, pollution, transport, climate change, food, recycling, the natural environment, wildlife, and more.

The fund is for not-for-profit organisations and groups operating in the Padstow and Wadebridge Community Network area. This area comprises the county electoral divisions of Padstow, St Issey & St Tudy, Wadebridge West, Wadebridge

East, and St Minver & St Endellion, and is larger than the areas typically covered by wind and solar farm community funds. The money has been donated by Clean Earth Energy Ltd, a Wadebridge-based renewable energy company.

The closing date is 18th January 2019, so get your skates on with that application.

The St Breock Community Fund

opened for the fourth time on 1st December and this year there is again over £50,000 to distribute to projects and voluntary groups in Wadebridge, Egloshayle, St Breock, Withiel, St Wenn, St Issey and St Columb.

For application forms and further details for both funds:

Email: communityfunds@wren.uk.com

download: [click here](#)

phone: 01208 622123

write to: WREN, c/o Alexander and Co., Negys Gorthybow, Schooners Business Park, Bess Park Road, Wadebridge, Cornwall PL27 6HB

Please make sure you pick the right form for the fund you want to apply to.

The Treworder Community Fund

allocated over £9,400 to a range of applicants including Camel Community Supported Agriculture who received £2000 towards the costs of their move to Treraven Farm, Wadebridge Carnival (£1000 towards the costs of the £2018 Carnival) and Wadebridge School (£650 for construction of a Remembrance Peace Garden).

Click [here](#) for full list on our website

New Opportunities in WREN

WREN is beginning (again) to explore new projects, as discussed by Technical Director Chris Coonick at the AGM in September. We have since the start of WREN had an objective of alleviating fuel poverty, and we are now developing a new programme to help people living in fuel poverty.

We are also in the early stages of investigating domestic peer-to-peer electricity trading, in which people with solar panels (or wind turbines) can sell any surplus generation directly to other people, rather than feeding it back into the grid. As feed in tariffs and export tariffs disappear, this could provide another economic reason for investing in solar panels. It could also

provide a cheaper source of electricity than the usual suppliers for those who need it.

If these projects interest and excite you, and you'd like to help, please get in touch. We are looking for new people to get involved. Email us at:

energy@wren.uk.com

Reducing Plastic Waste

At the WREN AGM on 25th September 2018, Emily Pollitt gave a presentation on plastics and plastic waste, highlighting the issues of plastic waste (as also publicised in the BBC's "Blue Planet 2"), discussing the advantages of plastic as a material and thus the complexities of reducing plastic usage and waste. Some of the benefits of plastic - persistence, strength, longevity, flexibility and low cost - are also its disadvantages when the plastic has been used and is disposed of. How is low cost a disadvantage? It's cheaper to make new plastic from oil than to recycle old plastic into new, reducing the incentive to recycle.

[Here is Emily's presentation.](#)

Media Watch

Warming gas concentrations at new record high

The three greenhouse gases most responsible for climate change (CO₂, methane, and nitrous oxide) are all rising upwards unabated. (BBC, November 2018)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-46289829>

However, there are things that can and are being done to change this, such as:

Groundbreaking court ruling opens door to lower prices and cleaner energy for customers

Tempus Energy, one of WREN's partners in the pioneering Sunshine Tariff trial, has won a court case against HM Government, challenging the fossil fuel bias in the UK electricity market caused by the design of the capacity market. (Tempus press release, November 2018)

<https://blog.tempusenergy.com/blog/2018/11/15/tempus-landmark-ejc-court-ruling-press-release>

California's big utilities to reach 50% renewable energy in 2020

Three large private utilities are expecting to meet the state's ambitious 50% target 10 years early, with contract prices for utility-scale solar projects falling to below

\$30/megawatt-hour. (PV Magazine, November 2018)

<https://pv-magazine-usa.com/2017/11/14/californias-big-utilities-to-reach-50-renewable-energy-in-2020/>

And this:

Solar, wind cheapest source of new generation in major economies

In a study which has examined the cost competitiveness of nearly 7,000 projects and 20 technologies in 46 countries, BloombergNEF finds that solar and/or wind are the cheapest source of new energy generation in all major economies, apart from Japan. (PV Magazine, November 2018)

<https://www.pv-magazine.com/2018/11/19/solar-wind-cheapest-source-of-new-generation-in-major-economies-report/>

This will help as well, if we actually do it:

Tree planting

Tree planting must double by 2020 as part of radical changes to land use in the UK, according to the government's advisers, the Committee on Climate Change. Protecting and restoring peatland, a huge store of carbon, is also vital. (The Guardian, November 2018)

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/nov/15/tree-planting-double-uk-climate-change>

And this will help not only reduce CO₂, but also improve health and quality of life for people:

UK Housing stock

Domestic housing accounts for about a fifth of the UK's carbon emissions, a figure that hasn't changed much despite insulation schemes including the "Green Deal". New homes will only make up 20% of the country's housing stock by 2050, so even if they were being built to the highest energy efficiency standards, there is still a pressing need to retrofit old homes. (The Guardian, October 2018)

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/oct/11/uks-housing-stock-needs-massive-retrofit-to-meet-climate-targets>

Wood burning stoves

People have turned to wood burning stoves as an alternative to fossil fuels gas and oil for heating their homes, and for the aesthetics. Nothing like a warm log fire, is there? But watch out that you don't have an inefficient stove or use wood that hasn't been kiln dried. The particulates emitted contribute hugely to air pollution. (The Guardian, October 2018)

What would you like to see in this Newsletter?

We cover a range of things, including the community funds, other WREN doings and links to relevant stories in the media. But are we missing something? Are we putting too much emphasis on something? Let us know by email: energy@wren.uk.com

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