



Newsletter of the Wadebridge Renewable Energy Network

April 2020

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Energy Equality Project



Unprecedented times force us into alternative solutions. We were planning an Energy Equality project community launch event at Wadebridge Town Hall on 16th April - you might have seen this on Facebook. It will come as no surprise that, due to the very necessary Covid-19 measures, we will not be in the Town Hall.

HOWEVER, we will still be running a launch event:

on-line through video-conferencing, still on 16th April. And we STILL NEED YOU to take part in our feasibility study, from the safety of your homes.

We will have a presentation with guest speakers from University College London, Naked Solar, ZLC and more, a WREN panel, and questions and answers. You will hear how you could save money by simply buying locally generated renewable electricity through a new peer-to-peer trading platform, at the same time cutting carbon emissions and reducing reliance on fossil fuels. If you already produce electricity through solar PV panels, or are thinking about having panels installed, you will learn how the electricity you do not use could be sold to your local community, providing a potential additional revenue opportunity.

We'll be in touch later, firming up on details, and you can also like our [Facebook page](#) for even more frequent updates.

Very importantly, fill in our questionnaire (see below) and include your email address to ensure that you receive an invitation to the video-conference.

How can you be involved?

There are four ways in which people, businesses and community groups can be involved in the Energy Equality Project feasibility study.

1. You don't have solar panels, but want to participate in Energy Equality to get cheaper, local electricity.
2. You own, or are looking to own, solar panels and want to sell your surplus energy to your neighbours for a better price, or to give them a better deal, or both.
3. You have a rooftop which might be suitable for solar panels and would be happy for WREN to install panels to generate electricity for peer-to-peer trading.
4. You would like to invest in the new solar panel installations that WREN will create in (3).

You could be an individual or a business or a community organisation for items 1-3, but 4 applies to individuals only.

Before the Covid-19 lockdown, we had already gained the agreement of a number of groups for their rooftops to be included in the feasibility study. Wadebridge Town Council offered their three buildings - the Town Hall, the Pavilion and the groundsmen's hut. St Issey Village Institute, Wadebridge Bowling Club, Guides, Scouts, Goods Shed and John Betjeman Centre have all said they would like to be involved.

Questionnaire

As a first step, you can show your interest by completing [this questionnaire](#) on Survey Monkey. It shouldn't take more than a couple of minutes. We will then be able to follow up with you by phone or email to explore your interest more fully and explain more about the project.

Since we can't talk face to face, or meet in the town hall, this is one of the ways we have of engaging with you to hear your ideas and questions. Plus, by completing the questionnaire and giving your email address, we can send you an invitation to the video-conference.

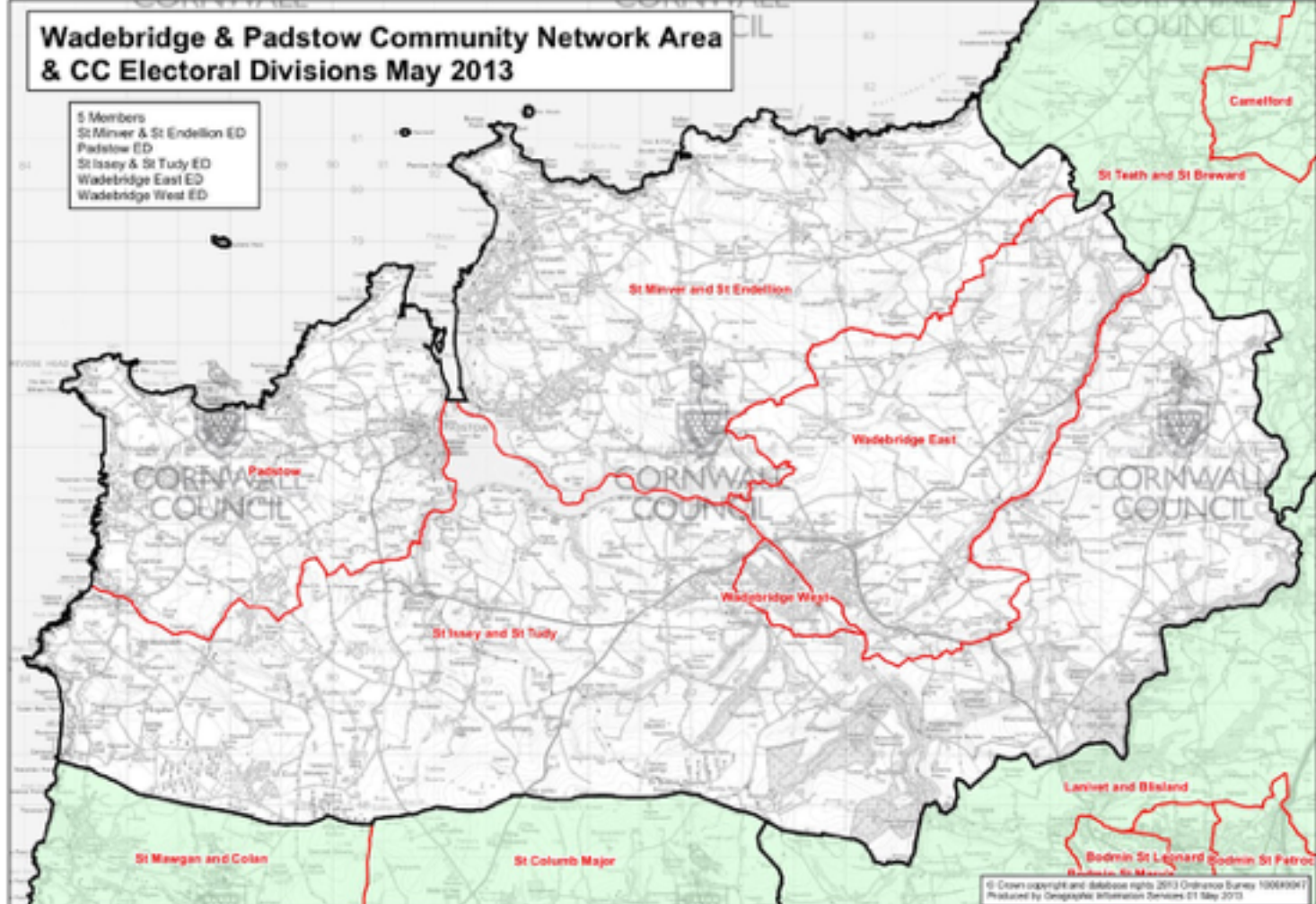
Forward this newsletter

It would help us greatly if you could forward this email to friends and family, so that they can be involved and complete the survey as well. You don't have to be a WREN member to benefit. You don't have to have solar panels to benefit. In fact, that's the whole point of Energy Equality - to spread the benefits of local solar panel ownership to those who don't or can't have their own panels.

Geography

We are the Wadebridge Renewable Energy Network, and the name perhaps gives the impression that we are only interested narrowly in Wadebridge. However, the work we do distributing renewable energy community funds stretches from St Kew to St Columb via St Wenn, and our solar farm is next to Nanstallon sewage plant, so we have always been more widely involved. Our remit is, roughly, the Wadebridge and Padstow Community Network Area as defined by Cornwall Council (see diagram).

This applies to the Energy Equality project as well. You don't have to live in Wadebridge to benefit. Whether you live in Porthcothan or Port Isaac, St Eval or St Tudy, or anywhere in between, we would love to hear from you.



[Click for larger image.](#)

Introducing Simon Miller

WREN is pleased to welcome Simon Miller onto the team as the Community Engagement Officer for the Energy Equality Project. Simon lives locally and is Cornish born and bred. In his first few weeks, he and Tony Faragher (WREN Chair) gave a talk to Wadebridge Rotary about Energy Equality and a good few Rotary members expressed an interest. He also tried out the new energy trading game, 'Watts the Deal?' with a couple of groups, before the C-19 lockdown came - see article below.



Simon was very disappointed that the launch event had to be cancelled, because he was really looking forward to meeting local residents and businesses from the Wadebridge area in person. He said, "It's a win-win. Environmental, financial and energy sustainability all wrapped up in a peer-to-peer trading platform that benefits our local community." You can contact him at simon.miller@wren.uk.com.



Watts the Deal? is a board game developed by University College London (UCL) to demonstrate the principles of peer-to-peer energy trading. Players have solar panels and a storage battery and have to balance their electricity usage with their electricity production. If they produce excess electricity, they can store it to use themselves later on, or sell it. If they sell to the electricity supply company, they get 5p per unit. If they can sell it to a neighbour (another player) they get 10p per unit from that player. So there is a clear advantage to helping out your neighbour. If you need more electricity than you produce or have stored, you can buy it from a neighbour for 10p, or from your supplier for 15p.

This simplifies the economics, of course, but it still gives a real insight into the issues and how a peer-to-peer trading platform might work in real life.

Board members Tony, Chris and Kevin played an early version of the game with matchsticks and playing cards and fed back comments to UCL. Simon joined in for an updated version of the game a little while later, and then took it on the road, first to the Wadebridge Board Games club meeting at Vittorio's and then, along with UCL's Charlotte Johnson, to Wadebridge School's Climate Change Group. Read more about that visit [here](#).

Every time we have played it, the resulting discussions demonstrated the value of the game.

Watts the Deal? would have featured in our launch event and we guarantee it would have been a lot of fun. We won't be able to play it in our on-line event, but click here for the [Watts the Deal? website](#), where you can download an easy-to-print DIY version to play right now.

That's it for now. We'll be back with more news about Energy Equality, and other WREN activities, soon. In the meantime, whether at home or working, keep your distance, keep safe, keep well.

And don't forget to do the [questionnaire](#).

