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# On the Road to Net Zero

Energy Clinics

EV News New Directors

• £65,000 St Breock Fund Opens

NZCom Project

Net Zero Heroes

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- particularly solar PV, is that it isn't always generated when people most want to use it. This is true. But there are a number of responses. One is that a lot of it is nevertheless produced when people want it, and that is worth having. Another is

that people (and businesses) can shift the time at which they want to use it by

changing their habits and processes. Indeed, some firms make a living by turning

off the air conditioning in hotels, conference venues and the like and selling that

reduction in demand to the electricity distributors instead of firing up another gas

One of the issues that people continually raise about renewable energy,

## plant. A third is to use storage systems to hold the electricity until it is needed. A fourth is to reduce demand overall, a requirement that is something you can, and

Let's go back to storage systems. The BBC News website had a story very recently headlined "Europe's biggest battery storage system switched on" at Cottingham in Yorkshire. The site uses Tesla technology and has capacity to store 196MWh, enough to power 300,000 homes for two hours. I found the story on Twitter, and so not unnaturally there were a lot of people finding objections. It's the wrong sort of battery, you should be using flow batteries. Batteries are only any good for storing electricity over a few hours, they're useless when you want summer energy to be stored until winter. 300,000 homes for two hours isn't much; you'd need 200 sites to cover the whole country. And so on. And also, it being Twitter, there were as many people knocking down these

the demand peak from 5pm to 7pm each day, without firing up a gas plant. 200 such sites? - why is that impossible? A common thread from objectors is that renewables don't instantly replace 100% of what we have now and that therefore it is not worth doing any of it. This

Not everything has to be instantly 100% coverage to be useful. Every time you don't have to turn on a gas plant to generate electricity is a win for the climate. What's different now from the early 1900s, and why we are pushing the change to Net Zero, is that the climate has given us a deadline.

Therefore we have started up the clinics to help people with their energy costs right now. It's a drop-in clinic, no appointments necessary. Just call in to the JBC between 10am and 1pm and we will endeavour to help you. We might not be able to answer all your



## We have a report on technical solutions in the areas of heat, electricity and transport, and also solutions that address more than one of these at once. We have developed a carbon accounting tool that works for individuals and communities. It projects energy usage over the next 30 years, based on when you

implement energy efficiency and other low carbon measures. For example, if you

will it do to your costs. The underlying database is complete and we have

install a heat pump to replace a gas boiler, how much CO2e will you save and what

Our own contribution to net zero, the NZCom project, has been powering forward.

contracted a developer to build an easy-to-use online interface. We have developed an analysis of potential business models that community energy groups like WREN might implement, and we are looking closely at these to

**Net Zero Heroes - 5** Nicky Gilmour - Vega Rosa Nicky is a florist and grower inspired by traditional makers and artists: basket makers, spinners, hedge layers and growers, who tend, process and transform the materials growing in their landscape by hand.

apply yourself to it. This approach in life works beyond growing!" "Join in with others already doing it - you don't have to do it on your own". For more details go to: <a href="https://vegarosa.co.uk">https://vegarosa.co.uk</a>

**Electric Vehicle News** The three EV charging points (six connections) at Higher Trenant, Wadebridge,

2011 when she moved to the Wadebridge area after her Masters in chemistry where her final project investigated new architectures for solar PV technologies. Having worked at the BRE National Solar Centre with our Technical Director, Chris Coonick, she brings a wealth of knowledge on how the feed-in-tariff accelerated PV uptake and has seen the change as policies have shifted over the past decade. Her career has moved into the circular economy, but she remains passionate about grass roots

movements to reduce the human impact on the planet. Within her role on the WREN

In The News

Since the last Newsletter, back in the summer, we have accumulated a lot of news

Board she is actively involved in engaging with communities across Cornwall to

changes. In her spare time Vicky can be found walking, cycling or scuba diving

share insights on effective action within the realm of energy efficiency and system

## adapt to climate change, with only a brief mention of "continuing to reduce our carbon emissions". So, in case we forget, let's have a reminder of what "net zero" means, as explained by the electricity supplier Good Energy, here. University of Oxford on <u>achieving net zero</u>. net zero, <u>here</u>.

A-D. It will run for three years. Read more.

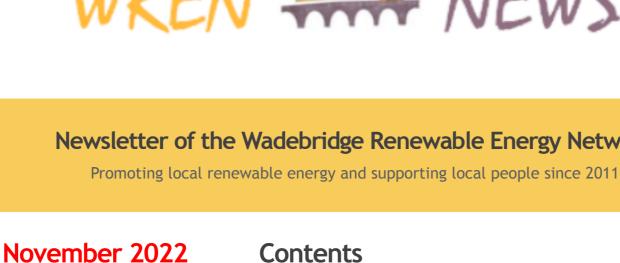
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around the Cornish coast.

A railway bridge replacement in Oxford is having an impact on the city's journey to The Guardian reports on the enormous emissions gap between the top 1% and the

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# brushes aside what it can achieve now. It's like saying in the early 1900s that this new-fangled electricity is a load of rubbish and you're going to stick with gas lights, thank you very much.

So what happens is that some people take up electricity and some stay with gas

much more than just lights. Gas-powered TVs and broadband routers, anyone?

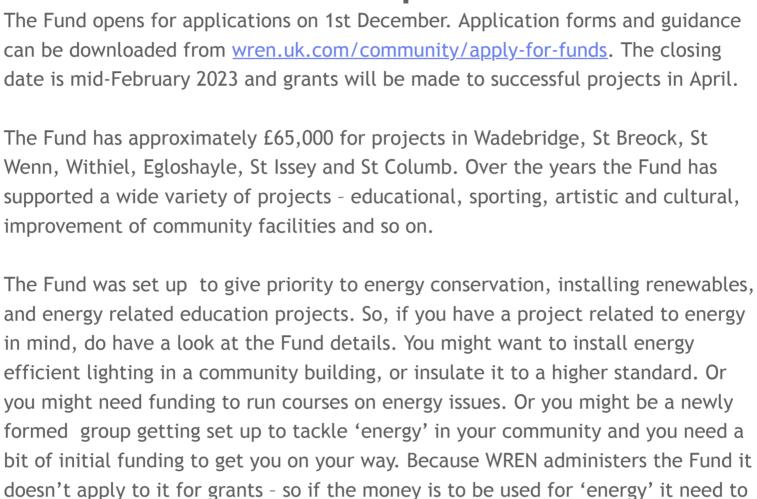
lights, at first, and over time the bugs get worked out of the electricity system and

eventually everyone has electric lights. And then you find that electricity can do so

**Energy Clinics** We've started holding what we are calling "Energy Clinics" every 1st and 3rd Wednesday at the John Betjeman Centre in Wadebridge, 10am – 1pm. Our Net Zero Community and Energy Equality projects are mid to long term and do

not immediately address the energy crisis so many people are facing this winter.

Want to work towards a net zero future?



## help shape our future direction. Through all of this we have been holding regular meetings of the Advisory Group and the Focus Group to advise and comment on what we are doing. A closing event is planned for Thursday 26th January 2023 in Wadebridge Town

Hall, to which all are welcome. More details to follow, but put the date in your

diaries. In the meantime, you can find our reports so far on the Project

Workstreams page on our website.

using chemical free and peat free methods. All arrangements are hand-made using sustainable floristry techniques. She works to 3 core principles:

On visiting the site, you are struck by how infrastructure is kept to a minimum with

only a couple of reclaimed poly tunnels, rabbit and deer proof fencing, a compost

toilet and a log store. Nothing is wasted and rotational composting also plays a big

Nicky does not use heated greenhouses which keeps both expenditure and carbon

emissions down, although it does require transport to market to be swift. From hand

picking in the morning, often before sunrise, there is a two hour post cut de-stressing

period (for the flowers, not Nicky!). The flower arrangements will be on sale at two

"Grow what you love. If you love something you're more likely to be able to better

local outlets within 24hours. Transport and carbon miles are minimal.

1. Develop a sustainable business model

Avoid debt if possible - even when starting up in business

Only use sustainable materials

part of the sustainable growing process.

Words of encouragement:

near St Tudy, North Cornwall. Materials are cut, harvested and dried seasonally,

rate up to 22kW using the standard type-2 socket, but bring your own cable. The BP petrol station at the top of West Hill has installed an ultra-rapid EV charger (up to 150kW) with two connectors. It's a very posh one with inbuilt battery storage for intelligent grid/load balancing. (Thanks to Marcus Shirley for the info.) The chargers at Tesco, Wadebridge, which were free to use when installed, now writing. That's still good value compared to, for example, my suppliers charge of We also hear that Wadebridge is going to have four new EV chargers, 3 rapids & 1

seem to be accessible again. The gate is still there, but open. They can charge at a

clippings, including several about Government proposals which elicited a reaction of "They're going to do what?!" However, since they were from a variable number of prime ministers and policies ago, those are no longer worth publishing, so here we have more recent ones. Let's start with local government. Cornwall Council has published a <u>Climate</u> Change Risk Assessment report. The Summary presents the findings in a clear, understandable way. The Executive

Summary and detailed reports are much more academic in nature and harder to

read, but you can have a go if you want to. The focus is on how to respond and

poorest in the UK, but it's not only the UK that has a 'polluting elite'. From April 2023 there will be grants available to make homes more energy efficient. The scheme is called ECO+ and is available to homes in council tax bands

uplift in energy efficiency standards." It's worth reading the whole response. It's also worth pointing out that developers build houses according to the standards in force when they were granted planning permission, so the first new builds after June 2022 will not have had to meet these new standards. And I remind you that new regulations due to be implemented in 2015 were abruptly scrapped when the Conservatives won a majority in the general election, so that we'll have had a lost

# should, say in any discussion about energy usage.

objections. It's been built, using known technology, without subsidy, and it will be useful. The summer/winter problem is a different one; this site will help supply

### questions on the spot, but we are working with Community Energy Plus (CEP), Cornwall's energy advice charity. On the 3rd Wednesday, someone from CEP will be with us, able to advise on benefits, grants and so on, which is their speciality. When CEP are not present, and if we cannot help, we will pass your details on to them to contact you.

So if you have a question or something you want to discuss, just drop in.

Worried and struggling to

Let's work together on this...

# pay your energy bills this winter?

We've teamed up with local organisations,

and advice for our community in Cornwall

so we can offer a greater range of information

**Drop by our Energy Clinic** at the John Betjeman Centre

networks and environmental groups,

- every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, 10am - 1pm
- go to groups other than WREN. Any questions about the Fund? Email <a href="mailto:communityfunds@wren.uk.com">communityfunds@wren.uk.com</a> and we will do our best to help and advise. **Net Zero Community Project**

Vega Rosa's floral work is from flowers, foliage and willow grown on a small holding

- charge for charging 28p per kWh according to the Podpoint app at time of 49p. super, in Cornwall Council's Goldsworthy Way & Piggy Lane car parks, to be installed in the next five months or so. **New WREN Director** WREN has a new director, Victoria Smyth, who was co-opted during the summer and elected at the AGM in October. Vicky has been a long-term friend of WREN. She first heard of the group back in
- If you want a more academic approach, here is Professor Myles Allen of the
- Finally, the Government has responded to a petition to require all new builds to have solar panels as condition of planning permission. They say (headline version): "We do not mandate solar panels to enable innovation and tailoring to individual

sites. However we expect most developers will use solar panels to meet the recent

decade so far as energy efficient housing goes.