



Newsletter of the Wadebridge Renewable Energy Network

July 2020

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Energy Equality Project



The feasibility study into suitable rooftops for solar panels has now been done by the consultants, BRE. They examined a wide range of rooftops, including the Wadebridge bowling club, scout and guide huts, town hall and St Issey Village Institute. Not all turned out to be suitable for solar at this time, but enough were suitable and the project is now considering various combinations that could make good investments.

Our survey elicited 148 responses, of which 112 provided email addresses to participate in the modelling phase for peer-to-peer trading. We have just received confirmation of some funding for this element and so will be going ahead with another, more detailed, survey with those 112 people.

WREN recruited an intern, Riva Tufnail, funded by the University of Exeter, to look at different ways that we might operate peer-to-peer, and the technical and regulatory constraints. Riva has just completed her six week assignment and we are digesting her report.

£12,000 Treworder Fund Opens

Over £12,000 is available to fund community projects that will benefit people living in Wadebridge, St Kew, St Mabyn and Egloshayle. This money comes from the Middle Treworder Solar Farm near Wadebridge.

To be eligible for funds you need to be a community group or voluntary organisation or a not for profit organisation. The closing date for applications is 11th September. Results will be announced by the end of September and grants paid soon afterwards.

The decisions about who will get the grants are made by a committee which includes representatives from Wadebridge Town Council, the Parish Councils of St Kew, St Mabyn and Egloshayle, the owner of the land on which the solar farm is built, and WREN who administer the fund.

The Committee wishes to make grants for projects that will benefit children or young people, people in fuel poverty or at risk of being so, low carbon initiatives, and climate change mitigation or adaptation.

You can get application forms and further details

- by email from communityfunds@wren.uk.com
- by downloading from our website: www.wren.uk.com/community/apply-for-funds
- by phoning 01208 622123

WREN People

Riva Tufnail



I have recently completed my undergraduate degree in renewable energy engineering with the University of Exeter and have been gaining experience in the field before completing my Masters degree. At WREN I have been doing research into regulation barriers and technological requirements for the peer to peer energy trading scheme as a part of the energy equality initiative. I have managed to identify barriers and solutions that will enable WREN to move forward with the peer to peer project, along with the required technology to make it a reality. The aim is to enable localised sharing of energy produced within the community via an easy to use platform, which will enable localised emission reduction and bring revenue to the community.

This project first came of interest to me during writing my undergraduate dissertation, and I am very happy to have been able to follow this up with working on a real project. This internship has opened my eyes to the realities of this model and the distribution of energy, while continuing to ignite my passion for community energy.

New Director Simon Miller

Simon Miller, who was recruited as the community engagement officer for the Energy Equality Project, has been co-opted onto the Board of WREN. Simon's enthusiasm for renewable energy became very apparent during his assignment and the Board was glad to bring him in for the longer term.

Simon said: "I'm delighted to be invited onto the board of directors. The past few months of lockdown have heightened my resolve to become more environmentally mindful. Through WREN, my hopes are to help our community take a greater interest in energy use, understand where it comes from and take steps towards a green renewable energy future! It will come as no surprise to anyone who knows me that I am also very keen to promote greater take up of cycling as a means of transport, reducing pollution, improving health and fitness and most importantly, having fun!"

Green Homes Grant

Homeowners will be able to apply for up to £5,000 of vouchers for energy-efficient home improvements from September 2020 thanks to the Government's recently announced plans for Green Home Grants.

Double glazing, insulation, boilers, energy-efficient doors and energy-saving light bulbs are expected to be among the home improvements eligible for financial support. The vouchers should cover at least two-thirds of the cost of an eligible energy-saving home improvement, up to £5,000. Lower-income households wouldn't pay anything and could get vouchers of up to £10,000.

Details of exactly who will be eligible for the grant, and what constitutes a 'lower-income household' have not yet been announced. To get a government voucher, you'll need to complete an online application for a recommended home improvement, get a quote from a listed supplier and have the quote approved. The scheme is set to launch in September 2020. We'll provide more information as and when further information is released.

In The News

Carbon Copy Webinar

On 15th July Chris Coonick, Technical Director at WREN, spoke at Carbon Copy's 'Shining a Light: The Power of Communities' webinar. Carbon Copy is a hub that connects local communities, councils and companies who share the goal of a carbon zero future. They are a non-political, non-profit organisation, with an aim to help more people in taking local climate action and collectively in building something better.

Chris spoke on the subject of Community empowerment from the perspective of our market towns, describing the achievements of WREN and recalling the type and scale of community engagement WREN has completed over the years, from the Energy Shop to the Wadebridge Energy Futures Exhibition to the Sunshine Tariff. Chris was joined by a panel of community energy experts, including Emma Bridge, Chief Executive of Community Energy England and Agamemnon Otero MBE, Founding Director of Repowering London. A recording of the webinar can be accessed [here](#).

Environmental impact of Covid-19 on Cornwall Council

Cornwall Council has since March reduced its printing by about 90% - equivalent to 1.8 million sheets of paper a month, or about 100 trees. Its home-working arrangements have reduced commuter journeys on Cornwall's roads by 42,000 miles per day. [\[Cornwall Reports, 1st July 2020.\]](#) Let's hope that some of that can be sustained as restrictions are eased.

While we're on Cornwall Council, here is a link to their [Carbon Neutral web page](#). Find out how you can help Cornwall become carbon neutral.

Coal-free record

Britain goes without coal for electricity generation for a record 18 days. [\[The Guardian, 28 April.\]](#) That run extended to 54 days [\[The Guardian, 2 June.\]](#) It came to an end after 67 days, but only because Drax power station brought one of its coal units online for maintenance. [\[The Independent, 17th June.\]](#)

At the time of writing, coal is still contributing nothing. Check here for up to date information. <https://gridwatch.co.uk>

Post-Covid economic stimulus

Following on from the Green Homes Grant item above, other countries are also stimulating the green economy. Here, for instance, is Italy: 'Italians Can Now Install Rooftop Solar PV Systems For Free'. [\[Clean Technica, 23 May\]](#)

Stop Press

Electric Vehicle Charging

Charge My Street is a community benefit society that aims to put EV charging points where people without on-site parking can charge their EVs. WREN is looking to work with Charge My Street to address the significant problem of: "An electric car sounds good, but I don't have anywhere to park and charge it." Where would you like to see EV charging points in Wadebridge? Reply to this email with your ideas.

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