



## Newsletter of the Wadebridge Renewable Energy Network

**September 2020**

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## Annual General Meeting

The WREN Annual General Meeting will be held via Zoom at 7pm on Tuesday 29th September 2020. The formal 'Notice of Meeting' together with the sign-in details were emailed to members on Tuesday 15th September. Further information can be found on our website, [here](#).

As well as the necessary formal agenda items, the meeting will have two presentations:

- The Energy Equality project by Technical Director Chris Coonick
- Personal experience of electric vehicles and other renewable technology by Treasurer & Communications Director Kevin Smith.

The AGM is your opportunity to have a say about what WREN does. All members are encouraged to attend.

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# Energy Equality Project



The feasibility study identified a range of suitable rooftops for solar panels, as mentioned in the July Newsletter, and the Board decided to adopt the ‘low risk’ portfolio totalling around 200kW of electricity generation. Sadly, network connection costs made a 625kW ground-mounted solar farm financially unworkable. Work is proceeding on modelling the requirements to make peer-to-peer trading viable.

It will help the modelling enormously to have more responses to our second survey, where the most important question is about your actual electricity usage. If you want to be part of the solution to the climate emergency, or to address fuel poverty, Energy Equality is the local project to do it. Not as flashy or immediate as buying an electric car, perhaps, but important in the long run. Click [here](#) to participate. (Did I mention that completed surveys will be entered into a £50 draw? One lucky responder will win £50.)

We also had a write-up in the funder’s website, [here](#).

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## Housing Planning for a Climate Emergency

In August, Cornwall Council launched a consultation on its Climate Emergency Development Plan Document (DPD). This 65 page document addresses how Cornwall Council should change its policy for planning, to contribute to its goal of carbon neutrality by 2030.

WREN identified a number of issues with the DPD, where we thought improvements could and should be made, and wrote a response, which we submitted today (25th September).

We also made contact with other community energy groups and individuals across Cornwall to discuss our and their responses to the DPD. This led to general enhancement of all the responses. We hope to continue this engagement in future on all-Cornwall community energy issues.

For full story, click [here](#).

## WREN People

### New Director - Ian Welch

The Board has co-opted Ian Welch as a director. Ian came to Wadebridge in 2014. He is keen to explore community energy and neutralising our environmental impact, and he is excited by the prospect of Wadebridge people benefiting from a local economy built around "energy equality". He is a power engineer, an IET Fellow and Chartered Engineer, having led Innovation at National Grid, and he became a Wadebridge Town Councillor in 2018.

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## Local Electricity Bill

*-- 'Bill' in this case meaning proposed legislation, not what you get every quarter from your electricity supplier. (Just thought I'd better clarify.)*

The Bill was introduced in Parliament in June 2020, with its 2nd reading now scheduled for 29th January 2021, to enable small local electricity generators to become local electricity suppliers.

Here is a write-up on the [Good Energy blog](#), and here is the website of the campaigning group [Power for People](#).

WREN signed up as a supporter of the campaign, since it promotes community energy and could have a beneficial impact on our Energy Equality project.

## In The News

### National Grid Prediction

UK electricity grid's carbon emissions could turn negative by 2033, says National Grid. Click [here](#) for full story.

### Electric Vehicles

John Lewis and Waitrose to ramp up electric vans to serve online delivery surge. Plus, further progress in the rollout of EV charging infrastructure announced by electricity distribution network operator Western Power Distribution (WPD). Click [here](#) to read more at Business Green

And here’s some more on EVs and what Good Energy is doing to support them. Click [here](#) to find out more

## Solar Power on BBC Sounds

And finally, here’s a great programme on solar from the BBC World Service. Click [here](#) to listen.

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